

Sioux Indians. Thereafter he made his home at the junction of the Okoboji lakes. He was elected county clerk and justice of the peace on the organization of Dickinson County in 1858. He later held various positions of trust. In 1868 he represented Clay, Dickinson, Emmet and Palo Alto counties as representative in the Twelfth General Assembly. He was a delegate from Iowa to the Republican National Convention in 1868 that nominated General Grant for president. In 1875 in the Republican State Convention he had substantial support as a candidate for lieutenant-governor. In 1894 he was appointed by Governor Jackson as a member of the commission to erect a monument commemorative of the sacrifices in the Spirit Lake massacre. In 1902 he issued a history of Dickinson County, which is a valuable contribution to early history in that part of the state.

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JOSEPH HENRY SWENEY was born in Warren County, Pennsylvania, October 2, 1845, and died at Hampton, Virginia, November 11, 1918. Interment was at Osage, Iowa. He came with his parents to Mitchell County, Iowa, in 1855. Here he attended public school and remained on the farm with his parents until 1862, when he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry, and remained in the service until August, 1865. He was engaged in the banking business at Osage for several years. In 1880 he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Sixth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, and later was made brigadier-general and inspector-general for the state. In 1881 he was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, and for many years thereafter successfully practiced law at Osage. He retired in 1910 because of poor health. In 1883 he was elected senator and was re-elected in 1887, serving in the Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second general assemblies. He was president pro tem of the Senate in the Twenty-second. In 1888 he was elected to Congress and served in the Fifty-first Congress. He was a Republican in politics.

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JAMES MERCER was born at Gault, Ontario, Canada, April 26, 1847, and died at his home near Fonda, Iowa, July 21, 1918. He came with his parents to Cascade, Dubuque County, in 1855. He attended public schools and academy. In October, 1864, he became a member of Company M, Sixth Iowa Cavalry. In 1875 he removed to a farm in Cedar Township, Pocahontas County. He was a member of the county board of supervisors from 1883 to 1886, and in 1889 was elected representative from the Clay-Pocahontas district, serving in the Twenty-third General Assembly. He was again elected representative from Pocahontas County in 1906 and served in the Thirty-second General Assembly. In 1890 he helped organize the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Pocahontas County and was connected with it until the time of his death.

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