

Andrew C. Ripley

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Cresco, being graduated in 1886. For a short time he worked as a clerk in a drug store, but soon entered the printing office of the *Cresco Plain Dealer*, owned by his father and his father's brother, W. R. Mead, where he learned the printing and publishing business. In 1904 he purchased the interest of W. R. Mead in the business, and in 1905, assumed the editorship. On his father's death in 1922 he became both editor and publisher. During recent years his two sons, Donald and George, have taken over much of the detail labor of editing and publishing. Their newspaper has the unique distinction of being the only one in the state founded before the Civil War and having been owned and published continuously by the same family. It was founded in 1859 at New Oregon, then the principal town of the county, situated about two miles south of the location of the present city of Cresco. The paper was removed to Cresco in 1867. The town of New Oregon was long ago abandoned. F. D. Mead was a Democrat in politics, was postmaster at Cresco from 1915 to 1923, was elected representative in 1930, served in the Fortieth General Assembly, was re-elected in 1932, but died soon thereafter. He was a member of the School Board, president of the Community Club and was a most useful and helpful servant of his community.

ANDREW C. RIPLEY was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, February 11, 1849, and died in a hospital in Mason City, Iowa, July 20, 1932. Burial was in Concord Cemetery, at Garner. He attended common school and at the age of sixteen years enlisted in Company C of the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served to the end of the war. Returning home he attended Mount Sterling Seminary for one year, and then entered Harlem Springs College from which he was graduated in 1869. From 1869 to 1871 he taught school in Ohio and in 1871 removed to Iowa and taught at Postville, and later at Claremont and at Rockford. During his teaching he had been reading law and in 1877 went to Mason City, continued reading and was admitted to the bar late that year and located in practice at Garner. He was elected county superintendent of Hancock County in 1880 and served one term. He also served two terms as a member of the Board of Supervisors. He soon secured a large general law practice in which he continued for thirty years, or until 1907 when he retired because of failing health, after which he devoted himself for a few years principally to farming and stock raising, although he was interested in several other important business lines. In 1908 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1910, and served in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies. In 1914 he removed to Long Beach, California, where he continued to reside, but returned each summer to look after his interests and visit his friends. It was during such a visit that his death occurred.

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