

**Elmer E. Mitchell**

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behalf of the Senate with M. L. Temple and F. F. Jones on behalf of the House as a committee to investigate the "Indeterminate Sentence and Elmira Reformatory System." The committee reported to the Thirty-first General Assembly and largely by reason of this report and its recommendations the Thirty-second General Assembly enacted an indeterminate sentence and parole law which, with very little change, remains in force. Mr. Saunders was a man of various activities. In 1895 Governor Drake appointed him an aide on his military staff with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1897 Governor Shaw appointed him judge-advocate general of the Iowa National Guard, and by reason of reappointments of Governors Cummins and Carroll he served until December 31, 1913. In 1901 he was elected a director in the Modern Woodmen of America and served four years. For many years he was a member of the board of trustees of Drake University, chosen by the alumni. His firm, Saunders & Stuart (David E.), were local attorneys for years for the Rock Island and the Great Western railroad companies. He was president of the State Bar Association in 1912. He was an accomplished public speaker, a citizen of high ideals, and rendered valuable service to his community and state.

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ELMER E. MITCHELL was born on a farm in Prairie Township, Mahaska County, Iowa, January 27, 1863, and died there March 17, 1924. His parents were John and Eveline (Howar) Mitchell. He attended public school and when seventeen years old entered Oskaloosa College, remaining there two years. The following several years he taught in public schools of his county and worked on his father's farm in vacations. In 1890 he was appointed to a position in the United States Census Office in Washington, D. C., where he remained two years, when he was transferred to the Government Printing Office, remaining there several years, during which time he attended the University of Washington and was graduated in law. He took a postgraduate law course in Columbia University in 1895 and was admitted to practice in United States courts. However, he never entered practice but on the death of his father took over the management of the home farm. In 1916 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies.

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MERRITT W. HARMON was born in Seneca County, Ohio, June 25, 1844, and died in Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, August 13, 1924. Burial was at Independence, Iowa. His parents were Merritt and Minerva Harmon. He was with his parents in their removal to Ingham County, Michigan, in 1848, to Cascade, Iowa, in 1855, and to Hopkinton, Iowa, in 1856. He entered Collegiate Institute at Hopkinton in 1859 and continued three years. On July 28, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry, was later promoted to fourth sergeant, and was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 15,

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