

Alexander Mardis

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He was a great reader and student and contributed many valuable historical articles to the *ANNALS OF IOWA* and other publications.

ALEXANDER MARDIS was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, October 10, 1852, and died at his home in Corydon, Iowa, September 18, 1920. He was brought by his parents to Clarke County, Iowa, in 1857, and he grew to manhood there. He lived a short time at Princeton, Missouri, but removed to Corydon, in 1879, and made that his home continuously thereafter. He was extensively and successfully engaged in contracting and building. He was a member of the local school board at Corydon for several years, was auditor of Wayne County for four years, 1890-1893, and was elected state senator in 1900 and served in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies. He was a member of several important committees, among them being the Committee on Railroads, and he took an active part in framing railroad legislation. In 1908 he was elected presidential elector, on the Republican ticket. He was interested in banking and for the last eight years of his life was president of the Wayne County State Bank.

LAWRITZ M. ENGER was born in Norway, November 3, 1856, and died at his home in Decorah, Iowa, August 2, 1920. He attended school in his native country, but at fifteen years of age emigrated to America, coming to Winneshiek County, Iowa. Here he worked on farms in summer and attended country school in winter. Later he attended Decorah Institute for three years. This was followed by several years in various mercantile pursuits and by service in the post office as an assistant. For sixteen years he was with the *Decorah Posten*, first as mailing clerk and later as a business manager and as editor. He also built up an extensive insurance business. He was active in local affairs, being secretary of the county fair, secretary of the local school board and treasurer of the city hospital. In 1910 he was elected to the lower house of the Iowa legislature and was re-elected in 1912, serving in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth General Assemblies. He was elected to the State Senate in 1914 and served in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh General Assemblies. In 1918 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Fourth District, against Hon. G. N. Haugen.

MARY C. COLLINS was born at Upper Alton, Illinois, April 18, 1846, and died at Keokuk, Iowa, May 25, 1920. She came with her parents to Keokuk in 1848, was educated in public and private schools in that city, and taught a few years in the public schools there. In October, 1875, under the auspices of the Congregational church she went, as a missionary to the Sioux Indians, to Dakota Territory, near where the

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