

Charles H. McNider

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Regiment Vermont Infantry, was made captain and served as such until mustered out in July, 1865. Returning home he entered the law office of his old colonel, Redfield Proctor, of the Fifteenth Regiment, and was admitted to the bar in 1869. In 1870 he removed to Emmetsburg, Iowa, and engaged in the practice of law with George B. McCarty. In 1873 he was elected representative and served in the Fifteenth General Assembly. In 1875 he was elected senator, and was re-elected in 1879, serving in the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth general assemblies. In 1885 he was elected county treasurer of Palo Alto County and was re-elected in 1887, serving four years. While county treasurer he was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Hospital for Insane at Clarinda. During the sessions of the Fifty-first Congress, 1890-1892, he was at Washington acting as treasurer of the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives. He followed that by some service in the General Land office, but in 1894 returned to Emmetsburg. That year he was elected clerk of the District Court of Palo Alto County and was re-elected in 1896, serving four years. In 1898 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for auditor of state, but lost to Frank F. Merriam. Soon thereafter he returned to Washington and obtained a position as an assistant attorney in the office of the solicitor of the Department of the Interior, retaining it until his death. He was a man of fine character and of winning personality.

CHARLES H. McNIDER was born in Dubuque, Iowa, February 9, 1860, and died in Mason City, October 30, 1928. His parents were Thomas B. and Anna (Kane) McNider. The family removed to Mason City in 1871. Charles H. attended public school in Dubuque and Mason City, but at an early age began work. He herded cattle, worked on farms, and in grain elevators. In 1875 he took employment as an office boy in the Cerro Gordo County Bank, remained with it and in 1881 when it was organized as the First National Bank became assistant cashier, was advanced to cashier in 1887 and to president in 1895 and continued in that position until his death. He became president of several other banks in smaller towns in the vicinity of Mason City, was president of the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company, and was a moving spirit in practically all the larger business concerns in his part of the state. While still in his thirties he was president of the Iowa Bankers Association. Since then he had many lucrative offers from large financial concerns to take executive positions, but always refused to leave Mason City. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank, was during the World War director for Iowa of the third and fourth Liberty loans, was county chairman for the Red Cross work, and was in numberless patriotic activities. Interested in politics but not a candidate for public positions, yet he served his city as treasurer for over ten years, was a member of the Mason City School Board many years, was a presidential elector in

1896, and was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1916. His contribution to the upbuilding and welfare of his city and state were important.

EDWARD D. CHASSELL was born at Holland Patent, Oneida County, New York, May 25, 1858, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, October 18, 1928. Burial was at Wyoming, Iowa. His parents, William and Frances Jones Chassell, removed with their family to a farm near Iowa Falls, Iowa, in 1867. Edward D. attended country school and began teaching in winters when he was in his teens, working on the farm in summers. He was graduated from the Iowa State Normal School, now the State Teachers College, in 1882, served as principal of schools at Staceyville and at St. Ansgar, Mitchell County, and in 1884 purchased an interest of A. C. Ross in the *Osage News* and became its editor. In 1888 he served the Senate of the Twenty-second General Assembly as second assistant secretary. In the same year he removed to LeMars, purchasing an interest of George H. Ragsdale in the *Le Mars Sentinel* and soon took over the editorship. In 1893 he was elected representative and served in the Twenty-fifth General Assembly. An extensive bindery business was built up in connection with the *Sentinel* and Mr. Chassell was on the road a considerable portion of his time, soliciting for it. In August, 1896, B. F. Ferguson purchased Mr. Ragsdale's interest in the firm. In 1903 Mr. Chassell was again elected representative and served in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first general assemblies. In 1906 the General Assembly elected him state binder and he served from 1907 to 1912. In December, 1916, Governor Clarke appointed him railroad commissioner in place of James H. Wilson, deceased. He served until November, 1917, when he resigned to accept the secretaryship of the Farm Mortgage Banks Association of America, which he held about ten years, when he resigned and gave his attention to his property interests, which were largely in Canada lands. He was a fine character, enterprising, progressive and successful.

BYRON ALLEN BEESON was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, February 26, 1838, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 5, 1929. Burial was at Marshalltown. His parents, Samuel and Martha Beeson, removed with their family to Jay County, Indiana, in 1850, to Springdale Township, Cedar County, Iowa, in 1854, and to near Liscomb, Marshall County, in 1855. Byron A. obtained his education in the rural schools that those times afforded, and at an early age began teaching. On July 30, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Second Iowa Cavalry, re-enlisted March 1, 1864, was promoted to first lieutenant November 22, 1864, and was mustered out September 19, 1865, at Selma, Alabama. He then engaged in farming near Liscomb, but in 1870 entered mercantile business at Liscomb. In 1875 he was appointed county treasurer of Marshall County and by reason of elections served until January, 1884. By this time he had become prominent in the Iowa National Guard,

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