

Benjamin Townsed Nix

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NORMAN HASKINS was born in New York in 1825, and died March 2, 1914, at Denver, Colorado. Burial was at Rockford, Illinois. He came to Des Moines in 1876 and taught school for some time. He then engaged in the operation of coal mines and prospered financially. He withdrew from coal mining and dealt in Des Moines real estate, and was very successful in that business. He also made investments in Colorado land which proved profitable because of mineral discoveries thereon. He was a great friend of Drake University, was a trustee and gave liberally to it. He was one of the group of men with George T. Carpenter, the first president, who selected the site of the main building of the University. He gave the University the Drake Stadium as a memorial to his son, Alvin Haskins, who died a few years after graduating from Drake.

BENJAMIN TOWNSEND NIX was born in Butler County, Kentucky, September 15, 1840, and died at Afton, Iowa, March 18, 1914. He obtained his education in the common schools and at La Grange, Kentucky. In 1862 he enlisted in the Union Army in a Kentucky regiment, was made captain of his company and served one year, when the regiment was mustered out. He then re-enlisted in the Fifty-third Mounted Infantry and was again chosen captain of his company, and served until the end of the war. In 1868 he removed to Des Moines County, Iowa, in 1870 to Clarke County and in 1875 to Union County, following farming during this time. In 1880 he was elected clerk of the district court of Union County and, because of re-elections, served eight years. In 1906 he was elected representative and served in the Thirty-second and Thirty-second Extra General Assemblies.

SABRET T. MARSHAL was born at Keokuk, Iowa, November 20, 1869, and died there, September 20, 1914. He attended public school in Keokuk, later read law with his father, Col. Samuel Taylor Marshal, and was admitted to the bar in 1895. Because of ill health he spent a few of the following years in Colorado and in the southwest. He was elected representative from Lee County in 1899 and re-elected in 1901, serving in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies.

WILLIAM B. TOWNER was born at Castleton, Vermont, December 25, 1831, and died at Charles City, Iowa, October 3, 1914. He came to Floyd County, Iowa, in 1864, purchasing land in Cedar Township. He served as school director, justice of the peace over twenty years, township trustee, a member of the county board of supervisors, and in 1897 was elected representative, and re-elected two years later, serving in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assemblies.

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