

Albert G. Stewart

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JOHN W. WRIGHT was born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, May 4, 1860, and died at Knoxville, February 23, 1926. His parents were Quakers, Dillon and Susanna (Frazier) Wright. He attended common school, intermittently, until twelve years of age, went through the primary grades, and then began work as a coal miner's helper in winter, and a brickyard laborer in summer. In 1879 he removed to Knoxville, continuing his labor in coal mines and brickyards. Having been deprived largely of school privileges, he was all these years pursuing self education. In 1887 he took charge of the "Questions and Answers" department of the *Des Moines Leader*, and of a similar department of the *American Rural Home*, both of which he continued for over twenty years. In 1888 he also took the editorship of the "Notes for the Curious" department of the *St. Louis Republic*. This he continued for over ten years, and also did regular editorial work for the *Sunday Republic* for three years, 1895-97. From 1901 until his death he was connected with the *Knoxville Journal* as news editor, and also did feature writing for it, and for many years contributed "Nature Snap Shots." He was a life student of nature, science, and of many departments of human knowledge, and was a prolific writer. He was author of "Christ in Myth and Legend," Cranston & Curtis, Cincinnati, 1894, and was supervising editor of "Marion County History," S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1915. Being deeply interested in historical and scientific subjects, he became a collector along these lines and left a museum of much value and interest.

BEN EDWARDS was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1864, and died at Ames, Iowa, January 31, 1926. His parents removed with their family to Beacon, Mahaska County, Iowa, in 1873, and to a farm in Carroll County in 1875. Ben was educated in common school and on reaching manhood followed farming until 1889, when he removed to Dedham and entered the hardware business. After several years he sold this business and engaged in general merchandising in Carrollton. In 1905 he removed to Ames and became superintendent of the state college grounds and buildings. In 1910 he entered the coal and ice business. While at Dedham he served as township trustee, as a member of the town council, and as mayor, and at Ames he was a city councilman. In 1915 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies.

ALBERT G. STEWART was born in Green County, Wisconsin, March 1, 1854, and died in Chicago, Illinois, March 2, 1926. Burial was at Waukon, Iowa. He removed to Waukon in 1875, studied law with H. H. Stillwell and was admitted to the bar in 1876. He became partner of C. S. Stillwell in January, 1877, but two years later bought his partner's interest. In 1880 he became attorney for the board of supervisors of Allamakee County and held the position several years. He also served

as mayor and as city attorney of Waukon. From 1879 to 1882 he was chairman of the Republican County Central Committee. He was captain of Company I, Fourth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, from August 8, 1881, to November 28, 1885, and was colonel of the regiment from November 28, 1885, to 1892, when the regiment was reorganized, becoming the First Regiment. However, he served again as captain of Company I, First Regiment, which later became the Forty-ninth, from June 24, 1897, to May 13, 1899, when he was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia. He resumed the practice of law at Waukon, but in his later years resided in Chicago.

CHRISTOPHER H. BERG was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1841, and died in Dubuque, Iowa, April 9, 1926. In 1852 his parents with their family removed to Galena, Illinois. As a boy he was in turn newspaper carrier, bellboy, and printer, learning his trade in the office of the *Galena Gazette*, and becoming its foreman. In 1862 he volunteered in Company A, Ninety-sixth Illinois Infantry, and served three years, being in all the principal battles of his regiment. In 1866 he became foreman of the *Dubuque Times*. In 1868 he helped organize the company known as Palmer (William A.), Winal (Samuel) & Co., printers and bookbinders, which later became Palmer, Berg & Co., and still later, Berg & Briggs. He was in the printing business fifty-four years. For some thirty years his time was largely devoted to banking. He became president of the Union Trust and Savings Bank, and was also interested in other Dubuque banks. He was a Republican in politics, and was elected alderman from the Fourth Ward in 1896, and mayor in 1898, serving in that position eight years. He was locally prominent in Grand Army, in Odd Fellow, and other fraternal organizations.

PORTER W. BURR was born at Mercer, Maine, February 1, 1852, and died at Charles City, Iowa, September 28, 1925. In 1867 he came with his parents, L. N. and Mary B. (Wiley) Burr, to Davenport, Iowa, was graduated from Griswold College, Davenport, in 1872, and from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1873. He was in a law office in Lincoln, Nebraska, a year and then located at Nora Springs, Iowa, and formed a partnership with W. P. Gaylord as Gaylord & Burr for the practice of law. In 1876 he was elected clerk of courts for Floyd County and was re-elected in 1878. In January, 1881, he engaged in practice in Charles City. In March of that year he was elected mayor, and in 1882 city attorney, in which office he served several terms. In 1892 he was elected a judge of the Twelfth Judicial District, but at the end of a four year term, declined renomination, preferring to return to general practice. He stood high in his profession and as a citizen. In 1907 he was stricken with paralysis which rendered him an invalid for the remaining eighteen years of his life.

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