

Willis Frederick Bickel

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WILLIS FREDERICK BICKEL was born at Giard, Clayton County, Iowa, November 15, 1879, and died in McGregor April 25, 1931. His parents, J. D. and Mary Bickel, removed with their family to McGregor in 1892. Willis was graduated from McGregor High School, and from the University of Michigan in 1903 as an electrical engineer. He followed this by telephone construction work in Iowa and Michigan, and railroad construction work in Michigan and Kansas. In 1908 he was the engineer in charge in building the power dam on the Upper Iowa River near Decorah. His engineering work then took him into Colorado and into Mexico. He also resided in Cedar Rapids for several years as a consulting engineer. He enlisted in the World War, was commissioned captain in the 313th Engineers of the United States Army, left for France in December, 1917, returned in July, 1919, and was honorably discharged. In later years he again resided in McGregor. There he devoted much time to promoting the interests of McGregor and its vicinity as a scenic region. He was for several years president of the Iowa Conservation Association and was a leading local promoter and fosterer of the noted Wild Life School. He was a scholar in science and nature studies, familiar with the whole of Northeastern Iowa, active, genial and useful to his community and especially to the cause of conservation in that region.

SAMUEL WALKER BEYER was born in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1865, and died in a hospital in Iowa Falls, Iowa, June 2, 1931, following an automobile accident near there. Burial was in College Cemetery, Ames. His parents, Abraham and Barbara Ann (Keagy) Beyer, soon after their son's birth, removed their family to Rock Falls, Iowa. Samuel W. attended public school in rural districts, the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, and the Iowa State College at Ames from which he received a B. Sc. degree in 1889. He then taught school one year in Marshalltown, and followed that by acting as an instructor in geology and zoology in Iowa State College from 1891 to 1895. In 1895 he received his Ph. D. degree from Johns Hopkins University. Continuing at Iowa State College he served from 1895 to 1898 as assistant professor of geology and mining engineering, after which time he was dean of engineering, and later dean of the Industrial Science Division. From 1892 he was geologist for the Iowa Geological Survey and conducted geological surveys in several Iowa counties. He pursued researches along his lines of work and published many books and treatises, especially on geology and related subjects. He was an able scientist and a popular instructor.

JOHN HANSON THOMAS MAIN was born in Toledo, Ohio, April 2, 1859, and died in Grinnell, Iowa, April 1, 1931. The body was cremated and ashes interred at Hazelwood Cemetery, Grinnell. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Moores Hill College, Indiana, in 1880 and 1883, and his doctor's degree from Johns Hopkins in 1892. The honorary degree of LL. D. was awarded him by Oberlin College,

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