

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.

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.

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

positions held by Mr. Mahin were trustee of Iowa State Normal School, 1889-90; regent of State University of Iowa, 1894-97; and colonel of First Regiment, Iowa National Guard, 1891-98.

JOHN SNURE was born in Adamsville, Michigan, in 1873, and died in Washington, D. C., March 29, 1936. His parents were Samuel Edward and Eliza Jane (Johnson) Snure. He was graduated from the Michigan State Normal School, Ypsilanti, in 1891. He was a reporter on the *Twin City (La Salle and Peru) Journal*, Ottawa, Illinois, in 1892 to 1896; on the *Des Moines Leader* in 1896; on the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, and the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*, 1896 to 1903, except that he served over a year in the Spanish-American War, enlisting on April 26, 1898 as a private in Company H, Fifty-first Infantry. He was promoted to corporal June 20, 1898, and was discharged September 20, 1899, at Manilla, Philippine Islands, when he returned to Des Moines. In 1903 he removed to Washington, D. C., and until his death he was correspondent from the national capital to various papers, chief among them being the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, later the *Register and Tribune*, and the *New York Herald-Tribune*. He had an unusually large acquaintance with leading politicians and statesmen of the country and was universally respected and trusted by them. He kept his close association with Iowa people to the end.

WILLIAM STUART was born in Antrim County, Ireland, January 10, 1851, and died at Armstrong, Iowa, March 31, 1936. Burial was in the Armstrong Cemetery. His parents were Alexander and Margaret (Ellis) Stuart. The family removed to Ontario, Canada, in 1856 where William received his education in the public schools. In 1864 they removed to Fulton, Illinois, where he learned the blacksmith trade. In 1879 he removed to Grundy Center, Iowa, where he followed blacksmithing and wagon making, but later entered the farm implement business. In 1890 he was elected mayor of Grundy Center. In 1892 he removed to Armstrong, Emmet County, and became one of the founders of the town. There he engaged in banking, becoming a director and the vice president of the First National Bank of Armstrong, and also the owner of several hundred acres of farm land in Emmet County. He was a member of the school board and for three years, 1897, 1898 and 1899, he was a member of the Board of Supervisors of Emmet County. In 1916 he was elected representative, was re-elected in 1918, and served in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies.

JAMES FINDLEY MORRIS was born in a log cabin near Princeville, Peoria County, Illinois, October 23, 1854, and died in Altadena, California, May 6, 1936. Burial was in Mountain View Cemetery, Pasadena. His parents were Absalom and Mary Jane (Findley) Morris. The family removed in April, 1855, to Black Hawk County, Iowa, locating on land then secured from the government at \$1.25 an acre. The son

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.