

John B. Classen

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stantly and very successfully engaged in hardware and lumber business, mostly with partners or corporations, in Cromwell, Kent, and Creston, living alternately in those towns. He was active in local religious, educational and political affairs. In 1912 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth general assemblies. In 1921 he was appointed a member of the State Board of Education, and in 1924 was appointed postmaster at Creston, holding both positions at the time of his death.

JOHN B. CLASSEN was born in Germany, April 30, 1846, and died in Marshalltown, Iowa, March 21, 1927. His parents were John and Margaret (Enkin) Classen. His mother having died in 1848, his father with his children immigrated to America in 1851 and settled in Lee County, Illinois. John B. was raised on a farm and received his education in common school at Prairieville. In 1864 he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and served until July, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. He followed farming in Illinois and in 1867 removed to Marshall county, Iowa, where he was a farmer and farm owner in Vienna Township until 1900, when he removed to Marshalltown. Besides holding township offices, he was elected representative in 1895, was re-elected in 1897, and in 1899 was elected senator, serving inclusively from the Twenty-sixth to the Twenty-ninth general assemblies. He was president of the Marshall County Fair Association at its organization and during its first five years, was interested in local banks and in other business concerns.

RUBEN BERTRAM CRONE was born in Cedar County, Iowa, January 7, 1871, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, March 30, 1927. Burial was at Estherville. In 1876 the family removed to Tama County. After graduating from high school he taught for several years, then entered the State University of Iowa from which he was graduated in 1897. Between 1897 and 1911 he acted as superintendent of schools in Churdan, Fonda, Tipton, Washington, and Fort Dodge. He then spent one year in Emmet County. He was president of Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska, from 1912 to 1920, after which he returned to Emmet County. He was president of the Farm Bureau of that county two years, and was elected representative in 1926, dying during the session.

THOMAS EYRE BOOTH was born on a farm in Fairview Township, Jones County, Iowa, February 2, 1842, and died in Anamosa April 5, 1927. His parents were Edmund and Mary Ann Walworth Booth. He attended common school in periods between work on the farm, but when about sixteen years of age he entered the office of the *Anamosa Eureka* as an apprentice. It was then conducted by Matt Parrott. After about three years of apprenticeship he went to Meriden, New Hampshire, and entered Kimball Union Academy as a student. In a little over a year,

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