

Simon Casady

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work. His love and talent for writing led to the publication of several books—*British Highways and Byways*, 1908; *In Unfamiliar England, Highways*, 1914; *On Sunset Highways*, 1915; *Oregon, the Picturesque*, 1917; *New England Highways and Byways*, 1924; and *Seven Wonders* 1910; *Three Wonderlands of the American West*, 1912; *On Old World of the American West*, 1926.

WILLIAM GRONEWEG was born in Lemforde, Province of Hanover, Germany, July 24, 1838, and died in Council Bluffs, Iowa, August 4, 1928. His parents were William H. and Caroline (Behning) Groneweg. After leaving school he served five years as an apprentice in mercantile business. In 1859 he made the journey to America alone. After stopping for a time with a brother in Cincinnati, Ohio, and later with another brother in St. Joseph, Missouri, he located in Council Bluffs in 1861. Here he borrowed money and engaged in the retail grocery business. In 1864 he was joined by L. Kirscht in a partnership, and the following winter he took an ox train load of provisions overland to Denver, Colorado. In 1878 he withdrew from the retail business and joined with John Schoetgen in the wholesale grocery business. They later incorporated, Mr. Groneweg becoming president of the corporation, and continuing as the active head until a few days before his death, the corporation in the meantime achieving marked success. Mr. Groneweg was active in public life, was a member of the County Board of Supervisors from 1869 to 1871, was city treasurer from 1872 to 1876, and was the Democratic candidate for auditor of state in 1876, but lost to Buren R. Sherman. He was a member of the local school board, and in 1886 was elected mayor of Council Bluffs, serving two years. In 1887 he was elected senator and was re-elected in 1891, serving in the Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-fifth general assemblies. He was a very useful man in his city in many other ways, and was held in high esteem.

SIMON CASADY was born in a home on the site of the present Central State Bank, 314 Fifth Street, Des Moines, Iowa, June 16, 1852, and died in Des Moines, March 25, 1928. His parents were Phineas McCray and Augusta (Grimmel) Casady. P. M. Casady located in Fort Des Moines, June 11, 1846, three months and one day after the evacuation of the fort by the United States troops, and when the population was less than one hundred. He became one of the leaders of his city and state. Simon attended the public schools of Des Moines and after finishing the course in the high school entered the State University of Iowa, where he completed the work of the sophomore year. Then in 1871 he began his career as a banker by being a messenger in the old National State Bank. In 1875 he helped his father and others organize the Des Moines Bank which, in 1883, became the Des Moines Savings Bank, with Simon Casady vice president. Later this bank consolidated with the Iowa Na-

tional Bank with Mr. Casady first vice president. In 1909 he retired from that bank and entered the Central State Bank, of which he became president. He retired as president in 1925 and became chairman of the Board of Directors. He helped organize the Bankers Life Insurance Company, was for years its treasurer, and was a director not only of it but also of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa. He was a past president of the Iowa Bankers' Association, and was the first president of the Des Moines Clearing House. His ability, character, poise and judgment were such as to create confidence. He was an authority on the early history of Des Moines.

JOHN FRANCIS WEBBER was born near Ferris, Hancock County, Illinois, September 26, 1874, and died in Ottumwa, Iowa, April 7, 1928. His parents were William J. and Mary Ann (Pilkington) Webber. As a boy he worked on his father's farm in summers and attended country school in winters, but when nineteen years old spent a year in the academic department of Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois. He entered the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in September, 1897, and was graduated and admitted to the bar in June, 1899. He was a traveling representative of a farm implement company with headquarters at Ottumwa for over two years, and in 1902 opened a law office in Ottumwa, giving particular attention to farm mortgages and investments. In 1910 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth general assemblies and took a leading part in legislation, especially on the subjects of taxation and public utilities. He was a Democrat in politics, and was prominent in the party councils. He had early become interested in banking and in 1919 was made president of the Ottumwa National Bank, which position he relinquished January 1, 1928, but retained the presidency of the Wapello Savings Bank. He had extensive land holdings, was a keen student of farm conditions, and was a director of the Iowa Good Roads Association. His violent death was a tragedy precipitated by a deluded customer of a bank with which Mr. Webber was connected.

MARTHA TOLL HEMENWAY was born in Rushville, Illinois, December 10, 1840, and died at her home in Lansing, Iowa, December 10, 1927. She was the daughter of John Honey, Sr., and Fanney Honey. Mrs. Hemenway was the pioneer resident of Allamakee County, having come with her parents, October 14, 1848, to the site where the town of Lansing is now situated. Her father with his son James had come in the spring of 1848. He had secured from the government a grant of land in that locality and in conjunction with H. H. Houghton of Galena, Illinois, founded the town of Lansing, now one of the beauty spots of the upper Mississippi. Mrs. Hemenway received her education through private teachers and at Upper Iowa University, graduating in the famous "War Class" of 1861. On September 30, 1866, she was united in marriage with

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