

Merritt W. Harmon

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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.

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.

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,

1865. For one year he was at Mobile, Alabama, in railroad work, but in 1866 removed to Buchanan County, Iowa, and taught school two years, reading law in the meantime. From April 1, 1868, to April 1, 1869, he was deputy postmaster at Independence. He then entered the law office of W. G. Donnan and was admitted to the bar in October, 1869. In 1870 he formed a partnership with Jed Lake which continued until Colonel Lake's death in 1914, after which Mr. Harmon practiced alone. In 1875 he was elected senator, and was re-elected in 1879, serving in the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth assemblies. He was again elected senator in 1891 and served in the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth assemblies.

HENRY T. REED was born at Alburg, Vermont, October 1, 1846, and died at Cresco, Iowa, February 24, 1924. His parents were George and Jane Reed, who removed with their family to a farm in Albion Township, Howard County, Iowa, in 1855. He was educated in the public schools of that county, and at Craig Academy at Lime Springs. In 1865 and 1866 he was deputy county clerk of Howard County. He was for some time an assistant in Kimball & Farnsworth's Bank of Cresco and while there was diligently reading law and was admitted to the bar in 1870. At one time he was in partnership with George Marsh. He attained prominence and success practicing not only in state but federal courts. In 1875 he was elected representative and served in the Sixteenth General Assembly. On March 16, 1904, he was appointed by President Roosevelt as judge of the United States Court for the Northern District of Iowa to succeed Judge Shiras, and served with credit until he voluntarily retired December 1, 1921.

ALBERT F. N. HAMBLETON was born at Forest Home, Mahaska County, Iowa, September 4, 1857, and died at South Pasadena, California, September 11, 1922. His parents were Levi and Mary Hall Hambleton. He attended common school, the preparatory department of Iowa College, Grinnell, for one year, Oskaloosa High School two years, and in 1873 entered Penn College. In 1874 he left school to enter his father's store at Oskaloosa as a clerk. For a few years he was in the general mercantile business in Springville, Linn County, but returned to Oskaloosa in 1885 and engaged in the real estate and abstract business. In 1900-1902 he was a member of the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors. He was elected representative in 1903 and was re-elected in 1906, serving in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second assemblies, and was speaker pro tem of the Thirty-second. He was a member of Friends' church, was a trustee of Iowa Yearly Meeting for years, and was a trustee of Penn College for twenty years, being secretary of the board for a time, and later, chairman. He was president of the Iowa State Sunday School Association in 1904-06. He removed to California in 1910 and engaged in real estate and insurance business. He there was a trustee of Whittier College, Whittier, California.

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