

**William A. Davie**

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EDGAR ERASTUS CLARK was born at Lima, New York, February 18, 1856, and died at Monrovia, California, December 1, 1930. Burial was at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His parents were Henry Dean and Nancy Elizabeth (Jones) Clark. His education was finished at Geneseo Wesleyan Seminary, Lima, New York. In 1873 he became a brakeman at Cedar Rapids on the B., C. R. & N. Railroad and continued in railroad train service until 1889, part of the time being located at Ogden, Utah. In 1889 he was chosen grand senior conductor of the Order of Railway Conductors of America, and from 1890 to 1896, was grand chief conductor, a position now designated as president, of the same organization. In 1902 he was appointed by President Roosevelt a member of the commission to determine the issues involved in the strike of the anthracite coal miners, and in 1906 was appointed a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission on which he served until 1921. In 1916 he was a member of the board appointed to report on the Adamson eight-hour law. In 1917 he was an ex-officio member of the Railroad War Board. After terminating his service on the Interstate Commerce Commission he was for several years a member of the law firm of Clark & La Roe, Washington, D. C.

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NATHAN EMERY COFFIN was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1863, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 30, 1931. He was the son of Harrison A. and Catherine (Stevenson) Coffin. He attended public school in his native city, studied one year at the University of Missouri, received the degree of S. B. from the Baptist College, Des Moines, in 1881, and the degree of A. B. from Harvard in 1885. He studied law in Drake University, Des Moines, was admitted to the bar in 1886 and began practice at once in Des Moines. During his active career at the bar he had membership in the firms of Dudley & Coffin, Mitchell, Dudley & Coffin, Dudley, Coffin & Dowell, and Coffin & Hippee. He was connected with banking, life insurance, and investment companies, as well as other lines of business. He was a brilliant and cultured man, a world traveler and man of affairs. Not aspiring much for political promotion, yet he was elected representative in 1891 and served in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly.

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WILLIAM A. DAVIE was born near Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois, October 13, 1855, and died in a hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 17, 1929. Burial was at Dunlap. His parents, John Turner and Hannah (Hoskins) Davie, with their family removed to Boyer Township, Crawford County, Iowa, in 1861. William A. received his education in public schools of that township and when grown to manhood engaged in farming and stockraising, in which he was quite successful. He was for several years manager of the Farmers Co-operative Lumber Company of Dunlap, and was also active in mutual insurance organizations among the farmers. He held several township offices and in 1885 was elected a member of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors, and occupied

that position during 1886 and 1887. In 1887 he was elected representative, and was re-elected in 1889, and again in 1903, serving in the Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Thirtieth and Thirty-first general assemblies.

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JOHN HENRY MILLS was born near Economy, Wayne County, Indiana, October 31, 1847, and died at Redfield, Iowa, January 18, 1931. In 1855 he was with his parents when they removed to a farm north of the present town of Redfield, Dallas County, Iowa. When only seventeen years old, or on December 27, 1864, he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry, shared marches with Sherman's Army in the last days of the war, and was mustered out July 12, 1865. Returning home, with the exception of a few years when he was a railway mail clerk, he followed farming until 1889 when he became editor and publisher of the *Redfield Clipper*, in which business he continued several years. In his later life he was for a time connected with the oil inspection service of the state. In 1916 he was elected commander of the Iowa Department, Grand Army of the Republic, and served one year. He was prominent in the national organization of that order, being chief of staff to the national commander at the time of his death.

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FRANK N. BUCKINGHAM was born in Dekalb County, Illinois, March 26, 1857, and died in Alta, Iowa, January 27, 1931. After reaching manhood he clerked in a store in Somonauk, Dekalb County, and later was manager of a store, but early became a farmer. In 1882 he removed to Elk Township, Buena Vista County, Iowa, where he followed farming and stockraising until about ten years before his death when he became a resident of Alta. He occupied several positions of trust in Elk Township and in 1904 was elected representative and served in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first general assemblies. He was a member of the subcommittee that prepared the drainage bill that was enacted into law during those sessions, which had so much to do with reclaiming and making productive large portions of northwestern Iowa.

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#### GEORGE H. VAN HOUTEN WAS SECRETARY OF THE STATE FAIR

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Our good friend, J. P. Mullen, of Fonda, calls our attention to the fact that in the notable death sketch of George H. Van Houten, published in the January ANNALS, we omitted one of his important activities, that of secretary of the Iowa State Fair. We find Mr. Van Houten occupied that position from January 12, 1899, to December 12, 1901, or almost three years, which would cover the fairs of 1899, 1900, and 1901. The fields of his usefulness to the people of the state were indeed many.

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