

ELBERT WRIGHT WEEKS was born near Painesville, Lake County, Ohio, October 7, 1850, and died at the Masonic Sanitarium at Bettendorf, Iowa, December 17, 1932. Interment was in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center, Iowa. His parents were Henry and Sarah (Wright) Weeks. The family removed to Green Township, Iowa County, Iowa, in 1855, where they established a pioneer country home. Elbert attended public school during winters and in 1870 and 1871 attended McClain's Academy at Iowa City a few terms, then taught a winter term of country school, worked in summer as a farm hand, then entered the Law Department of the State University and was graduated in June, 1873. The next winter he spent in the law office of Yocum, Anderson & Robb at Albia. After spending a brief time at David City, Nebraska, where he opened a law office, and teaching another winter term of school near his parents' home, he located at Guthrie Center and entered the practice of law in May, 1876. This he continued for fifty-four years, acquiring a large practice. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1884, was an alternate to the convention of 1888, was secretary of the National Republican League from 1900 to 1906, for years was in demand as a public speaker for the Republican party and was a party leader in his portion of the state. He was first elected representative in 1903 and served in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second general assemblies, being chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House in the Thirty-second. He was grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, Domain of Iowa, in 1891-92. He was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church all his life, and was for many years a teacher in Sunday School. His social instincts and his abilities caused him to be active in whatever appeared to be a benefit to his community. In his later years he wrote considerably for the local press, sometimes philosophically, mostly reminiscently, and always interestingly. At the time of his death he was reading the proof of a book he had written, which is biographical and historical, relating principally to pioneer times in Guthrie County.

---

CONSTANT ROBERT MARKS was born in Durham, Greene County, New York, April 11, 1841, and died in Sioux City, Iowa, December 17, 1932. His parents were Almeron and Mary Phelps Marks. He attended the Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield, Connecticut, until the breaking out of the Civil War when he enlisted in Company K, Eighth Massachusetts Infantry. While he was stationed at Fort McHenry he was taken so seriously ill that he was sent home. He later resumed his studies in Hudson River Institute at Caverack, New York, and in 1863 entered Yale College, but ill health prevented him from completing his course. In 1866 he commenced reading law with E. M. Wood at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and was graduated from the Albany Law School, Albany, New York, in 1868. In April of 1868 he removed to Sioux City, Iowa, and began practice there in partnership with W. L. Joy, as Marks & Joy. He continued in active practice for sixty-four years, or

until shortly before his death at the age of ninety-one years, and at that time was thought to be the dean of Iowa lawyers. In 1869, the year of his arrival in Sioux City, he was elected representative and served in the Thirteenth General Assembly. This was the assembly that made the appropriation for the erection of the present Capitol. So far as can be learned there is but one member of that noted assembly surviving, G. S. Tolliver of Jefferson, Greene County. Mr. Marks, besides being in active practice as a lawyer, rendered much service to his city and state. He was a member of the Sioux City School Board for nine years, the last three being president. He was one of the original incorporators of the city water works, was one of the founders of the Sioux City Public Library, helped found the Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters, was secretary and one of the most active members of the Floyd Memorial Association which erected the Floyd monument, and frequently made valuable contributions as a local historian. Lawyer, scholar, civic worker, legislator, patriot, citizen, he was held in honor by his community.

---

OLIVER PERRY MYERS was born on a farm in a log cabin in Washington County, Iowa, July 30, 1856, and died in Newton, Iowa, March 6, 1933. Burial was in Newton Union Cemetery. His parents were John and Mary (Ward) Myers. He attended rural public school and was graduated from the State University of Iowa in 1880. He taught school, worked as a farm laborer and read law at Iowa City, beginning the study of law in earnest in 1882. He removed to Newton and was admitted to the bar in 1883. He formed a partnership with A. M. Harrah January 1, 1884, which continued until 1891 when Mr. Myers moved to Huron, South Dakota, where he taught school, and for four years served as county superintendent. In 1898 he returned to Newton and resumed his partnership with Mr. Harrah which continued until the latter's removal to California in 1905. Since then Mr. Myers has practiced alone. He was a charter member of the Jasper County Bar Association, and the dean of the association at the time of his death. He won marked success as a lawyer, as a public speaker and orator of ability, took much interest in public affairs and was a steadfast Democrat in politics. In 1910 he was a candidate for judge in the Sixth Judicial District, in 1914 was the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, in 1920 was his party's candidate for Congress in the Sixth Congressional District, and in 1926 was the candidate for state senator from Jasper County. In 1930 he was elected senator and served in the Forty-fourth General Assembly. At the time of his death he was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Senate of the Forty-fifth General Assembly, fulfilling a career of usefulness as a legislator.

---

MAX ERNEST WITTE was born near Berlin, Germany, January 31, 1859, and died near Clarinda, Iowa, January 29, 1933. Burial was beside his parents in the Lutheran Cemetery at Bellevue, Iowa. His

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.