

JOHN E. ROWEN was born at Thompsonville, Connecticut, July 26, 1837; he died at his home near Rowan, Iowa, May 1, 1914. As a boy he worked in the woolen and carpet mills and attended school but little, his education being obtained later by extensive reading and observation. At the age of fifteen years he removed with his parents to Cedar county, Iowa, and three years after to Wright county. At the age of twenty-one years he was licensed preacher in the United Brethren church and continued in this work for fourteen years, organizing and establishing twelve churches. He afterward entered the insurance business and for twenty years was a very successful agent. He was elected to the legislature and served as senator in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra General Assemblies. He was United States consul to the Falkland Islands for ten years and to Punta Arenas, Chile, four years. On his resignation from the service he was commended by the department of state for work performed.

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JOHN M. GOBBLE was born in Abingdon, Iowa, October 10, 1849; he died at Muscatine, June 9, 1914. His early years were spent in his native town where he received the elements of the business training which afterwards enabled him to build up one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in Iowa. From 1870 to 1880 he engaged in the retail and wholesale grocery business in Fairfield, removing in the latter year to Muscatine where he has since conducted a flourishing wholesale business. He was elected mayor of Muscatine in 1886 and re-elected for a second term, but resigned in order to serve as Senator in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth General Assemblies. He later acted as mayor for a third term.

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JOSEPH H. MERRILL was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, September 27, 1827; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, April 25, 1911. He removed to Ottumwa in 1862 and entered the grocery business in which he was very successful and became the head of the wholesale grocery house of J. H. Merrill & Co. of Ottumwa with branch houses at Creston and Red Oak. He was also interested in the banking business and at the time of his death was president of the Iowa National Bank of Ottumwa, the City Savings Bank and the Agency Savings Bank. He served as senator from Wapello county in the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies.

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