

## Edward A. Dawson

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*Nonpareil*, which position he held a few years. While there he took up the study of medicine and was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk in 1883 and began the practice of medicine at Eagle Grove. In 1884 he was appointed to the chair of materia medica and therapeutics of the College of Physicians and Surgeons but remained in practice at Eagle Grove until 1887 when he removed to Keokuk. There he continued his medical lectures and also practiced medicine for some time. In 1902 he resigned his chair as a lecturer. In 1892 he was elected city alderman, and in 1893, mayor, which position he filled two years. In 1895 he became editor of the *Keokuk Gate City*, and continued to be most of the time until 1914. In 1906 he was postmaster at Keokuk, and was reappointed in 1910, serving eight years. In 1914 he was again elected mayor, this time under the commission form of government.

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STILMAN T. MESERVEY was born in Clinton, Illinois, December 17, 1848, and died in a hospital in Chicago, Illinois, August 5, 1927. Burial was in Fort Dodge, Iowa. In 1854 he was with his parents, William N. and Amanda C. (Robbins) Meservey, in their removal to Homer, then the county seat of what is now Webster and Hamilton counties. In 1856 they removed to Fort Dodge. Stillman was educated in the public schools of Fort Dodge and in the Clinton Liberal Institute of Clinton, New York. He early became a member of the drug firm of Cheney & Meservey, later Vincent & Meservey. In 1872 he joined with the firm of Ringland, Vincent & Meservey in organizing the Iowa Plaster Company, which built the first plaster mill in Fort Dodge. Mr. Meservey was associated with the Fort Dodge National Bank and the Merchants National Bank and later was for a time president of the First National Bank. He was a builder of gas and electric light plants for his home city, and was a promoter of street railways, interurbans, and railroads. He continued his connection with the gypsum industry, making his temporary home in Chicago after 1904, where he was at the time of his death secretary of the United States Gypsum Company. Through this busy business life he was active in politics. He served as a member of the Fort Dodge City Council, and was mayor in 1881, 1882, and again in 1884. In 1885 he was elected representative, and again in 1901, serving in the Twenty-first and Twenty-ninth general assemblies. When living in Chicago he was a member of the Hamilton Club and served one term as its president.

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EDWARD A. DAWSON was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, March 22, 1853, and died in Waverly, Iowa, March 29, 1927. His parents, Edward and Catharine Dawson, migrated to Delaware County, Iowa, in 1854, and removed to Albion Township, Butler County, in 1856. Edward A. attended common school and in 1872 entered Upper Iowa University, which he attended three years, then took a course in Baylies Commer-

cial College, Dubuque. In 1875 he began the study of law with Gray, Dougherty & Gibson of Waverly, and was admitted to practice in 1877. He soon formed a partnership with A. O. Call and E. R. Carr, as Call, Carr & Dawson. This was succeeded in 1881 by a partnership with Dwight T. Gibson as Gibson & Dawson which existed for nearly thirty years. In his later years William H. Wehrmacher was associated with him as Dawson & Wehrmacher. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1888. On January 7, 1896, Governor Jackson appointed him a member of the Board of Railroad Commissioners to succeed John W. Luke who died a few days previous, and by election Mr. Dawson served on the commission until 1907. He was a citizen of high character, and an outstanding lawyer in his part of the state.

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JAMES JOSEPH BRUCE was born in Oswego, New York, November 6, 1843, and died at Rolfe, Iowa, September 29, 1927. His parents, Thomas and Mary (Auld) Bruce, were at the time of his birth enroute from County Monaghan, Ireland, to Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada. He attended common school in Simcoe County and when eighteen years old began teaching. In 1866 he removed to Pocahontas County, Iowa, going by railway, stage, and the last seventy miles on foot. That fall he began teaching in Lizard Township one of the four public schools of the county. In 1867 he was elected county superintendent, also justice of the peace, and member of the Board of Supervisors. In 1869 he was elected county treasurer and removed to Old Rolfe, then the county seat. Here he with W. D. McEwen established a general store. He also established a drug store, and as there was no physician near he practiced medicine about ten years, until one qualified located there. In 1882 he was admitted to the bar, dealt in real estate, helped secure the right of way for the railroad from Ruthven to Tara, and was for years secretary of the Pocahontas County Mutual Insurance Company. He was, in 1884, Rolfe's first mayor, was elected representative in 1885 from the district composed of Pocahontas and Calhoun counties and served in the Twenty-first General Assembly. In 1888 he established the *Rolfe Reveille* and was editor and owner in whole or in part for about six years. He was again a member of the County Board of Supervisors, 1880-1885 and 1895-1897, and was always active in community service. The last twenty years of his life were spent in comparative retirement.

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GEORGE W. HENDERSON was born near Springfield, Illinois, April 19, 1833, and died near Rolfe, Iowa, October 22, 1927. His parents were John H. and Elizabeth E. (Powell) Henderson. They removed to Ottawa, Illinois, where the son grew to manhood. His education was limited to about three years attendance of common school. In 1855 he removed to Masonic Grove (now Mason City), Iowa, where he ran a sawmill and a gristmill, and became a bridge builder. September 25, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, and was

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