

After his resignation he lived in quiet retirement, though maintaining his interest in all that pertained to the advancement of the community. His long service and forceful character made him an important factor in the educational interests of the State.

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CORNELIUS ALBERT STANTON was born in Marietta, Ohio, December 28, 1841; he died at Los Angeles, Cal., December 17, 1912. In 1850 he came with his parents to Lee county, Iowa, removing two years later to Appanoose county, where he grew to manhood. At nineteen years of age he enlisted in Company I, Third Iowa Cavalry, and served for four years, participating in many of the most important engagements of the war and being severely wounded at La Grange, Ark., May 1, 1863. He was steadily promoted until he attained the rank of major. For his conspicuous bravery and gallantry his medallion portrait was placed on the monument erected in honor of the Iowa soldiers and sailors. At the close of the war he returned to Centerville and gave his attention to mercantile pursuits, refusing all offers of political preferment. He served as president of the board of education in Centerville and was appointed by Governor Larrabee as member of the board of regents of the State University of Iowa, which position he held for many years. About 1900 he engaged in business in Memphis, remaining there for five years, then moving to Vicksburg for five years. He removed to California and made his home in Los Angeles until his death.

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AYLETT RAINS COTTON was born in Austintown, Ohio, November 29, 1826; he died at San Francisco, Cal., October 30, 1912. He began his public career as school teacher in Ellsworth, Ohio, in 1843. He came to Clinton county, Iowa, for a short time in 1844, returned east and taught school in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, coming back to Iowa in 1847 and taking up the study of law. Shortly after his admission to the bar he journeyed by ox-team to California and engaged in mining for two years. In 1851 he returned to Iowa, was elected county judge of Clinton county the same year and later prosecuting attorney. From 1855 to 1857 he was mayor of Lyons, and in 1857 was appointed a member of the convention to revise the constitution of Iowa. He was elected a member of the Iowa House of Representatives in 1867, becoming Speaker in 1870. He was sent to Congress from the Second District in 1871, serving as representative for four years. He was regarded as one of the best consulting lawyers in Iowa. In 1883 Judge Cotton went to California for the second time and located in San Francisco, where he continued in the practice of law to within a year of his death. He was a prominent member of the Society of California Pioneers.

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ROBERT HEARNDON MOORE was born in Altoona, Blair county, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1845; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 11, 1912. At the age of six years, he was brought by his parents to Black Hawk township, Jefferson county, Iowa, and while yet a child the residence was made in Fairfield. He entered the job department of the *Fairfield Jeffersonian* in 1859, and in 1865 founded a newspaper he called the *Fairfield Whacker*. His venture failed in a few weeks, and after a short connection with the *Fairfield Home Visitor*, he removed to Des Moines and entered the employ of the *Des Moines Register*. Here he continued until 1868, when he founded the *Brighton Pioneer*, of which he made a distinct success until he

assumed the management of the *Columbus Safeguard* at Columbus Junction in 1870, which he made one of the most influential papers of his time in Iowa. Severing his connection with the *Safeguard*, he published the *Moline Review* in Moline, Illinois, and afterward the *Fairfield Journal* at Fairfield, Iowa, which he still controlled when he removed to Ottumwa, and purchased the *Ottumwa Democrat*. Throughout Iowa, Mr. Moore became most widely known and influential through the *Democrat*. He was a member of the National Editorial Association, served in 1901 as a special commissioner to the Pan American Exposition at Buffalo, and was the same year appointed a member of the Louisiana Purchase Commission. In 1908, he was a member of the commission and head of the press committee of the Omaha Exposition, in which capacity he rendered perhaps the greatest services in his public life. To him has been attributed the largest credit for the establishment of the Ottumwa Public Library. At the time of his death he was the publisher of the *Ottumwa Saturday Herald*, a weekly society paper.

JOHN WILLOCK NOBLE was born at Lancaster, Ohio, October 26, 1831; he died at St. Louis, Missouri, March 22, 1912. After obtaining a good preparatory education in the Cincinnati public schools, he entered Miami College, and a year later the junior class at Yale University, graduating in 1851. In after years each of these schools conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. He studied law under Henry Stanbery (afterward Attorney General in the cabinet under President Johnson) and his brother, Henry C. Noble, was admitted to the bar in 1855 and began the practice of law in St. Louis. Upon his removal to Keokuk in 1856 he formed a partnership with Ralph P. Lowe and served for two years as city attorney. General Noble's Civil war service commenced with the battle of Athens before his enlistment and ended only with the close of the war. He participated in the battle of Pea Ridge, the surrender of Vicksburg, the battle of Tupela, Mississippi, the raids made by General James H. Wilson, the storming of Selma, Alabama, the capture of Columbus, Georgia, and numerous minor engagements. From First Lieutenant he rose in his own regiment, the Third Iowa Cavalry, by regular promotion to Colonel, for a short time serving as Judge Advocate-General of the Army of the Southwest and the Department of Missouri, under Gen. Curtis, and at the close of the war was by Congress brevetted a Brigadier General for "distinguished and meritorious services in the field." At the close of the war he resumed the practice in St. Louis, and in 1867, upon the recommendation of Mr. Stanbery, then Attorney General, was appointed United States district attorney for eastern Missouri. The duties of this office were particularly arduous because of the opposition to the enforcing of revenue laws, but his success was such that he was commended by President Grant, and offered the position of solicitor general, which he declined. Among the best known of General Noble's famous law cases was that of Gibson vs. Chouteau, in which a conflict between a Spanish grant and a claim under a new Madrid certificate was involved. In this case Mr. Noble was able to hold five times in the Missouri Supreme Court, three times in the United States Supreme Court and twice by the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, a decision in the lower courts in favor of his client. In 1889 he was appointed by President Harrison as Secretary of the Interior. He continued in the law practice in St. Louis until his death.

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