

Joel M. Walker

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Seminary. His eyesight failing, however, he was compelled to relinquish all hope of following his chosen profession. Removing to Iowa he became associated with his brother-in-law, Hon. W. H. M. Pusey, in the banking and real estate business as early as 1857. Mr. Officer was early recognized as a leading business man of Western Iowa. He also acquired a commanding influence in the councils of the Presbyterian church and as an educator. He organized the first school in Council Bluffs and was an important factor in establishing the State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in that city. In the matter of banking, Messrs. Officer and Pusey were especially fortunate. This was due to the confidence with which they were always regarded by the public and to their careful and conservative methods in the transaction of business. Their house went safely through the panic of 1857, and its reputation during all these forty-three years has remained of the highest character. From the pioneer days until his lamented death no citizen of Council Bluffs has been more influential in whatever pertained to the growth and progress of that enterprising city.

JOEL M. WALKER was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 8, 1835; he died in Moscow, Idaho, July 5, 1900. In 1840 he removed with his parents to Fort Madison, Iowa. His education was obtained at the pioneer institution of Denmark Academy, Denmark, Iowa, and at an early age he was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court. On the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted two hundred men and was himself elected first lieutenant, and later captain of Company B, 23d Iowa Infantry. He served with his company at Vicksburg and in other important battles. Soon after the war Captain Walker was appointed U. S. Marshal for Iowa by President Johnson. He afterwards engaged in stock-farming on a large scale. In 1882 he left this State and removed to Kansas, hoping to benefit his health. He was engaged in the loaning and banking business at Howard, Kansas, and afterwards in Kendrick and in Moscow, Idaho. He was influential in military, business and political circles wherever he resided. He was a leader in the Democratic party and was at one time candidate for United States Senator in Idaho.

EUGENE A. CONSIGNY was born in St. Cesaire, Canada, May 15, 1841; he died at Manitou, Colorado, August 8, 1900. His grandfather, a French voyageur, settled in Montreal in 1790. His father, Antoine Consigny, owing to civil war in Canada, settled for a time in Vermont, but returned to that country. By the death of his father, Mr. Consigny's legal studies were interrupted and he engaged in mercantile life. When the war broke out, he enlisted in Company M, First Vermont Volunteers. He was in many important battles. He served as sergeant, orderly sergeant, second lieutenant, and was finally promoted to first lieutenant and then appointed adjutant of his regiment. Soon after the war he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, after two years to Cascade, and in 1872 to A voca, where he afterward resided. He was prominent in the G. A. R. organization and at one time Department Commander in Iowa.

MATTHIAS J. ROHLFS died in Davenport, Iowa, September 5, 1900, at the age of eighty-four. He was a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He came to the United States in 1847, settling at Davenport. His expectation was to become a teacher, but he soon removed to a farm just out of the city. He was one of the leading citizens of Scott county for almost half a century. He served eight years in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he took a leading position. He was also for fourteen years county treasurer. During this time he was engaged in several successful business enterprises. At the start he conducted a German school and a singing society, and interested himself in whatever pertained to the gen-

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