

## James Joseph Bruce

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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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