

county, Pa., attending at the same time the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He later studied and received a degree at Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1855. He began the practice at Colerain Forge, Pa., but removed to Pontiac, Ill., in 1857, thence to Jackson county, Iowa, in 1860. He served as captain of Company E, 28th Iowa Infantry, and was promoted to the rank of regimental surgeon. He served as army surgeon for one year, and retired on account of ill health, being mustered out in July, 1863. He was for over forty years one of the prominent practitioners in his county and was a leader in every form of activity. He was especially prominent in the councils of the Republican party, being elected by that party to the state Legislature, serving in the House of the 13th General Assembly. He was a candidate again in 1892 and was defeated.

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JOHN A. KASSON was born at Charlotte, Vt., Jan. 11, 1822; he died in Washington, D. C., May 19, 1910. He was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1842; studied law and was admitted to the bar in Massachusetts in 1845; removed to St. Louis and engaged in the practice of law until 1857, when he became a citizen of Des Moines, Iowa. He was chairman of the Republican state central committee from 1858 to 1860 inclusive, and a delegate to the national Republican convention in Chicago which first nominated Lincoln for President. He was First Assistant Postmaster-General from 1861 to 1862. He was Commissioner on the part of the United States to the International Postal Congress in Paris in 1863, and again in 1867, when he negotiated postal conventions with Great Britain and other nations. He was elected to Congress from the 5th Iowa district, serving from 1863 to 1867. He was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from 1868 to 1873, and from December 1, 1873, to March 3, 1877, he again served as a member of Congress. After declining a mission to Spain, he served as United States Minister to Austria from 1877 to 1881, and having been again elected to Congress, took his seat March 4, 1881, remaining until his appointment as Minister to Germany, July 4, 1884. He was president of the committee on the centennial celebration of the adoption of the constitution, held at Philadelphia in 1877; U. S. Commissioner to the Congo International Conference in 1885; Special Envoy to the Samoan International Conference in 1893; Special Commissioner Plenipotentiary to negotiate reciprocity treaties in 1897-1901; member of the American-Canadian Joint High Commission in 1898; President Columbia Historical Society; member National Geographical Society; member American Association for the Advancement of Science and of Washington Academy of Sciences. He was the author of "The Evolution of the United States Constitution" and "History of the Monroe Doctrine." He was one of the earliest and remained one of the most valuable assistants, advisers and donors of the Historical Department of Iowa, delivering the memorable oration at the laying of the cornerstone of the Historical Building, and presenting to the collection his commissions, much of his correspondence and many other valuable objects. A more extended biographical sketch will later be published in *THE ANNALS*, and in accordance with a plan formulated between Mr. Kasson and the late Mr. Charles Aldrich, founder and curator of the Historical Department, an adequate biography will in future be prepared under the direction of the Department.

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