

## Eli W. Beard

ISSN 0003-4827



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### Recommended Citation

"Eli W. Beard." *The Annals of Iowa* 11 (1913), 76-76.

Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3837>

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RUTHVEN WILSON LEVERICH was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, May 1, 1838; he died in the city of Muscatine, February 1, 1913. He received his early education in one of the pioneer log schoolhouses of the State, and later attended Cornell college, Mt. Vernon. His career as an educator began in early manhood and he assumed charge of the Wilton schools in 1870. Shortly thereafter he was elected county superintendent of schools, and continued in that capacity for five successive terms. After retiring from the office of county superintendent he started the Leverich Normal Training School which came to be recognized as one of the valuable educational institutions of the State. He conducted this school until about two years ago, when he was forced to resign on account of ill-health.

ELI W. BEARD was born in Randolph county, Indiana, February 22, 1836; he died at Indianola, Iowa, January 8, 1913. In the fall of 1837 his father moved his family to southeastern Iowa, and his boyhood was spent among frontier surroundings. He early decided to adopt school teaching as his profession and therefore attended Howe's Seminary, a training school conducted by Prof. Samuel F. Howe at Mount Pleasant. He later took a course at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. He began teaching in the fall of 1856, and with the exception of two winters was continuously in the work from that time until the spring of 1912, teaching in private and public schools both in Indiana and Iowa. As a young man he was recorded a minister in the society of Friends and during his entire life was active in church, temperance and philanthropic work.

ERNEST ELDRED HART was born in West Union, Iowa, December 9, 1859; he died at Long Beach, California, February 1, 1913, while absent from his home in Council Bluffs. While yet a boy he removed with his family to Council Bluffs and received his early education there, graduating from the high school with the class of 1875. He attended Grinnell College for a year and then went to Yale University, graduating from the academic course in 1881. He entered the real estate business in Council Bluffs, and a few years later conducted a successful loan and mortgage business. In 1891 he opened a private bank, and in 1902 became president of the First National Bank of Council Bluffs. His business interests expanded rapidly until he became known as one of the foremost financiers of the country. In politics he was a Republican, and was prominent in political circles, serving for twelve years as Republican national committeeman from Iowa, and a portion of that time as member of the executive campaign committee.

BENJAMIN W. LACY was born in Locke, Cayuga county, New York, March 12, 1849; he died at Dubuque, Iowa, September 28, 1912. At the age of six years he came with his parents to Fayette county, Iowa, and there spent his childhood and youth, receiving his education in the common schools and at Upper Iowa University. When nineteen years of age, he went to Alexandria, Virginia, working in the office of his uncle, Judge Wetsel Willoughby, and pursuing his law studies at Columbia Law School, and for two years serving as clerk in the census bureau. In 1872, through the influence of his friend, Senator William B. Allison, he returned to Iowa, entering

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