

Charles Atherton Cumming

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CHARLES ATHERTON CUMMING was born at Rochester, Illinois, March 31, 1858, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, February 16, 1932. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery. His parents were George Paxton and Eliza Ellen (Atherton) Cumming. He attended Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, in 1877-79, and studied art in Chicago Academy of Design (now the Art Institute of Chicago), the National Academy of Design in New York City, and the Academie Julian in Paris, France. He taught art at Cornell College for a time in his early career, and taught painting privately in Cedar Rapids. In 1895 he founded and became director of the Cumming School of Art which was located until 1928 in the upper story of the Des Moines City Library Building. After that date it was at 525 Seventeenth Street, Des Moines. Professor Cumming established the Department of Graphic and Plastic Arts of the State University of Iowa in 1910 and was its director from that date until 1927, journeying frequently between his work there in Iowa City and in Des Moines. From 1915 to 1927 he was superintendent of the Department of Graphic and Plastic Arts of the Iowa State Fair and Exposition. His outstanding canvases are in the State University of Iowa, in the Historical Department of Iowa, and in the mural decorations in the Polk County Court House, Des Moines.

ORANGE HOWARD CESSNA was born near Kenton, Ohio, July 31, 1852, and died in Ames, Iowa, October 22, 1932. Burial was in the College Cemetery at the northeast edge of the Campus. His parents were Jonathan Wilson and Elizabeth Jane (Mathews) Cessna. The family removed in 1856 to Nevada, Iowa, making the trip in a covered wagon. The father took up a homestead near Nevada. The son attended public school in Nevada and in 1868 enrolled in the first class of the newly organized Iowa Agricultural College at Ames. During vacations he taught school and during school months milked cows to get money to pay his way. In 1872 received his B. S. degree with the first class graduated from the college. From 1872 to 1874 he served as deputy treasurer of Story County, and later was a bookkeeper in Baldwin & Maxwell's store in Iowa Center. In 1878 he entered Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, from which he received the B. D. degree in 1885, and D. D. in 1900. He was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1885, and between that year and 1900 had pastorates in Nunda, Belvidere, Elgin, Dixon and Chicago, Illinois. From 1900 to 1921 he was professor of history and psychology in Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and was professor of psychology from 1921 for some years later. He became chaplain of the college, serving until 1929, but remaining there in close touch with the institution until his death. Thus for over thirty years he was in intimate relations with the students, exercising among them a most helpful and wholesome influence.

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