

**William T. Rigby**

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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.

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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.

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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

on September 19, 1864, where he did meritorious work in rallying his company and aiding in the victory. Mustered out July 17, 1865, at Savannah, Georgia, he returned home and that year entered Cornell College, Mount Vernon, from which he was graduated in 1869. He then followed farming and stock raising near Stanwood, and took part in politics and public affairs. In 1895 the Vicksburg National Park Association was organized with General Stephen D. Lee president, Colonel C. C. Flowerree treasurer, and Captain Rigby secretary. Its purpose was to secure the authority of Congress for the establishment of the Vicksburg National Military Park. When the bill became a law Captain Rigby was appointed a member of the commission having the enterprise in charge, and became the resident commissioner. Much of the credit for the creation of the great memorial is due to him.

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FRANK FRIDAY FLETCHER was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, November 23, 1855, and died in Saint Luke's Hospital, New York City, November 28, 1928. Interment was in Arlington National Cemetery. His parents were James Duncan and Mary Powers Fletcher. He attended public school in Oskaloosa, including Gospel Ridge School, afterward known as Grant School. He entered the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1870 from which he was graduated in 1875. He was commissioned ensign in 1876 and was afterward promoted through the various grades to the rank of rear admiral in 1911. He was commander, at separate times, of the following vessels: the torpedo boat Cushing, the gunboats Kanawha and Eagle, the cruiser Raleigh, and the battleship Vermont. In 1913 he commanded the Third Division of the Atlantic Fleet, then the Second Division, and later the First Division. He commanded the naval force on the west coast of Mexico from February, 1913, to April, 1914, and on April 21, 1914, seized and occupied Vera Cruz. He was made commander of the Atlantic Fleet in 1914 and was promoted to admiral in 1915. He was a member of the War Industries Board of Council of National Defense in 1917, and was a member of the General Board of the Navy, and of the Joint Army and Navy Board. In his later years he resided in Washington, D. C. His service in the Vera Cruz affair is generally regarded as his most noted achievement. His tact and diplomacy supplemented his skill and ability as a naval commander.

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GEORGE W. CROZIER was born near Port Royal, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1844, and died at the home of his son, Bruce Crozier, in Clinton, Iowa, May 20, 1929. Burial was at Knoxville, Iowa. He was with his parents in their removal to near Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa, in 1857, and to Marion County in 1859. He attended public school in his native state and Central University, Pella. He enlisted in Company A, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, December 6, 1864, and was mustered out December 12, 1865, at Omaha, Nebraska, at the expiration of his service.

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