

Thomas Stapleton

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WILLIAM S. ALLEN was born at Hillsboro, Henry County, Iowa, August 26, 1857, and died at Fairfield, Iowa, December 6, 1925. His parents were Dr. Joseph Boyd and Dorothy Hammond Allen. He obtained his early education in the Hillsboro public school. He then attended Denmark Academy, the Academical Department of the State University of Iowa, and was graduated from the Law Department of the State University in 1877. Upon being admitted to the bar he located in Birmingham, Van Buren County, and engaged in practice. He became president of the local school board and mayor of Birmingham. In 1893 he was elected representative, and re-elected in 1895, serving in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, and Twenty-sixth Extra general assemblies. He was elected senator from the Jefferson-Van Buren district in 1908 and served in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies. In the mean time he had, in 1909, removed to Fairfield where he continued law practice. In 1912 he was elected secretary of state and was re-elected in 1914, 1916, and 1918, but resigned April 3, 1919, to take effect July 1, 1919. He then returned to Fairfield and resumed his law practice.

THOMAS STAPLETON was born in Bloomington, Illinois, May 24, 1854, and died in Rome, Italy, September 26, 1924. Burial was at Marengo, Iowa. In 1855 he was brought by his parents in their removal to Iowa. He attended the State University of Iowa, was admitted to the bar in 1878, practiced law one year in Iowa City, and in 1880 located in Marengo and practiced there continuously until his death, achieving a position of honorable distinction in his profession. He was county attorney of Iowa County from 1887 to 1891, was a candidate for presidential elector on the Democratic ticket in 1896, was Democratic nominee for judge of the Supreme Court in 1902, for many years was the acknowledged leader of his party in Iowa County, and was a citizen of usefulness to his community and state. He and Mrs. Stapleton were visiting in Europe when he succumbed to an attack of pneumonia.

WILLIAM SCOTT HAMILTON was born on a farm near Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa, February 2, 1857, and died at Fort Madison February 23, 1925. He received his education in the public schools of Fort Madison, at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, and at Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, being graduated from the latter in 1876. The following year he was principal of the Fort Madison High School. After traveling two years in Europe he read law with John Scott Ferguson in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was admitted to the bar in 1880. He practiced law in Lincoln, Nebraska, from 1883 to 1898 when he returned to Fort Madison and entered practice there. In 1911, the legislature having provided an additional judge for the First Judicial District, he was appointed by Governor Carroll to that position. He was later elected and re-elected, holding the position with much credit until he was called by death.

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