

David James Palmer

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department for preservation of the records of the state. He was ever looking for betterment of methods, always to the end of greater efficiency or better results. He gained the confidence of leading legislators who often consulted him. Governors and other state officials came to rely upon him in many matters effecting the welfare of the state. In a modest way, without thought of himself, free from selfish ambition, Secretary Davison was a useful public servant who blazed a way that will be followed long after his name has been forgotten.—Ora Williams.

DAVID JAMES PALMER was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, November 15, 1839, and died in Washington, Iowa, November 19, 1928. He was with his parents, Samuel R. and Margaret (Munce) Palmer, in their removals to Carroll County, Ohio, in 1842 and to Washington County, Iowa, in 1856, where they located on a farm near the town of Washington. He attended public school in Ohio and in Iowa, and helped on his father's farm. He attended United Presbyterian College in Washington in 1859 and 1860, and taught school in 1860 and 1861. On July 10, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company C, Eighth Iowa Infantry, and was promoted to corporal September 9, 1861. On April 6, 1862, at the battle of Shiloh he was severely wounded and left on the field for dead, captured by the enemy, his wounds neglected for two days when in the maneuvers of the battle he found himself as near his comrades as his captors, crawled to the Union lines, where he was cared for, and weeks afterward was sent home. When the Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry was organized that summer Corporal Palmer, who had organized Company A of that regiment while his arm was in a sling, was elected its captain. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the regiment when less than twenty-four years old, June 9, 1863. He was with his regiment, commanding it much of the time, as it was making its great record at Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Columbia, and at the grand review at Washington, and was mustered out June 6, 1865. He then returned home and devoted himself to farming and stock raising. He was elected county auditor of Washington County in 1875 and was re-elected in 1877, serving four years. In 1884 he was elected a presidential elector, running as a Republican. In 1891 he was elected senator and was re-elected in 1895, serving inclusively from the Twenty-fourth to the Twenty-seventh general assemblies. He resigned as senator at the close of the Twenty-seventh and accepted the appointment by Governor Shaw made on March 22, 1898, as a member of the Railroad Commission. By elections he continued in this office until 1915. His farm home was only a few miles from Washington, but the last twenty-five years of his life he and his wife, who was Letitia Helen Young before their marriage in 1866, and who survives him, resided in the city. He was outstandingly useful in church work, in politics, in social life, and in every other useful activity of the community. He was a lifelong member of the United Presbyterian church, for over thirty years was superintendent of the Sunday school, and for practically all his

active life was a member of the church choir. Popular with all classes because of his fine personal qualities, he was an especial favorite among his war comrades. As a camp fire speaker he had few equals. He received the highest honor the Grand Army had to bestow, being commander of the Department of Iowa for the year 1907-08, and grand commander of the national organization in 1914-15.

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DILLON H. PAYNE was born in Wapello County, Iowa, August 7, 1847, and died in Bloomfield, October 15, 1928. His parents were William E. and Hester Ann (Vinson) Payne. His father died in 1848 and his mother in 1854, after which he lived with relatives. He was graduated in liberal arts from Iowa Wesleyan University (now Iowa Wesleyan College) in 1869. He then read law in the office of James B. Weaver at Bloomfield and was admitted to the bar in 1870. He spent a year in Little Rock, Arkansas, as city reporter on a daily paper, and later as deputy state superintendent of public instruction, but in 1871 returned to Bloomfield and joined with General Weaver in the firm of Weaver & Payne, lawyers. When General Weaver became immersed in politics he withdrew from practice and the firm became Traverse, Payne & Eichelberger. On Traverse and Eichelberger being elected to judgeships Mr. Payne then associated himself with George T. Sowers and on Sowers' death, with T. A. Goodson. In over half a century of active practice he attained honorable distinction and success. He was a life-long member of the Methodist church, was superintendent of the local Methodist Sunday school for over thirty years, was a member of the choir for over sixty years, and was a delegate to two general conferences, in Chicago in 1900 and in Los Angeles in 1904. In his later life he did considerable writing for the local press, especially along historical lines. In 1922 Governor Kendall appointed him a commissioner from Iowa to the World's Centennial Exposition in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which he attended. His publications in book form are *Brazilian Letters, Recollections*, and *Pioneer History of Davis County*, the latter being partly a compilation with others. In his earlier years he was a supporter of the Greenback party, and in later years, generally of the Democratic party, although he was not strictly a party man. He was a man of fine influence in his community.

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ELDON J. HARTSHORN was born at Lunenburg, Vermont, June 16, 1842, and died in Kensington, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D. C., January 16, 1926. The following day Mrs. Hartshorn, who was Ella P. Bennett of Lima, New York, before her marriage, suffered a stroke of paralysis and died in a few hours. Their double funeral was held on January 19, and they were buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington. Mr. Hartshorn enlisted in Company E, Fifteenth Regiment Vermont Infantry, in August, 1862, was made orderly sergeant, was promoted to second lieutenant, and was mustered out in 1863. He then enlisted in Company G, Seventeenth

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