

WILLIAM B. MARTIN was born at Rochester, Vermont, March 17, 1846, and died at Des Moines, Iowa, June 11, 1916. He spent his early life on a farm, attended common school and for two years he attended the State Normal School of Vermont. In 1867 he removed to Geneseo, Illinois, where he taught school and farmed. In 1869 he came to Adair County, Iowa, bought a piece of land and commenced farming. He served as county auditor from 1874 to 1880 and then engaged in the abstract, real estate and loan business. In 1893 he was elected representative, and was re-elected two years later, serving in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth extra general assemblies. In the first one of these sessions he was the author of the so-called Martin Bill, which passed and became the famous Mullet Law, establishing a new policy for the liquor business in Iowa, and which remained the settled policy of the state for twenty years. In 1900 he was elected secretary of state and was re-elected for the two subsequent terms, serving from 1901 to 1907. Upon retiring from that office he engaged in real estate business in Des Moines, and also became president of the Iowa Trust and Savings Bank in Des Moines. He owned 1000 acres of Iowa land at the time of his death. He was a vigorous and successful business and public man.

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McKERCHER J. RANDALL was born in Worth County, Iowa, May 17, 1872, and died at his home in Cedar Rapids, May 9, 1918. He was educated in common schools, Northwood High School, Decorah Institute, Iowa State College at Ames, Central Pennsylvania College, Drake University, and the State University of Iowa, and was graduated from the Law Department of the latter in 1901. Previously to this, in 1894, he was licensed as a minister of the United Evangelical church and in 1897 was ordained, and for a few of the following years was pastor at Afton, Lisbon, and Cedar Rapids. After taking his law course he practiced at Mount Vernon and Lisbon, being in partnership with William Dennis, until 1908, when he removed to Cedar Rapids, becoming the senior member of the firm of Randall & Harding. While at Lisbon he served as a member of the school board and as mayor of the town. In 1916 he was elected representative and served in the Thirty-seventh General Assembly. He was grand master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, in 1914-1915, and was grand representative from Iowa in 1917-1918.

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GEORGE W. CROOKS was born in Clay County, Indiana, July 26, 1836, and died at Boone, Iowa, January 18, 1918. He came with his parents when, in 1845, they removed to Fairfield, Iowa, and in 1847 to a farm near Boonesboro. In 1855 he removed to Boonesboro and took employment in a flour and sawmill. In 1861 he assisted in raising Company D, Tenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned first lieutenant, but because of poor health was mustered out in August,

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