

sive lines. He was admitted to the bar in 1882 and practiced at Pella until 1892 when he removed to Des Moines and formed a partnership with Ira M. Earle. In 1898 he was elected district judge and served the following four years. In 1902 he became a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress, but in a closely contested campaign, lost to the then incumbent, J. A. T. Hull. In 1904 he was again a candidate in a no less strenuous campaign, and again lost to Captain Hull. Both of these campaigns were in primaries in Polk and most of the other counties in the district, conducted under party rules. Besides his law practice Mr. Prouty had engaged extensively in commercial lines. The Des Moines Knitting Company and the Des Moines Lumber Company were two of the several concerns in which he was interested. He became a large manufacturer of walnut lumber, and an extensive rice grower. He was financially successful. In 1908 he again became a candidate for Congress, contesting the nomination with Congressman Hull under the new primary law, but again lost. In 1910 he contested with Mr. Hull for the fourth time and this time won in the primaries, and won in the election over his Democratic opponent, Clint L. Price. In 1912 he had no opposition for renomination, and was re-elected, this time his Democratic opponent again being Mr. Price. He was an active, progressive and useful congressman, but declined further service. His later years were spent looking after his business interests and in retirement.

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JOEL MILO FENN was born in Marietta, Ohio, August 9, 1844, and died at Murray, Iowa, May 7, 1914. His parents removed with their family to the vicinity of Salem, Henry County, Iowa, in 1855. Here the son obtained his education in common and normal schools, and taught several terms in Henry County. He then removed to near Osceola, Clarke County, and continued teaching a few years when he changed to farming and stock raising. For a few years he was also engaged in the nursery business. He resided in Murray the later years of his life. In 1906 he was elected representative, and was re-elected in 1908, serving in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third general assemblies.

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S. W. MOORHEAD was born near Blairsville, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1849, and died in Keokuk, Iowa, August 11, 1927. His education was obtained in common school, in Blairsville Academy, and in Edinboro State Normal School, near Erie. He began teaching school when seventeen years old and followed it for a few years. In 1870 he removed to Batavia, Jefferson County, Iowa, where he published for a time the *Batavia Herald*. While there he taught a class in shorthand both at Batavia and at Mount Pleasant. In 1871 he removed to Afton where he published the *Afton News*. While there part of the time he accompanied Judge McDill on the judicial circuit as court reporter. In 1872 he sold out and went to Council Bluffs as editorial writer on the *Council Bluffs*

*Nonpareil*, which position he held a few years. While there he took up the study of medicine and was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk in 1883 and began the practice of medicine at Eagle Grove. In 1884 he was appointed to the chair of materia medica and therapeutics of the College of Physicians and Surgeons but remained in practice at Eagle Grove until 1887 when he removed to Keokuk. There he continued his medical lectures and also practiced medicine for some time. In 1902 he resigned his chair as a lecturer. In 1892 he was elected city alderman, and in 1893, mayor, which position he filled two years. In 1895 he became editor of the *Keokuk Gate City*, and continued to be most of the time until 1914. In 1906 he was postmaster at Keokuk, and was reappointed in 1910, serving eight years. In 1914 he was again elected mayor, this time under the commission form of government.

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STILMAN T. MESERVEY was born in Clinton, Illinois, December 17, 1848, and died in a hospital in Chicago, Illinois, August 5, 1927. Burial was in Fort Dodge, Iowa. In 1854 he was with his parents, William N. and Amanda C. (Robbins) Meservey, in their removal to Homer, then the county seat of what is now Webster and Hamilton counties. In 1856 they removed to Fort Dodge. Stillman was educated in the public schools of Fort Dodge and in the Clinton Liberal Institute of Clinton, New York. He early became a member of the drug firm of Cheney & Meservey, later Vincent & Meservey. In 1872 he joined with the firm of Ringland, Vincent & Meservey in organizing the Iowa Plaster Company, which built the first plaster mill in Fort Dodge. Mr. Meservey was associated with the Fort Dodge National Bank and the Merchants National Bank and later was for a time president of the First National Bank. He was a builder of gas and electric light plants for his home city, and was a promoter of street railways, interurbans, and railroads. He continued his connection with the gypsum industry, making his temporary home in Chicago after 1904, where he was at the time of his death secretary of the United States Gypsum Company. Through this busy business life he was active in politics. He served as a member of the Fort Dodge City Council, and was mayor in 1881, 1882, and again in 1884. In 1885 he was elected representative, and again in 1901, serving in the Twenty-first and Twenty-ninth general assemblies. When living in Chicago he was a member of the Hamilton Club and served one term as its president.

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EDWARD A. DAWSON was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, March 22, 1853, and died in Waverly, Iowa, March 29, 1927. His parents, Edward and Catharine Dawson, migrated to Delaware County, Iowa, in 1854, and removed to Albion Township, Butler County, in 1856. Edward A. attended common school and in 1872 entered Upper Iowa University, which he attended three years, then took a course in Baylies Commer-

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