

William F. Kopp

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WILLIAM F. KOPP, former state legislator and congressman, died in Mount Pleasant, August 24, 1938. He was born near Dodgeville, Des Moines County, June 20, 1869. His early education was received in the common district schools, and his later education he obtained in Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, from which he was graduated in 1892. Following his graduation he took up the study of law in the State University of Iowa, being graduated from the law department of that institution in 1894. Admitted to the bar in the same year, he began the practice of his profession in Mount Pleasant. In the fall of that year he was the successful candidate for county attorney of Henry County, which position he held two terms, serving from 1895-1899. In 1906 he was appointed Postmaster of Mount Pleasant, holding that office until 1914, in that year he was elected on the Republican ticket to the Thirty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Iowa. After one term in the state legislature, his next period of public service began with his election from the first congressional district to the Sixty-sixth Congress, and continued with his re-election every two years thereafter, up to the end of the Seventy-second Congress. (March, 1921-March, 1933). During his term as congressman he was chairman of the House labor committee from 1925-30. After his service in Washington, D. C., he resumed the private practice of law in Mount Pleasant, from which, however, he was on the point of retiring at the time of his death. He was a member of the board of trustees of Iowa Wesleyan College, and a member of the Methodist Church.

FRANK A. MATHIS, Des Moines realtor and former public official, died in Des Moines October 23, 1938. He was born in Elkhart, Iowa, February 26, 1838, the son of Adaniram Judson and Amanda Paulina Mathis. A resident of Des Moines fifty-five years, he came to the city in 1883, when with his father and brother, W. A. Mathis, he established a real estate firm with which he maintained a connection to the time of his death. In 1892 he began the first period of his public services to the city which was to extend over four decades. In that year he was elected to the first of his two terms as Alderman from the old Seventh Ward, under the old system of city government. From 1900-02 he was Chief of Des Moines Police. Four years later he again served on the city council, from 1906-10. His third appearance in the city councils of Des Moines was in 1926 when he began the first of three terms as Superintendent of Parks and Public Property. A candidacy for a fourth term was unsuccessful. During his long tenure of the parks post he initiated a long range plan for park administration and improvements of services to the public. At the time of his death he was an appraiser for the Des Moines office of the Home Owners Loan Corporation.

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