

## Edwin Noyes Bailey

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city editor, and in addition was secretary of the Scott County Republican Club in 1862 and 1863. He remained with the *Gazette* until he was invited to take a position in the adjutant-general's office by General Baker. Soon thereafter he removed to Clinton, General Baker's home, but spent a part of his time in Des Moines looking after publishing the records of Iowa soldiers which General Baker was having done by the state printer. In January, 1867, he removed to Des Moines and became deputy secretary of state under Ed Wright, but resigned on April 9, 1869, and became private secretary to Governor Merrill. He continued to fill that position during the administrations of Merrill, Kirkwood, Newbold, and Gear, retiring in January, 1882. In 1882 and 1883 he compiled the data for the "Iowa Historical and Comparative Census of 1880," published by Secretary of State Hull. In 1883 he for a time was financially interested with others in publishing the *Des Moines Capital*, and for several years thereafter wrote for its columns. In 1885 when J. W. Cattell acted as state auditor during John L. Brown's suspension, Mr. Fleming was the deputy. In 1886 he annotated the revenue laws of the state for Auditor of State Brown. In the Twenty-first General Assembly (1886) he was clerk of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In 1892 he was secretary of a commission to revise the revenue laws of the state. In the Twenty-fifth General Assembly (1894) he was clerk of the House Ways and Means Committee. In January, 1896, he became private secretary to Governor Drake and continued in that position during Drake's administration and also during Governor Shaw's administration, or until January, 1902. In 1902 he accepted a position under Secretary Shaw in the Treasury Department at Washington, but returned to Des Moines in 1907. The last few years of his life he was secretary of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa, and was a research worker in the Historical Department of Iowa. He retained his wonderful memory and his clearness of mind to the last. At a later date we plan to publish in the ANNALS an autobiography of this remarkable man, which he wrote shortly before his death.

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EDWIN NOYES BAILEY was born at Granville, Ohio, June 11, 1849, and died at Britt, Iowa, December 21, 1923. His parents emigrated with their family to Waupaca County, Wisconsin, in 1854, and he removed to Hancock County, Iowa, in 1878 and located on a farm south-east of Britt. His first work at newspaper writing was as a country correspondent to the *Garner Signal*, then edited by W. C. Hayward, afterward secretary of state. He wrote over the signature, "A-dam Biglyre," and at once gave evidence of those unusual powers as a humorist that eventually made him famous. On November 30, 1886, he embarked in his first newspaper enterprise by beginning the publication at Britt of the *Hancock Republican*. However, he soon sold the *Republican*, the material was removed to Garner where it was used in founding the *Garner Leader*, and Mr. Bailey returned to the farm.

Soon thereafter he returned to Britt and he with T. A. Way purchased the *Britt Tribune*. A little later he purchased Mr. Way's interest and, excepting two brief interruptions, he edited and published the *Tribune* continuously for over thirty years, or until October, 1918, when he sold it to L. G. and R. R. Roberts, publishers of the *Britt News*, and permanently retired. In 1901 he was appointed postmaster at Britt and served eight years, resigning in February, 1909. Mr. Bailey was doubtless in his time the best known humorous writer among Iowa newspaper men. Many of his short articles were gems of their kind, almost classics. Among them were comments on his "Daughter's Wedding," "The Country Dance," "The Osteopaths and Chiropractors," "The Dancing Teacher," "Cleaning House," "His First Automobile," and "How to Feed a Calf." His articles advertising the famous "Hobo Convention" at Britt, August 21, 1900, set the whole country laughing. He also wrote vigorous English in advocating his views. He was emotional, a man of strong likes and dislikes, but withal a kindhearted man. He was known as "Bailey of Britt," and brought fame to his town. If syndicating such writing had been in vogue when he was in his prime, he would have reaped financial returns commensurate with his unusual talent.

SILAS MATTESON WEAVER was born at Arkwright, Chautauqua County, New York, December 18, 1843, and died at Iowa Falls, Iowa, November 6, 1923. He acquired his education at Fredonia Academy, Fredonia, New York, was admitted to the bar at Buffalo, New York, in 1868, and the same year at Iowa Falls, Iowa, and began the practice of law. For the next eighteen years he devoted himself principally to his law practice, although from 1874 to 1879 he was editor of the *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, and later he edited the *Hardin County Citizen* for a time. In 1883 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1885, serving in the Twentieth and Twenty-first general assemblies. In the Twentieth he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee. That was the session of the famous fight for the adoption of the prohibition statute after the constitutional amendment had been declared illegal by the Supreme Court. The House was so evenly divided on the measure that every vote of those favorable was required, and Mr. Weaver, who at the time was sick at his home in Iowa Falls, arose from the sick bed, came to Des Moines and was carried into the State House and into the House Chamber on a stretcher and voted for the measure, helping to save it from defeat.<sup>1</sup> In the Twenty-first Assembly he was chairman of the Board of Managers in the impeachment trial of John L. Brown, auditor of state. In 1886 he was elected a judge of the District Court of the Eleventh Judicial District, and was re-elected in 1890, 1894, and 1898. In 1901 he was elected a judge of the Supreme Court and was re-elected in 1908, 1914, and 1920. Thus for fifteen years he was on the

<sup>1</sup>The measure received fifty-two votes, one more than a constitutional majority. See page 278, Journal of the House, Twentieth General Assembly.

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