

John T. Hamilton

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the *Des Moines Leader*, then under the ownership of Henry Stivers, in which work he remained for over a year. Having returned to Chariton, he was editor of the *Chariton Democrat* from 1893 to 1898. In 1894 he was the Democratic and Peoples Party fusion candidate for Congress from the Eighth District, but was defeated by W. P. Hepburn. In the state campaign of 1897 he had charge of the Democratic press bureau, and in 1898 was temporary chairman of the Democratic State Convention, held at Marshalltown, and made the keynote speech. In the 1900 presidential campaign he was official editor for the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee at the Chicago headquarters. In 1902 he was assistant chairman, and did much of the real work as chairman, of the Democratic State Central Committee. In 1907, while temporarily residing in Louisiana, he was a delegate from that state to the National Conference held in Des Moines on the subject of electing United States senators by direct vote of the people. In 1910, having returned to Iowa, he was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Eighth District, being defeated by H. M. Towner. In 1912 he left the Democratic party and espoused the cause of the Peoples Party, but in the later years of his life he again classed himself a Democrat. The last five years of his life, 1918 to 1923, he did editorial work on the *Iowa Homestead*. He was active, versatile, and brilliant.

JOHN T. HAMILTON was born in Henry County, Illinois, October 16, 1843, and died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 24, 1925. His parents were James S. and Mary (Taylor) Hamilton. He acquired his education in the public schools of Geneseo, Illinois, and in Geneseo Academy. He commenced his business career as a solicitor of fire insurance, which he followed for three years. On February 2, 1868, he removed to Cedar Rapids and represented a Chicago reaper company, but later in the year he formed a partnership under the firm name of Averill & Hamilton, dealers in farm machinery and implements. In 1873 John R. Amidon purchased the Averill interest and the firm became Hamilton & Amidon. In 1891 Mr. Hamilton's brothers, W. W. and Porter, purchased Mr. Amidon's interest and the firm became Hamilton Brothers. Before this time, however, in 1883 the Cedar Rapids Savings Bank was organized with Mr. Hamilton as president, which position he retained for thirty-five years, when he disposed of his interest in that bank, having in 1899 purchased a controlling interest in the Merchants National Bank of Cedar Rapids and become its president. He was also a director in several other business concerns in the city. His first public service commenced soon after he came to Cedar Rapids when he became assistant chief of the fire department. He was mayor of Cedar Rapids in 1878, was a member of the Linn County Board of Supervisors in 1882-4, was elected representative in 1885, and re-elected in 1887 and 1889, serving in the Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twenty-third general assemblies. The Twenty-third (1890) was the one in which occurred the fa-

mous deadlock when the House failed to organize for over a month, when finally Mr. Hamilton was elected speaker. In 1890 he was elected to Congress, defeating the Republican nominee, George R. Struble, and served in the Fifty-second Congress, but in 1892 he was defeated for re-election by Robert G. Cousins. On the death of L. G. Kinne, Governor Cummins appointed Mr. Hamilton a member of the Board of Control of State Institutions for the remainder of Mr. Kinne's term, and appointed him for a full six-year term beginning April 5, 1908, but he resigned October 1, 1909. In 1914 he was the Democratic candidate for governor, but was defeated by Governor George W. Clarke who was running for his second term. Mr. Hamilton was an able public man and a citizen of the highest type.

WILLIAM L. DAVIS was born near South Bend, Indiana, August 4, 1843, and died in Washington, D. C., March 5, 1925. Burial was at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His parents were Rev. William and Charlotte (Miller) Davis. His father was a minister of the United Brethren church and, during the son's youth, served charges in various towns in Indiana and Ohio. William L. had the advantage of a common school and academic education. In 1861 he went with two of his brothers to Illinois where they farmed. In 1862 the family removed to Muscatine, Iowa, and August 7, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry, and was with his command in their great campaigns under Grant, Sherman, Thomas, A. J. Smith and others. He became a lieutenant in the Fifty-ninth United States Colored Infantry in 1865 and was mustered out March 31, 1866. He then came to the vicinity of Cedar Rapids and engaged in various occupations but in the late '60's bought the *Lisbon Sun* and for ten years was its owner and editor. In 1869 he was appointed postmaster at Lisbon and was continued in that position for sixteen years, or until during Cleveland's administration. While at Lisbon he organized a company of Iowa National Guard and became its captain. He advanced to lieutenant-colonel, and then colonel of the First Regiment. At the inauguration of President Harrison in 1889 he commanded a battalion of I. N. G., and in 1893 at the dedication of the Iowa Building at the Columbian Exposition he, having been promoted to brigadier-general, commanded a brigade, consisting of the First and Second regiments. During the thirty years of his later active life he was an employee of the money order department of the Cedar Rapids postoffice.

EDWIN E. LUCAS was born near Hillsboro, Iowa, March 30, 1866, and died at Stockport August 24, 1922. Burial was at Keosauqua. His parents were Francis Marion and Mary Elizabeth Lazenby Lucas. He attended common school and was graduated from Pierce's Business College, Keokuk, in 1888. He held various positions with mercantile houses in Fairfield until in 1894 when he entered mercantile business for him-

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