

## Robert M. Finlayson

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common school education while in his native country, and in 1874 entered as a student Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he remained four years, then taught school, first parochial, and later public school in Worth County, Iowa, for a few years. He then located on a farm about three miles south of Northwood, remaining there until 1914 when he retired from farming and became a resident of Northwood. He held different township offices and in 1887 became secretary of Worth County Farmers Mutual Insurance Association which he retained for forty years. In 1912 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1914, serving in the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth general assemblies. He was an educated and cultured man, was on the local library board, had a large private library, and had traveled extensively on this continent and in Europe.

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ROBERT M. FINLAYSON was born in Salem Township, Carroll County, Illinois, October 7, 1844, and died in Mount Carroll, Illinois, February 10, 1935. Burial was in the Grundy Center Cemetery, Grundy Center, Iowa. He grew to manhood at the farm home of his parents, William and Jessie (Mackay) Finlayson, attended common school in the country, and was graduated from the Mount Carroll High School. For a few years he aided his father on the farm in summers and taught country schools in winter. In 1866 he removed to Tama County, Iowa, and followed farming in summers and school-teaching in winters. In 1868 he bought 240 acres of wild land in Beaver Township, Grundy County, and for the next seventeen years followed the life of a pioneer farmer, broke prairie, farmed, ran threshing machines, and took part in public matters, held some township offices, and was a member of the County Board of Supervisors. In January, 1885, he was appointed county auditor to fill a vacancy, and by reason of subsequent elections he held that office until January, 1895. In 1893 he became cashier of the First National Bank of Grundy Center, in 1896 became president, and continued in that position until 1920 when he retired. In 1908 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1910, and served in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies. He was a man of unusual ability and fine spirit and served his county, town and community in many ways.

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AUGUST A. BALLUFF was born in Davenport, Iowa, January 12, 1859, and died in that city November 18, 1934. Burial was in St. Marguerite's Cemetery, Davenport. His parents were John C. and Matilda Hesse Balluff. He attended St. Marguerite's School, and when fifteen was apprenticed to learn the drug business. He remained in that business until 1884, following that by being deputy clerk of the District Court five years, clerk in the law office of Cook & Dodge four years, secretary and treasurer of the Iowa Telephone Company two years, cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Davenport seven years and vice president of the German Savings Bank of Davenport for two years. He was

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