

Homer A. Miller

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and the north edge of Dallas counties. He was much interested in local and state history, and had a great collection of geological specimens and other treasures.

WILLIAM IGNATIUS BRANAGAN was born near Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa, January 29, 1863, and died in Emmetsburg December 7, 1932. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Emmetsburg. In 1875 the family removed to a homestead near Lawler, Chickasaw County. He acquired a good common school education, taught school a few years, and matriculated at Sacred Heart University, Watertown, Wisconsin. Before finishing his liberal arts course he worked for some time in the Pullman shops near Chicago, then again taught school at Lawler. In 1885 he purchased an interest in the *Emmetsburg Democrat* and in 1887 became sole owner and editor, continuing in that position until his death, although for the last several years he had associated with him his son, William T. Branagan. He was successful in his publishing business, was for years a director in the Emmetsburg National Bank, was one of the organizers of the Emmetsburg Telephone Company, and was interested in various other local enterprises. For ten years he was a member of the Emmetsburg City Council. He was postmaster at Emmetsburg during Cleveland's last term, was a delegate to three Democratic national conventions and was a member of the Democratic State Committee for eight years commencing in 1912. He was one of the outstanding editors of the state, was a member of the National Editorial Association and of the Iowa Press Association and attended many meetings of both organizations. He was strong in his convictions, but considerate of those with whom he differed. He was a prominent lay member of the Catholic church.

HOMER A. MILLER was born in La Porte, Indiana, November 13, 1860, and died in Beverly Hills, California, September 15, 1932. His parents were Benjamin F. and Rebecca (Whitlock) Miller. The family removed to Webster City, Iowa, in 1867 where the father established the first bank in that town. Homer passed through the public schools there, read law two years in the office of Wesley Martin, but gave up its further study and entered his father's bank. In 1882 he established a private bank at Eagle Grove under the name of B. F. Miller & Son. In 1886 it was changed to the First National Bank of Eagle Grove with Homer A. Miller as president. It was claimed he was the youngest national bank president in the United States. He remained its president until 1899, but from 1893 to 1899 he was also bank examiner under State Auditor McCarthy. In 1899 he removed to Des Moines and became cashier of the Des Moines Savings Bank. In 1907 it was taken over by the Iowa National Bank and not long thereafter Mr. Miller became its president. In 1917 the Iowa National also took over the Citizens National Bank. Mr. Miller remained president of the Iowa National until his retirement in 1928 when he removed to

California. He was president of the State Banker's Association in 1903. He had interests in several other banks in the state, and had more than a state reputation as an able banker. He was a director of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, of the Northwest Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee, was financially interested in several other business enterprises in Des Moines and was one of its foremost citizens. He was a Republican in politics and affiliated with the Unitarian church.

EDWARD THOMPSON HAGERMAN was born on a farm in Richland County, Ohio, March 1, 1857, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 8, 1933. Burial was in Franklin Church Cemetery, Miller Township, Franklin County, Ohio. His parents were William and Mary (Bealby) Hagerman. He attended country schools, was for a time a student at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, and was graduated with the degree of B. S. from Baldwin University, Berea, Ohio, in 1894. He received the honorary degree of D. D. from that institution in 1899. He was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1884 and joined the North Ohio Conference. He held pastorates at Polk, West Salem, Wellington, and Norwalk, in all nineteen years. He was pastor of the First Methodist Church, Des Moines, from 1903 to 1910, during which time their present church edifice was built. Then followed three years as pastor of Grand Avenue Methodist Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He returned to Des Moines and from 1914 to 1925 was continuously on the platform as a lecturer, mostly for the Redpath Lyceum or a Chautauqua bureau. In that work as well as in his pastorates he was very successful.

CHARLES ECKLES was born at Eastholm, Yorkshire, England, September 2, 1840, and died in Taylor Township, Marshall County, Iowa, July 9, 1932. Burial was in Prairieville Cemetery, near Sterling, Illinois. His parents were Marmaduke and Hannah Leavitt Eckles. Charles helped his father in the latter's brickyard and attended school at the village of Buskirk. The family emigrated to America in 1849 and located on a farm between Dixon and Sterling, Illinois. Here Charles attended some winter terms of school at Prairieville, working as a farm hand in summers. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and was promoted from private to sergeant, to lieutenant, and for the last eight months was captain of his company, being mustered out July 20, 1865. In 1867 he purchased land in Taylor Township, Marshall County. This he added to from time to time. He was successful as a farmer and as a breeder of pure bred cattle and hogs. He was elected representative in 1887 and was re-elected in 1889, serving in the Twenty-second and Twenty-third general assemblies. In 1903 he was elected senator and served in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second general assemblies. He was active in legislation promoting agriculture and education.

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