

## Michael Valentine Gannon

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"Michael Valentine Gannon." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1926), 473-473.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5037>

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and scientist of England, immigrated to Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1794 and achieved fame throughout the scientific world as the discoverer of oxygen gas. James Taggart Priestley was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1874 and began the practice of medicine in his home town. In 1876 he removed to Des Moines and entered the practice there which he continued almost continuously until his death. In 1881 he was appointed surgeon of the Third Regiment, Iowa National Guard, with the rank of major. In 1885 he became surgeon of the First Brigade, and from 1894 to 1902 he was surgeon general. He kept well abreast of the progress of medical science, achieved prominence in his profession, was president of the Iowa State Medical Society in 1900, and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Society from 1894 to 1900.

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MICHAEL VALENTINE GANNON was born in Dublin, Ireland, February 14, 1846, and died at Davenport, Iowa, March 7, 1926. His parents were Michael and Catherine (O'Brien) Gannon. In 1866 he immigrated to the United States, coming to Davenport, Iowa. For a few years he taught school in Rock Island. In the early seventies he established and edited the *Catholic Advocate*. In 1873 he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Davenport. In 1877 he was elected a member of the Davenport City Council. In 1878 he was the Democratic nominee for clerk of the Supreme Court. In 1882 he was elected district attorney for the Seventh Judicial District and served for the following four years. In 1884 he was the Democratic candidate for attorney general of the state. In 1887 he removed to Omaha, Nebraska, and a few years thereafter to Chicago, Illinois, and became a noted figure at the bar of that city. In 1905 he returned to Davenport and was in partnership in the practice with A. P. McGuirk. In 1891 he became president of the Irish National Land League, an organization of national scope whose purpose was to render assistance to the people of Ireland in acquiring from landlords the ownership of the lands they had so long occupied. Mr. Gannon was an orator of brilliance and power.

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JOHN ROBERT SMITH was born at Roxbury, Delaware County, New York, January 27, 1838, and died in Eagle Grove, Iowa, March 19, 1926. He was a son of Robert and Jeannette Lyle Smith. He attended common school and Delaware Literary Institute, taught school two years, and for many years followed cattle buying. In 1881 he removed to Wright County, Iowa, and with his brother, W. C. Smith, engaged in the cattle business. In 1890 he became cashier of the State Bank of Eagle Grove, continuing as such until 1905. In 1906 he was elected representative, and was re-elected in 1908, serving in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third general assemblies. He also served as city treasurer of Eagle Grove, and as a member of the Board of Education.

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