

Charles Joseph Wonsor

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A Democrat in politics, he was active in public matters. He was justice of the peace four years, and president of his school board twenty years. He was active in Grand Army circles and was commander of the Department of Iowa of the Union Veterans Union. In 1908 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1910, serving in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies. During his first term he succeeded in having an appropriation made for the erection of a monument to the memory of Ansel Briggs, the first governor of the state of Iowa, at his former home at Andrew, Jackson County. Mr. Ellis then raised the necessary money and had the remains of Governor Briggs removed from Omaha, where his death occurred May 5, 1881, and re-interred at Andrew. The monument was unveiled September 22, 1909. Mr. Ellis was the author of a *History of Jackson County* in two volumes, as well as of many articles of a local historical nature. He was secretary-treasurer of the Maquoketa Pioneer and Old Settlers Society for twelve years, and in 1903 organized the Jackson County Historical Society of which he became secretary and curator. All his life he was a collector of prehistoric, Indian, pioneer, and military relics, until he had one of the best private collections in the state.

CHARLES JOSEPH WONSOR was born at Erie, Whiteside County, Illinois, July 19, 1862, and died in Tama, Iowa, June 6, 1929. His parents, F. J. M. and Julia Weaver Wonsor, brought him with them as they removed to Tama in 1865. He attended public school in Tama and when fourteen years old, left Tama High School to assist his father who was the owner of the *Tama Herald*. In 1881, when nineteen years old, Charles became owner and editor of the paper and so continued until January 1, 1925, when the *Herald* was merged with the *Tama News* as the *News-Herald*, after which he was the senior editor of the consolidated paper, remaining in active work until a few weeks before his death. He was an active Republican but desired no political position. He served his city as mayor, and was postmaster at Tama from March, 1889, for seventeen years. He was master of a good style as a writer, was active in public service, and exercised a wholesome influence in his city and community during the half century of his activity.

WILLIAM T. RIGBY was born at Red Oak Grove, Cedar County, Iowa, November 13, 1841, and died in Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 11, 1929. Burial was in the National Cemetery at Vicksburg. His parents were W. A. and Lydia (Barr) Rigby. He attended common school and did farm work. He aided in enrolling Company B, Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, and was appointed its second lieutenant July 22, 1862. He was with his regiment in its campaigns and battles through Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, including the siege of Vicksburg. On August 6, 1863, he was promoted to captain. The regiment having been transferred to Virginia he participated in the famous Battle of Winchester

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