

(Kumler) Zeller. He was reared on his father's farm and attended the local public school. When twenty years old, or in 1864, he enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Ohio Infantry, and served the period of enlistment, one hundred days, seeing service with the Federal forces in Virginia. Returning home he followed farming, but later entered Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1871. About this time he entered newspaper work and became publisher of the *Oxford Citizen* at Oxford, Ohio. In 1871 he removed to Iowa and became city editor of the *Burlington Gazette*. Later he purchased and edited the *Eldora Herald*, but sold it in 1873 and removed to Winterset where for five years he was principal of its public schools. In 1883 he purchased a part interest in the *Winterset Madisonian*, H. J. B. Cummings owning the other portion, and again interested himself in newspaper work. In July of that year the *Winterset Chronicle* owned by Henry Wallace was taken over and consolidated with the *Madisonian*, Mr. Wallace joining the firm of Cummings, Wallace & Zeller. A year later Mr. Zeller sold his interest in the paper. In 1884 he was elected county superintendent of schools and was re-elected two years later, serving during the years 1885 to 1888 inclusive. For seven years he was engaged in county institute work and was regarded as a leading educator in his part of the state. Later for several years he was president of the Winterset School Board. He acquired farming interests, and throughout his life did much newspaper and magazine writing and public speaking. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was a local preacher, and for years frequently occupied pulpits. In 1908 he was elected representative, was re-elected in 1910, and served in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies, giving able service to the state. He was a charter member of the Madison County Historical Society which was organized in 1904, was its first treasurer, and in recent years was its secretary-treasurer, and custodian of the historical rooms. He was a man of strong personality and exercised quite an influence educationally, morally and politically on his community.

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PERRY ENGLE was born at Benton, Hancock County, Ohio, July 16, 1840, and died in Newton, Iowa, June 29, 1935. Burial was in Newton Union Cemetery. His parents were Jacob and Louisa (Probst) Engle. He began the study of medicine when working on a farm, was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Michigan in 1871, supplemented by a course in Long Island College, Brooklyn, New York. In 1872 he removed to Newton, Iowa, entered on the practice of medicine and continued in practice there for over sixty years. He was a good student, a man of scholarly attainments and kept well ahead of most of his contemporaries in the science of medicine. Besides maintaining a large practice he took great interest in public matters. In 1876 he established the *Newton Herald* and for twenty-four years was its publisher and did most of its editing. He advocated the initiative

and referendum, and many reforms in civic and state measures through its columns. In 1889 he was nominated by the Union Labor party for state senator, was endorsed by the Democratic party, was elected, and served in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth general assemblies. Although the Senate in the Twenty-third was evenly divided when he voted with the Democrats, yet he voted independently and often held the balance of power. He introduced a bill for woman suffrage, favored the Australian ballot, the two-cent railroad fare in Iowa, free text books, and prohibition. In 1891 he was the Sixth District member of the State Central Committee of the Peoples party. In 1892, the same year James B. Weaver was that party's candidate for president, Dr. Engle was that party's candidate for Congress in the Sixth District. He was the author of two books, *Heredity and Environment*, 1909, and *Atrocities of War, or The Beauties of Peace*, 1910. He had been a Mason seventy-three years, or since 1862, and was reputed to be affiliated with Masonry the longest of any one in Iowa. He was a past president of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa. He was a sort of practical idealist, doing good among the people both in his vocation and in his many other activities.

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CHARLES C. LAFFER was born on a farm near Sigourney, Iowa, November 1, 1870, and died in Des Moines June 2, 1935. Burial was at Sigourney. His parents were Henry and Georgiana Crist Laffer. His education was acquired in public schools of Keokuk County. In 1889 he left the farm and entered a harness shop in Sigourney where he learned the harness making trade. A few years later he went into business for himself in Sigourney with a harness store of his own. His first public position was that of city clerk. His interest in people, his social nature and ability to make and hold friends, and interest in public matters naturally led him into politics. He became deputy sheriff of Keokuk County during the service of Sheriff James H. Barlow, 1894 to 1898, and in the fall of 1897 was himself elected sheriff, was re-elected two years later, and served from 1898 to 1902. When sworn in January 1, 1898, he was but little more than twenty-seven years old, and was said to be the youngest sheriff in the state. On leaving the sheriff's office in 1902 he re-entered the harness business and later became a director in the First National Bank, and also in the Union Savings Bank, both of Sigourney. In 1914 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh general assemblies. In 1917 he sold his harness business, for a few years was in the real estate business, but in 1920 became a state automobile inspector, holding that position until 1932.

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JOHN TINLEY BROOKS was born on a farm in Keokuk County, Iowa, October 17, 1850, and died in Claremont, California, February 28, 1933. His parents were John G. and Mary (Kyger) Brooks. He attended public school and was graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, in 1875, including the study of law in his liberal arts course.

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