

jury investigation following the gang murder of Assistant State's Attorney William McSwiggan, who was also a native of Iowa County. In 1922-23 he was president of the State University of Iowa Alumni Association. He was an active, outstanding personage in civic matters in every locality where he lived, and had a host of friends not only among the members of the bar, but among business men in all parts of the country.—B. L. W.

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JOHN B. HENDERSON was born in Linn County, seven miles south of Cedar Rapids, March 31, 1854, and died at Tama, Iowa, March 23, 1936. He was the son of John W. Henderson, a native of Tennessee, and related to the Henderson family prominent in politics in Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri. His mother was Elizabeth Green Butler Henderson. Mr. Henderson figured for many years as a prominent man in business and social gatherings of Cedar Rapids. He was for many years secretary of the Farmers Insurance Company, manager of Green's Opera House, member of Cedar Rapids Boat Club, of the Mississippi Valley Rowing Association, two terms Mayor of Cedar Rapids, in the nineties, elected as a Democrat, a charter member of the Cedar Rapids Country Club, and for the last few years of his life was the owner of the Midway Ranch containing 7,600 acres at Cozad, Nebraska, overlooking the Platte River. He also organized the Midway Land and Cattle Company, and in 1928 projected a thirty-mile irrigation project which aroused the interest of the people everywhere. His wife died in 1927, and since then his residence has been in summer time on his farm, spending the winters in the South, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. H. T. Cherry in Tama. Mr. Henderson was an outstanding figure in the business and club life of Cedar Rapids, and he knew personally during the nineties and up to 1912 all the leading theater folks in the country, and they were many times entertained at his home. He was also an outstanding authority on fire insurance, a lover of fast trotting horses, and a skilled oarsman.—B. L. W.

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D. MYRON TRIPP was born in Clear Creek Township, Jasper County, Iowa, September 6, 1882, and died in a Webster City hospital May 15, 1936. Burial was at Newton. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Garner M. Tripp. He obtained his education in Colfax public schools, Des Moines University, and Drake University Law School from which he was graduated in June, 1906. The same year he joined his father in the practice of law at Colfax where he remained until 1920. He served as city attorney of Colfax, and in January, 1919, on the resignation of M. R. Hammer, Jr., as county attorney of Jasper County, the Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Tripp to the position, and he served until December 31, 1919. In 1920 he removed to Newton. He served for a time as a member of the City Council of Newton. At a special election on March 24, 1932, he was elected senator to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Senator O. P. Myers, served during the remainder of

the regular session of the Forty-fifth General Assembly, and also during the important extra session of the same assembly. Returning to Newton to resume his law practice he was called to assist the State Highway Commission in suits arising from land owners asking damages when paving was constructed across their farms. In February, 1936, he was appointed by Attorney General O'Connor as an assistant attorney general attached to the Highway Commission with headquarters at Ames. It was while engaged in that work that he met an untimely death through an automobile accident.

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JAMES EDWARD MERSHON was born in Newton, Iowa, September 10, 1864, and died in Des Moines May 18, 1936. Burial was in Masonic Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were James R. and Margaret Ann (Hart) Mershon. The father was a Congregational minister, a graduate of Yale University and an associate of the famous Beecher family, while the mother was descended from a family with literary accomplishments, so the son, James Edward, had home advantages of education and culture. He was graduated from the Law Department of the University of Iowa in 1891 and began the practice of law in Des Moines the same year. He served two terms as city solicitor of Des Moines, 1897 to 1901. He continued in active practice until 1916 when, at nearly the age of fifty-two years, he was chosen one of the four judges of the newly created Municipal Court of Des Moines, the other three being Eskil C. Carlson, Walter Irish, and Joseph E. Meyer. Mr. Mershon was regularly re-elected and served continuously until the election of March, 1936. Being a member of the Municipal Court on its organization and continuing twenty years he is credited with having had much to do with giving it form and direction. He was scholarly, alert of mind, dignified, strict but not harsh, kindly, and just. He had completed plans for re-establishing himself in private practice when death overtook him.

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FRANK WEBSTER MAHIN was born in Muscatine, Iowa, November 6, 1851, and died in Washington, D. C., May 6, 1936. He was a younger brother of John Mahin, their parents being Jacob and Elizabeth Hare Mahin. He obtained his common school education in Muscatine, was a student in Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, attended Harvard University Law School, and later, Columbia University Law School, receiving his degree as bachelor of law from Columbia. He began the practice of law in Muscatine in 1878, continuing it until 1881 when he became editor and manager of the *Clinton Herald*, remaining in that capacity until 1897. From 1890 to 1894 he was postmaster at Clinton. He then entered the consular service representing this country at Reichenberg, Austria, 1898 to 1902; at Nottingham, England, 1902 to 1910; at Amsterdam, Holland, 1910 to 1913, and again from 1915 to 1925, when he retired. He returned to his old home at Muscatine for a time, but in later years was a resident of Washington. Other public

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