

Soon thereafter he was admitted to the bar and, joining with John A. Donnell as Donnell & Brooks, began practice in Sigourney. After five years practice he became cashier of the Union Bank of Sigourney. In 1882 he with W. H. Young and J. P. Yerger founded and laid out the town of Hedrick, naming it for General John M. Hedrick of Ottumwa. Here Mr. Brooks established the Hedrick State Bank, and later the First National Bank of Hedrick. He was interested in other lines of business in Hedrick and was the town's mayor for ten consecutive terms. He helped organize the Iowa State Bankers Association, was a member of its board of managers for some years, was vice president in 1906 and president in 1908. In 1901 he was elected senator from the Keokuk-Poweshiek district and served in the Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first general assemblies. In his first session he was chairman of the Committee on State Buildings and Grounds, and in the two following sessions he was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. In 1915 he removed to Claremont, California, and became president of the Claremont National Bank. Later when that was consolidated with the First National Bank of Claremont he was made vice president of that institution. He was a Republican, a man of strong character, and always exercised a fine influence.

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FRANKLIN W. HART was born in Michigan in 1840 and died in Huntington Park, California, June 25, 1935. Burial was in Inglewood Park Cemetery. He lived for a time near Stanwood, Cedar County, Iowa. He entered the Preparatory Department of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, as a student the fall of 1863, giving Mount Vernon as his residence. In May 19, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry, was mustered June 10, 1864, and was mustered out September 23, 1864, at Davenport at the end of his service. The next school year, 1864-65, he was again a student in the Preparatory Department in Cornell, and in the four years following he was a student in liberal arts, graduating in 1869. He practiced law some years in Mount Vernon. In 1874 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the town of Mount Vernon. In 1881 he was elected as a representative from Linn County and served in the Nineteenth General Assembly. During the administration of Governor William Larrabee, Mr. Hart was on the governor's staff as a lieutenant colonel. In 1895 he removed to Los Angeles, California, where he practiced law for twenty-five years. He became a colorful figure in Southern California, devoting much time to writing and lecturing. In 1920 he removed to Huntington Beach where he opened a law office, and five years later, on his eighty-fifth birthday, retired and devoted his time to study and writing. In 1932 he published his *Biography of Abraham Lincoln*.

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FRED W. WEITZ was born in Des Moines, Iowa, March 20, 1867, and died in the city of his birth February 17, 1935. The body was cremated. He was a son of Charles Weitz who came to Des Moines in 1855 and

was the city's first building contractor. He had a good education, although he never attended college or university. He grew up under the influence and surroundings of building and of architect's plans. In 1904 he and his brothers, Charles and Edward, took over the business of their father under the firm name of Charles Weitz Sons. The firm was reorganized in 1933 as The Weitz Company, Inc., and Fred W. was made president. Under his leadership they built many of the prominent buildings of Des Moines, among them being Hotel Fort Des Moines, the Hubbell Building, the Amos Hiatt Junior High School Building, the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School Building, the Wallace-Homestead Building, the Hoyt Sherman Place Auditorium, the Orpheum Theater, St. Gabriel's Monastery on Merle Hay Highway, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, and St. John's Catholic Church. He erected the Allison Memorial, under contract with its sculptor, Miss Evelyn B. Longman and her architect associate, Henry Bacon, and under supervision of the Allison Memorial Commission of which General Grenville M. Dodge was chairman. The Weitz Company also constructed the Camp Dodge Cantonment during the World War, and fulfilled contracts for more than forty post offices and federal buildings in cities in many states of the country. Mr. Weitz was not only an enthusiast and critic on architecture and building, but also in city planning for Des Moines. He was a director in the Des Moines National Bank, and later in the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank and Trust Company, and was a vice president of the Century Lumber Company since its organization forty years ago.

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LOUIS BLOCK was born in Davenport, Iowa, June 30, 1869, and died in Davenport June 3, 1935. Private incineration of the body took place at the Davenport crematorium. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Block. He was graduated from high school in Davenport, and from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1893, and began the practice of law in Davenport the same year. He was associated with James W. Bollinger as Bollinger & Block from January, 1911, until 1931, when the partnership was dissolved and his son, Albert F. Block, joined with him in practice as Block & Block. In 1933 another son, Robert L. Block, and Fred Agnew joined the firm. During all those years Louis Block was actively engaged in the practice of law in which he achieved success, but his thirst for knowledge and his brilliant talents led him into many other lines. He was made a Mason in 1894, became a great student of the mysteries of that order and eventually was honored with receiving the thirty-third degree, the highest rank of the fraternity. He was a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, a past grand high priest of the Royal Arch Masons, was a member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Consistory, was Masonic inspector general for the state of Iowa, and was one of the most outstanding Masonic members of the state. He was a student of poetry, archeology, scientific research, and music, and was an ardent

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