

John R. Prime

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on January 1, 1864, he enlisted in Company E, Fourth Missouri Cavalry, and was mustered out July 5, 1865. He had but limited opportunities for securing an education, but improved them to advantage. He taught school, preached some, but early engaged in farming, gardening and stock raising, and later became a nurseryman at Lenox. Horticulture greatly occupied his attention. For twenty-five years he was secretary of the Southwestern Iowa Horticultural Society, and was secretary of the Iowa State Horticultural Society from 1887 to 1890, and from 1896 to 1899 inclusively. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Iowa State Agricultural College from 1889 to 1892. In 1891 he was nominated by the Republican party for lieutenant governor, along with Hiram C. Wheeler for governor, but they were defeated by Horace Boies and S. L. Bestow. In 1893 he was in the United States revenue service, his duties taking him to the Hawaiian Islands and to Alaska. In 1895 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1897, serving in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh general assemblies. In 1906 he was again elected representative and served in the Thirty-second General Assembly. In his later years he became a world traveler, circumnavigating the globe and visiting many nations and countries of the world. He visited Palestine and Egypt at different times, making his last visit there when over eighty years of age. He had been farmer, soldier, school-teacher, preacher, nurseryman, editor, real estate dealer, politician, federal revenue officer, legislator, traveler and lecturer. His radio lectures from the Shenandoah stations on his travels made his voice familiar to many thousands.

JOHN R. PRIME was born in Utica, New York, July 4, 1847, and died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 24, 1923. His burial was in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa. In 1855 he was with his parents in their removal to Jonesville, Wisconsin, and in 1857 to Mitchell County, Iowa. Here he grew to manhood, being educated in public school and in Cedar Valley Seminary, Osage. He enlisted from the town of Mitchell, Mitchell County, February 15, 1864, in Company K, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry. July 15, 1865, he was transferred to Company K, Twelfth Iowa Infantry, and was mustered out January 20, 1866. He returned to Mitchell County and was appointed deputy county recorder. In 1875 he was elected county auditor, and by re-elections served until 1887. In 1878 he joined the Iowa National Guard and was rapidly promoted until he became a major, and in 1884 was assistant inspector general. From February 1, 1894, to February 1, 1896, during Governor Jackson's administration, he was adjutant general. He was largely accredited with the management of state authority in handling the so-called Kelly's Army in Council Bluffs and on across the state. September 14, 1899, he was commissioned major of the Forty-second Regiment U. S. Volunteers, and commanded companies E, F, G and H. He was in the Philippines from December 1, 1899, to June 27, 1901, and commanded the regiment part of the time, being mustered out and honorably discharged on this latter date. In 1918 he removed to Minneapolis.

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