

J. D. M. Hamilton

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From 1873 to 1877 he was a member of the Des Moines police force, and in 1877 was appointed deputy sheriff of Polk County. Soon after becoming a peace officer he took up the study of law, devoting his time to it while not on duty. He read with Smith & Baylies (Seward Smith and Ripley N. Baylies) and was admitted to the bar in 1878 while he was still deputy sheriff. In 1880 Mr. Baylies retired and Mr. Brennan entered the firm. In 1881 he retired as deputy sheriff and devoted himself to the practice of law. In 1866 he was appointed assistant city solicitor of Des Moines and served until 1890 when he was elected city solicitor. From 1903 until 1914 he served as a district judge in Polk County, being three times elected to that position. Both as a peace officer and as a judge on the bench he acquitted himself with honor. In overcoming the handicaps of poverty and in winning his way unaided to an honorable position in a learned profession, his was a remarkable career.

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J. D. M. HAMILTON was born at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1851, and died at Kansas City, Missouri, September 20, 1914. In 1851, when only an infant, he came with his parents to Fort Madison, Iowa. He attended common school there, Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, and was graduated from the law department of Washington University, Saint Louis, in 1875. He became city attorney of Fort Madison and in 1877 was elected representative in the Seventeenth General Assembly. He attained prominence politically. He was a candidate for presidential elector on the Democratic ticket and was appointed by Governor Sherman as a member of the commission to locate and build the hospital for the insane in the southwest part of the state. In 1886, he was chairman of the committee on resolutions at the Democratic state convention. In 1887 he was elected mayor of Fort Madison. In 1884 he was grand chancellor of the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias of Iowa. He was recognized as one of the ablest lawyers of the state and he obtained an extensive practice. He was appointed claims attorney for the A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co. and removed to Topeka, Kansas, where he lived several years during the latter part of his life.

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WILLARD CHAUNCY EARLE was born at Honesdale, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1833, and died in Florida, February 10, 1920. Burial was at Waukon, Iowa. He was educated in public schools. He came to Waukon in 1854 and worked in a sawmill. In October, 1861, he enlisted in the Union Army and was elected captain of Company B, Twelfth Iowa Infantry. In 1863 he raised and commanded the Seventieth United States Colored Infantry. In 1865 he resigned to attend Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and in 1867 graduated therefrom. Returning to Waukon he practiced medicine there twenty-five years. He was interested in the mercantile business, stock and grain shipping and banking. He was active in promoting the building of the railroad to Waukon. In 1881 he was elected representative and served in the Nine-

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