

THOMAS JEFFERSON STEELE was born in Rush County, Indiana, March 19, 1853, and died in Sioux City, Iowa, March 21, 1920. In 1859 he removed with his parents to Coles County, Illinois, and in 1862 to Jefferson County, Iowa. Here he attended common school and, later, Axline Academy (now defunct). After two years in the academy he commenced teaching public schools, which he continued several years. He later farmed and worked at the carpenter trade in northwestern Iowa. When the grasshopper plague came he had to return to school teaching to make a living. He studied law with Barrett & Bullis at Sheldon and was admitted to the bar, but did not enter the practice. He entered the retail merchandise business at Wayne, Nebraska, took control of the First National Bank and organized a big cattle feeding company. In 1893 he removed to Tyndall, South Dakota, established a lumber yard and also went extensively into the cattle business. In 1895 he entered the live stock brokerage and commission business in Sioux City. He continued, however, to develop his South Dakota holdings, having one ranch there of 20,000 acres. Although the Eleventh Iowa Congressional District was normally Republican by several thousand, he was elected to Congress as a Democrat in 1914 by a majority of 3,659 and served in the Sixty-fourth Congress. In 1916 he was again his party's nominee and was defeated by 131 votes. At the time of his death he had been selected as one of the delegates at large from Iowa to the Democratic National Convention at San Francisco. He was a very successful business man and was deservedly popular.

FRANK D. BAYLESS was born at Pendleton, Madison County, Indiana, October 9, 1840, and died at Los Angeles, California, March 7, 1920. Burial was at Elkader, Iowa. He came west by ox team with his mother and her family in 1853. In 1855 they located in Dodge County, Minnesota, where he worked on a farm. In 1856 he returned to Indiana and attended high school two years. In 1858 he again went to Minnesota and farmed, taught school and studied medicine. In 1861 he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Infantry and served until his health became impaired, when he was honorably discharged. Soon thereafter, however, he re-enlisted in the Third Minnesota Infantry, serving until September, 1865. He then became a drug clerk and in 1866 removed to Elkader, Iowa, and entered the drug business on his own account. He was very successful and established several branch stores at neighboring towns. He was enterprising, public-spirited and helpful to his community. He was a member of the local school board continuously for twenty-four years. In 1883 he was elected to the state senate as a Democrat and was re-elected in 1887, serving in the Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third General Assemblies. During his service in the senate he became recognized as a legislator of ability, independence and good business judgment. In the Twenty-third General Assembly he was a member of the Ways and Means, Railways, Public Health and Printing committees and was chairman of the Military committee.

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