

Francis Marion Epperson

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tice of law in Illinois and in 1868 was elected a member of the legislature. In 1870 he removed to Grundy Center, Iowa, and in 1871 became proprietor and editor of the *New Century*, a local newspaper. In 1877 he became Grundy Center's first mayor, from 1883 to 1888 was owner of the *Grundy Center Argus* and was its editor most of the time, and in 1883 was elected representative and served in the Twentieth General Assembly, being one of the fifty-two in the famous struggle for the enactment of prohibition. In 1884 he was elected a presidential elector on the Blaine and Logan ticket. In 1886 he was elected to Congress from the Fifth District and was re-elected in 1888. He was a Republican, an ardent temperance man, active and influential, and of unquestionable integrity. The later years of his life were spent in retirement at his home in Grundy Center.

JOHN H. PETERS was born in Kent, Connecticut, February 2, 1829, and died at Manchester, Iowa, July 19, 1921. In 1847 he went to Cuba in the hope of benefiting his health. While there he pursued the study of law. In 1849 he returned to Kent, finished his law studies, and in 1852 removed to Freeport, Illinois, and engaged in practice with Thomas J. Turner, then a member of Congress. Mr. Turner induced him to go to Delhi, Iowa, to defend a friend who was in trouble. Mr. Peters made the trip on horseback, liked the place, and located there in February, 1853. Delhi was then the county seat of Delaware County. In 1856 Mr. Peters was elected a member of the convention which was to meet in January of the next year, to revise the state constitution, and duly served in that famous body. When the Fourth Iowa Cavalry was being raised he was, on September 23, 1861, appointed captain of Company B, was promoted to major June 20, 1863, and to lieutenant-colonel September 2, 1863. The regiment was mustered out at Atlanta, Georgia, August 10, 1865. He was engaged in over forty battles and engagements and won the reputation of being one of the most brilliant and successful cavalry officers in the western army. On returning home to Delhi he resumed the practice of law, removed to Manchester with the removal of the county seat to that place, and finally retired from practice in 1900. He had traveled in every state of the Union, his mind remained active and clear, and when he died, at over ninety-two years of age, he was the oldest survivor of the convention that framed our present constitution.

FRANCIS MARION EPPERSON was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky, November 14, 1841, and died at Eddyville, Iowa, May 19, 1921. His education was obtained in the public and select schools of Mill Springs, Kentucky. In 1860 he removed to Iowa and settled on a farm in Marion County. In 1862 he enlisted at Eddyville in Company D, Thirty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served to the end of the war. For ten months he was a military prisoner at Tyler, Texas. Returning to Iowa in 1865 he took a clerical position with the mercantile firm of Manning,

Caldwell & Co., and in 1871 formed a partnership with Edwin Manning under the name of Manning & Epperson. In 1878 the firm also entered the banking business and in 1902 the banking department of the firm was incorporated as the Manning & Epperson State Bank, and Mr. Epperson continued active in its business until his death. He was a member of the town council of Eddyville for many years and was mayor several times. In 1879 he was elected representative and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth general assemblies. He was again elected representative and served in 1906 in the Thirty-first General Assembly. He was an active Republican and for many years attended nearly all its conventions, district, state and national.

WILSON SEELEY LEWIS was born at Russell, New York, July 17, 1857, and died at Sioux City, Iowa, August 24, 1921. His parents were William H. and Hannah (Turner) Lewis. He attended St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York, removed to Iowa in 1878 and engaged in educational work, and served as superintendent of schools at Center Point and at Belle Plaine, at the latter place from 1882 to 1885. In 1884 he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and served as pastor, first at Blairstown and then at Traer. In 1888 he went to Epworth as principal of Epworth Seminary and made a remarkable record in building up that secondary educational institution. In 1897 he resigned and the same year he was invited to become president of Morningside College, Sioux City, and accepted. At that time the college had an attendance of 187 students, had but one good building, and another started but the construction had stopped because of lack of funds, had no endowment and was in debt \$25,000. In the eleven years of his presidency the debt was paid off, the campus enlarged, several good buildings erected, an endowment of \$400,000 obtained, the student attendance increased to 500, and the college came to be recognized as of standard rank. In 1908 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church held at Baltimore elected him as one of its bishops, and he was assigned to the supervision of the church's educational and religious work in southern China with headquarters at Foochow. He was active in establishing a great many schools for primary, intermediate and higher education, and medical schools and hospitals. He materially assisted his church in the United States in raising the \$115,000,000 Centenary Fund by writing and by delivering public addresses in innumerable places. Because of the death of Bishop J. W. Bashford, Bishop Lewis became senior bishop in China and was assigned to northern China with headquarters at Peking. The year before his death he was actively engaged in famine relief work in China. He was a man of great vision and of unusual ability as an organizer and executive. His success as an educator was only equalled by his influence as a preacher of the Christian religion.

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