

George W. Crooks

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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 Mule 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.

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.

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,

1861. In 1863 he was appointed sheriff of Boone County and by reason of repeated elections he served until 1874. In 1873 he was admitted to the bar and formed a partnership with I. N. Kidder, which continued until 1882. In 1877 he was elected representative and served in the Seventeenth General Assembly. From 1882 to 1891 he was associated with R. F. Jordan in the practice of law, and subsequently to that, with J. J. Snell. He retired from practice in 1908. Mr. Crooks was a Democrat in politics, was a good lawyer with a large practice, and a man held in high esteem.

THOMAS BOWMAN was born at Wiscasset, Maine, May 25, 1848, and died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, December 1, 1917. Burial was at Dresden, Maine. He came to Council Bluffs in 1868. For awhile he was manager of the Crystal Mills on Main Street. He was also for some time a member of the firm of Bowman & Rohrer, handling insurance, storage and implements, but his interest was largely in politics. In 1872 he was elected city assessor, and in 1876 county treasurer, and was re-elected in 1878. In 1882 he became mayor of the city. He was postmaster during Cleveland's administration, 1885 to 1889. In 1890 he was elected to Congress and served in the Fifty-second Congress. He was postmaster again during Cleveland's second term, 1893 to 1897. During the famous 1896 campaign he was a Gold Standard Democrat. He was active in the organization of the Citizens State Bank, the Odd Fellows Building Association, the Driving Park, the Fair Association, and the Sportsman's Club. He was interested as part owner at different times in the *Frie Press*, the *Daily Globe*, and the *Times*.

ANSON D. BICKNELL was born at Westmoreland, Oneida County, New York, December 30, 1838, and died at Humboldt, Iowa, April 20, 1918. He attended common schools and Rome (New York) Academy. He came to Dakotah City, Humboldt County, in 1862, and worked as a farm hand in summer and taught school in winter. He removed to Fort Dodge in 1863, remaining there until 1868 when he removed to Humboldt, and made that his home the remainder of his life. He followed farming for some time after his return to Humboldt. In 1872 and 1873 he was county superintendent of schools of Humboldt County. In 1877 he engaged in the practice of law. In 1879 he was elected representative and served in the Eighteenth General Assembly. He was twice mayor of Humboldt. He was a student of science, particularly of geology and astronomy, and of literature and history, a traveler and lecturer. He was the owner of Riverside Park near Humboldt, which, since his death, has been given by his widow and heirs to the city of Humboldt.

HENRY BOYDEN BLOOD was born at Charlton, Massachusetts, September 15, 1835, and died at Keokuk, Iowa, November 2, 1917. In 1857 he went to Washington, D. C., as a civil engineer. In 1861 he entered the

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