

From 1873 to 1877 he was a member of the Des Moines police force, and in 1877 was appointed deputy sheriff of Polk County. Soon after becoming a peace officer he took up the study of law, devoting his time to it while not on duty. He read with Smith & Baylies (Seward Smith and Ripley N. Baylies) and was admitted to the bar in 1878 while he was still deputy sheriff. In 1880 Mr. Baylies retired and Mr. Brennan entered the firm. In 1881 he retired as deputy sheriff and devoted himself to the practice of law. In 1896 he was appointed assistant city solicitor of Des Moines and served until 1899 when he was elected city solicitor. From 1903 until 1914 he served as a district judge in Polk County, being three times elected to that position. Both as a peace officer and as a judge on the bench he acquitted himself with honor. In overcoming the handicaps of poverty and in winning his way unaided to an honorable position in a learned profession, his was a remarkable career.

J. D. M. HAYMONS was born at Pottsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1851, and died at Kansas City, Missouri, September 29, 1914. In 1851, when only an infant, he came with his parents to Fort Madison, Iowa. He attended common school there, Knox College at Galburg, Illinois, and was graduated from the law department of Washington University, Saint Louis, in 1875. He became city attorney of Fort Madison and in 1877 was elected representative in the Seventeenth General Assembly. He attained prominence rapidly. He was a candidate for presidential elector on the Democratic ticket and was appointed by Governor Sherman as a member of the commission to locate and build the hospital for the insane in the southwest part of the state. In 1886, he was chairman of the committee on resolutions of the Democratic state convention. In 1887 he was elected mayor of Fort Madison. In 1881 he was grand chancellor of the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias of Iowa. He was recognized as one of the ablest lawyers of the state and he obtained an extensive practice. He was appointed claims attorney for the A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co. and removed to Topeka, Kansas, where he lived several years during the latter part of his life.

WILLARD CHAUNCEY FAIRB was born at Homestead, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1834, and died in Florida, February 19, 1920. Burial was at Waukon, Iowa. He was educated in public schools. He came to Waukon in 1854 and worked in a sawmill. In October, 1861, he enlisted in the Union Army and was elected captain of Company B, Twelfth Iowa Infantry. In 1864 he raised and commanded the Seventieth United States Colored Infantry. In 1865 he resigned to attend Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and in 1867 graduated therefrom. Returning to Waukon he practiced medicine there twenty-five years. He was interested in the mercantile business, stock and grain shipping and banking. He was active in promoting the building of the railroad to Waukon. In 1881 he was elected representative and served in the Nineteenth

teenth General Assembly, and in 1886 was elected senator to fill the unexpired term in the Twenty-first General Assembly of William Larrabee when the latter became governor. He was again elected representative in 1906 and served in the Thirty-second and Thirty-second extra General Assemblies.

---

WILLIAM BATTIN was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, June 24, 1832, and died at Marshalltown, Iowa, February 8, 1918. He was of Quaker parentage and rearing. He attended country school, taught school at Lisbon, Salem and Damascus, Ohio, and clerked in stores. He came to Iowa City, Iowa, in 1856 and to Marshall County in 1857, and established a store. The brick building in which he had this store is said to be still standing. In 1859 he was elected county judge of Marshall County on the issue of removing the county seat from Marietta to Marshalltown, he favoring Marshalltown. After Marshalltown won the removal contest by an election and had successfully resisted Marietta's efforts to defeat the removal by court actions, a counter movement was started to change the county seat to Albion, and the case arising in that movement was tried before Judge Battin, Marshalltown winning. He declined to be a candidate for re-election. A few years thereafter he removed to a farm near Marshalltown and in 1890 removed to that city. He held several township offices, including justice of the peace.

---

MAHLON HEAD was born in Highland County, Ohio, July 12, 1835, and died at Jefferson, Iowa, January 17, 1920. He came with his parents to Poweshiek County, Iowa, in 1855. There he worked on a farm one year and then became a clerk in the office of the treasurer of Poweshiek County. He remained in that position until June, 1861, when he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Iowa Infantry, and served four years. He participated in many battles and was seriously wounded at Missionary Ridge. He marched with Sherman to the Sea, was commissioned a lieutenant and was later a staff officer with General John E. Smith. Returning home from the war in 1865, he engaged in banking one year at Montezuma, but in 1866 went to Jefferson. There he entered the banking business and became a leading citizen of Greene County. Besides his banking interests at Jefferson he was interested in banks in several nearby towns. He invested largely in land and became quite wealthy. In 1899 he was elected representative and, by reason of re-elections, served in the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first General Assemblies.

---

WILLIAM HENRY WEBB was born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1849, and died at Spencer, Iowa, May 2, 1914. In 1854 he came with his parents to Iowa County, Wisconsin, in 1874 to Clear Lake, Iowa, and in 1877 to Spencer. He was a successful farmer. He was elected representative in 1912 and served in the Thirty-fifth General Assembly.

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.