

member of the firm of Harding, Ruffcorn & Jones, Des Moines. He also engaged in lecturing, and in the promotion of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waterway project. He was in great demand as a political speaker, and took part in all recent state and national campaigns, speaking in many states under the direction of the Republican National Committee. His final illness began while he was making campaign speeches in Indiana. His readiness and felicity of expression, his abounding humor and his engaging personality were qualities that greatly contributed to his success as an orator.

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GEORGE WATSON FRENCH was born in Davenport, Iowa, October 26, 1858, and died in that city November 27, 1934. Burial was in Oakdale Cemetery, Davenport. His parents were George Henry and Frances Wood (Morton) French. He received his education in public schools in Davenport and in Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. At the age of nineteen he became an apprentice in his father's factory, the Eagle Manufacturing Company in Davenport, makers of farm machinery, succeeding to the presidency of the company in 1886. He joined with the Bettendorfs in the Bettendorf Metal Wheel Company in 1888 and became president. The French & Hecht Company developed from this with Mr. French as president. In 1896 he and his brother, Nathaniel French, formed the Sylvan Steel Company with the former as president. He was connected with several other corporations. Besides being an outstanding figure in that industrial center, he had many other activities. In 1878 he joined the Iowa National Guard and rose through different ranks until in 1882 he was commissioned lieutenant colonel and assistant adjutant general of the First Brigade, but resigned in 1897. He gained political prominence and was a delegate to the Republican National Conventions of 1896, 1900, 1904, 1912, 1916, and 1928. He had a great interest in farming and developed a model farm just east of Bettendorf, purchasing it in about 1910 and centering his attention on Holstein cows. In 1914 Governor Clarke appointed him a member of the Permanent Iowa Commission to the Panama-Pacific Exposition. He did his part in civic development, was for a time president of the Davenport Chamber of Commerce, and was a liberal contributor to charitable movements. He and Mrs. French gave to St. Luke's Hospital, French Hall, a nurse's home. He took a great interest in Friendly House of Davenport, aiding in its establishment and maintenance. He was a brother of Alice French (Octave Thanet), noted author, and of Judge Nathaniel French.

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EDWIN S. ORMSBY was born at Summerfield, Monroe County, Michigan, April 17, 1842, and died in Long Beach, California, October 24, 1934. Interment was at Long Beach. His parents were Lysander and Olive C. Ormsby. He was a member of the Eighth Michigan Infantry during the Civil War and became a lieutenant. He practiced law a brief time in Michigan, but removed to Emmetsburg, Iowa, in 1872,

locating first at the old town a mile west of the present town, but moving to the new town in 1874. He aided in establishing the first bank in the town. For many years he was associated with his brother, A. L. Ormsby, in the management of the American Investment Company of Emmetsburg. He was for years president of the First National Bank of Emmetsburg, later the Farmers Trust and Savings Bank. Soon after arriving in town he led in organizing a local Methodist Episcopal church, and a Sunday school, and throughout his residence there he was an active church worker. He was superintendent of his local Sunday school twenty-five years and for some years was president of the State Sunday School Association. In 1881 he was appointed on the military staff of Governor John H. Gear with the title of lieutenant colonel, and thereafter was popularly known as Colonel Ormsby. From 1884 to 1896 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell College, and was vice president of the board from 1887 to 1895. He was also active in politics and in 1893 was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. In a field of six candidates he received 81 votes. Again in the 1895 convention in a field of seven candidates he received 84 votes. In 1904 he was elected as a presidential elector at large running on the Republican ticket. About 1905 he removed to California where he lived in retirement.

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LARS JOHAN SKROMME was born in Norway in 1879 and died in a hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, December 23, 1934. Burial was at Roland, Story County. He was with his parents when they emigrated to the United States in 1885, settling on a farm near Roland. He received his early education in a country public school, and later attended Highland Park College, Des Moines, Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minnesota, and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He was ordained a minister in the Lutheran church and served for a time as pastor at Eagle Grove, and at Pontiac, Illinois. At different times he was engaged in real estate business at Clarion, Iowa, and at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. On the entry of the United States into the World War he enlisted at Roland in the Iowa National Guard on April 6, 1917, and was assigned to the Second Ambulance Company, Medical Department. He became first class private, August 1, 1917; sergeant, August 17, 1917; and was honorably discharged June 4, 1918, to accept commission; appointed second lieutenant in infantry June 5, 1918; first lieutenant September 27, 1918. His principal stations were at Camp Pike, Arkansas; Camp McArthur, Texas; Camp Merritt, New Jersey; and Camp Funston, Kansas. He was honorably discharged December 11, 1918. After the war he was engaged in farm operations, and in the seed business at Roland where he organized the Skromme Seed Company. In 1924 he was elected senator and served in the Forty-first and Forty-second general assemblies. In 1928 he was a candidate in the primary election for the Republican nomination of governor in a field of four candidates when John Hammill received the nomination for a third term.

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