

## George Fitch

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GEORGE A. LINCOLN was born at Chickopee, Massachusetts, January 31, 1848, and died at Spirit Lake, Iowa, July 18, 1919. When a boy he came with his parents to Madison, Wisconsin. At sixteen years of age he enlisted in the Third Wisconsin Light Artillery, serving until honorably discharged, July 5, 1865. He then worked two years in a clothing store in Madison and in 1867 came to Cedar Rapids and engaged in the clothing business, following it twenty years. From 1870 to 1876 he was chief of the Cedar Rapids fire department. In 1874 and 1875 he served as a city alderman. In 1878 he was city assessor. In 1889 and 1890 he was engaged in building the first electric railway in Dubuque. In 1890 and 1891 he was the Fifth District member of the Republican State Central Committee. From 1891 to 1895 he was postmaster at Cedar Rapids. From 1895 to 1897 he was mayor of Cedar Rapids. From 1899 to 1900 he was secretary of the Cedar Rapids commercial club. In 1901 he was appointed state fish and game warden, and served until 1910.

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ELM MANNING was born near Rockford, Illinois, March 13, 1846, and died at Chariton, Iowa, June 23, 1919. He attended common school and was one year at an academy at Rockford. He taught school one year in Franklin County, Iowa. He was a bookkeeper for Farwell & Company of Chicago for a time and was also in the grain business there. With a brother he was in the grain business three years at Aledo, Illinois. In 1871 he came to Chariton and worked as a store clerk. He served as sheriff of Lucas County for six years, 1896 to 1901 inclusive. In 1903 he was elected representative and served in the Thirtieth General Assembly. He served as a member of the school board at Chariton, as a member of the city council, was active in securing the right-of-way for railroads being constructed in the county, in developing the coal mines, in building churches, in conducting Chautauquas, and in almost every enterprise calculated to benefit the people.

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GEORGE FITCH was born in Galva, Illinois, June 5, 1877; he died at Berkeley, California, August 9, 1915. He was the son of Elmer Eli and Rachel (Helgesen) Fitch. He was educated in the common schools and received the degree of B. S. from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, in 1897. He commenced his newspaper work at Galva in 1897, was special writer on the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* from 1902 to 1905 and editor of the Peoria (Ill.) *Herald-Transcript* from 1905 to 1911. He served as member of the Illinois House of Representatives in 1912. He was president of the American Press Humorists and author of the "Big Strike at Siwash;" "At Good Old Siwash;" "My Demon Motor Boat" and "Homeburg Memories," which last series was unfinished at the time of his death. He was recognized as one of the leading humorists of the country.

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