

John Henry Smith

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by redistricting and served as such in the Twenty-second General Assembly. He there ardently and ably supported the railroad reform measures that Governor Larrabee was championing. He was president of the First National Bank of Cresco from the time of its organization in 1893 until his death. He was a very useful citizen in his home community, having good judgment and integrity, was greatly trusted by the people and was imbued with the spirit of helpfulness to others.

JOHN HENRY SMITH was born in Albany County, New York, March 19, 1827, and died at Camanche, Iowa, August 26, 1919. On reaching young manhood he removed to Michigan and later to Illinois. He was a locomotive engineer on the line that afterwards became the Chicago & Northwestern. In 1852 he quit railroading and located in Center Township, Clinton County, Iowa, and engaged in farming. He was a member of the Clinton County Board of Supervisors when it was first organized, which was just previous to the war. He recruited Company A, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, and was appointed its captain October 17, 1861. The Sixteenth became a part of the famous "Crocker Brigade." As commander of his company he participated in several very important battles, and was cited for bravery and skill on different occasions. At Atlanta, Georgia, July 22, 1864, he, with most of his company, was captured and for some time after he was confined in Confederate prisons, but escaped, visited his family which then lived in Lyons, Clinton County, and then rejoined his regiment. On February 18, 1865, he was promoted to major, and on May 11, 1865, to lieutenant-colonel. He was in the grand review at Washington, May 24, 1865, and soon thereafter resigned his commission, returned home, sold his farm and engaged in the grain business at Camanche. He was elected senator in 1865 and served in the Eleventh and Twelfth general assemblies. Public life did not appeal to him. For awhile he was an assistant United States assessor. In later life he followed market gardening.

JACOB S. MCKEMEY was born in Jefferson County, Iowa, September 7, 1854, and died at Fairfield, December 20, 1919. He was educated in the public schools of Fairfield, supplemented by a course at Iowa College, Grinnell. He read law with Stubbs & Leggett of Fairfield, was admitted to the bar in 1877 and at once formed a partnership with Judge Leggett, which continued forty years. They soon acquired an extensive practice. Mr. McKemey attained high rank as a lawyer. He had unusually good judgment, was a good business man and a man of affairs. He was active in politics, but declined political position for himself. During the war he was the leader in his county in Red Cross, Council of Defense, local food administration and other war activities. On his death it is said he was the citizen most widely related to the general activities of Fairfield.

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