

George W. Henderson

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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

later transferred to Company M, Seventh Iowa Cavalry. After serving over three years he was mustered out and returned home. In 1875 he removed to Sac County and engaged in farming. In 1882 he removed to near Rolfe where he improved a farm which remained his home the rest of his life. He was for a time, while living in Cerro Gordo County, a member of the Board of Supervisors, and in Pocahontas County, was in 1891 elected senator from his district and served in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, and Twenty-sixth Extra general assemblies. He was a typical pioneer settler, and was always a leader because of his physical, mental, and moral qualities. In the late fifties he was active in warding off the Indian troubles. In the army his skill as a mechanic and bridge builder, and his services as a scout, were valuable. When the first Republican state convention was held in Iowa, February 22, 1856, at Iowa City, he represented his part of the state, and always to the last took a patriotic interest in public affairs.

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WILBUR H. BENDER was born at Williams Center, Williams County, Ohio, April 15, 1860, and died in Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, September 20, 1927. Burial was in the College cemetery, Ames. His education, continued at intervals in postgraduate work to 1914, may be summarized as follows: student at Ohio Wesleyan University and at Ohio Normal University, obtained B. Di. and M. Di. degrees from Iowa State Normal School, Ph. D. degree from the State University of Iowa, B. S. degree in agricultural education from Iowa State College, and student in Chicago University. He taught rural schools in Ohio from 1881 to 1883, and was principal or superintendent of schools in Iowa for several years between 1886 and 1897. From 1897 to 1913 he was director in Iowa State Teachers College of the Department of Training in Teaching, in 1913-14 was assistant professor in Department of Agricultural Education in Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, from 1914 to 1918 was associate professor of agricultural education in the College of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, from 1918 to 1922 was state director of vocational education and supervisor of vocational agricultural education with the Iowa State Board of Education, and from 1922 he was associate professor of vocational education at Iowa State College. He was the author of *The Teacher at Work*, 1902; *Geography of Iowa*, 1908; and the Iowa supplement of *Human Geography*, 1903. His life was full of usefulness.

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JAMES URIAH SAMMIS was born at Polo, Ogle County, Illinois, September 13, 1863, and died in Chicago, September 10, 1927. Burial was at Le Mars, Iowa. His parents were Charles W. and Emily (Helm) Sammis. He attended common school, was graduated from Oregon High School, Oregon, Illinois, in 1881, attended a business college in Dubuque a few months and from 1882 to 1884 was a bill clerk in the office of the Farley & Loetscher Manufacturing Company. He then entered

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