Jesse Macy was born in Henry County, Indiana, June 21, 1842, and died at Grinnell, Iowa, November 2, 1919. In 1856 he came with his parents to a farm in Poweshiek County, near Lynnville. In 1859 he entered the academy of Iowa College at Grinnell. He had been born and reared a Quaker. His parents had been active anti-slavery people. When the war came on he volunteered in the hospital service. He was with Sherman's army in its march to the sea. He was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois and re-entered Iowa College, graduating in 1870. From 1871 to 1885 he was principal of Iowa College Academy. From 1885 to 1888 he was acting professor of history and political science in Iowa College. In 1888 he became professor of political science, which position he held until he retired in 1912. He received the degree of A. M. from Iowa College in 1873. He was granted the degree of LL. D. from Brown University in 1878, from Grinnell College in 1911 and from Oberlin College in 1915. He was Harvard Foundation lecturer in French provincial universities in 1913. He was president of the American Political Science Association in 1916. His fame is based not alone on his success as an instructor, but also on his productions as an author. Among his more noted publications are "Civil Government in Iowa," 1881; "Institutional Beginnings in a Western State," 1884; "First Lessons in Civil Government," 1894; "English Constitution," 1897; "Political Parties in the United States," 1900; "Political Science," 1913. He had an acquaintance with and the confidence of many of the world's truly great. He was indispensable to Hon. James Bryce in the production of "The American Commonwealth." He was a man of large abilities and of fine character, bringing honor to his college and to his state.

William E. Johnston was born in Cedar county, Iowa, September 8, 1866; he died at Ida Grove, Iowa, August 16, 1915. His parents were Albert Jefferson and Ellen C. (McDonald) Johnston. He was educated in the district schools of Cedar and Ida counties, the family having removed to Ida county in 1881. He began the study of law and was graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa in 1890. He served as clerk of the courts and in 1892 was elected county attorney, serving one term. As a young man he was a Democrat in politics, but in 1896 became an advocate and active worker of the Republican party. He was instrumental in promoting the candidacy of William S. Kenyon for United States senator, and in 1914 was permanent chairman of the Republican state convention. He was president and attorney of the Grain Shippers Mutual Fire Association and interested in various business enterprises of Ida Grove. He was an extensive land owner and had traveled widely in Europe and the Orient.