

Byron Allen Beeson

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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,

having reached the rank of captain in 1878, lieutenant colonel in 1879, colonel in 1880, and in 1885 he became brigadier general of the Second Brigade. In October, 1889, he was appointed adjutant general, but in 1890 was elected treasurer of state, and was re-elected in 1892, and served four years. In 1897 he was appointed quartermaster of the Iowa Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, and served in that position until 1903 when he became treasurer of the southern branch of the National Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Virginia. He returned to the Iowa Soldiers' Home in 1907 as adjutant. He retired in 1915 and removed to Des Moines.

TIMOTHY EMERSON McCURDY was born at Keene, Coshocton County, Ohio, March 2, 1846, and died at the National Soldiers' Home at Danville, Illinois, January 14, 1929, whither he had gone in June, 1928, because of failing health. Burial was in the National Cemetery at Danville. He attended school in New Comerstown, Ohio. He enlisted in the Union Army in Bureau County, Illinois, February 8, 1864, and was assigned to Company J, Twelfth Illinois Infantry, was wounded October 5, 1864, at Allatoona, Georgia, but took part in most of the battles of Sherman's Atlanta campaign. He removed to Buffalo Township, Buchanan County, Iowa, in 1865, and engaged in farming. He was elected a member of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors in 1879 and was re-elected in 1882. In 1893 he led in organizing the Hazleton State Bank and was elected its president. In 1897 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1899, serving in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth general assemblies. In 1902 Governor Cummins appointed him custodian of public buildings and property at Des Moines and he served in that position until 1909. January 22, 1914, Governor Clarke appointed him Capitol Grounds extension representative and he had charge of the removal of the buildings from the extension preparatory to its improvement.

JOSEPH R. RATEKIN was born at Swan Creek, Illinois, December 16, 1845, and died at the National Soldiers' Home at Sawtelle, California, June 9, 1928. He received a common school education, and served during the Civil War in the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, which was known as Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll's regiment. In 1867 he removed to Fremont County, Iowa, and engaged in farming. In 1884 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 1885 President Cleveland appointed him postmaster at Shenandoah, and he served four years. In 1892 Governor Boies appointed him a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Iowa Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown. He became commandant of the Home September 22, 1894, and served until September 28, 1897. In 1892 Governor Boies appointed him a delegate to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Denver, Colorado, and in 1895 Governor Jackson appointed him a delegate to the National Convention of Charities and Corrections at New Haven, Connecticut. After

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