

Matthias J. Rohlf

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Seminary. His eyesight failing, however, he was compelled to relinquish all hope of following his chosen profession. Removing to Iowa he became associated with his brother-in-law, Hon. W. H. M. Pusey, in the banking and real estate business as early as 1857. Mr. Officer was early recognized as a leading business man of Western Iowa. He also acquired a commanding influence in the councils of the Presbyterian church and as an educator. He organized the first school in Council Bluffs and was an important factor in establishing the State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in that city. In the matter of banking, Messrs. Officer and Pusey were especially fortunate. This was due to the confidence with which they were always regarded by the public and to their careful and conservative methods in the transaction of business. Their house went safely through the panic of 1857, and its reputation during all these forty-three years has remained of the highest character. From the pioneer days until his lamented death no citizen of Council Bluffs has been more influential in whatever pertained to the growth and progress of that enterprising city.

JOEL M. WALKER was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 8, 1835; he died in Moscow, Idaho, July 5, 1900. In 1840 he removed with his parents to Fort Madison, Iowa. His education was obtained at the pioneer institution of Denmark Academy, Denmark, Iowa, and at an early age he was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court. On the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted two hundred men and was himself elected first lieutenant, and later captain of Company B, 23d Iowa Infantry. He served with his company at Vicksburg and in other important battles. Soon after the war Captain Walker was appointed U. S. Marshal for Iowa by President Johnson. He afterwards engaged in stock-farming on a large scale. In 1882 he left this State and removed to Kansas, hoping to benefit his health. He was engaged in the loaning and banking business at Howard, Kansas, and afterwards in Kendrick and in Moscow, Idaho. He was influential in military, business and political circles wherever he resided. He was a leader in the Democratic party and was at one time candidate for United States Senator in Idaho.

EUGENE A. CONSIGNÉY was born in St. Cesaire, Canada, May 15, 1841; he died at Manitou, Colorado, August 8, 1900. His grandfather, a French voyageur, settled in Montreal in 1790. His father, Antoine Consignéy, owing to civil war in Canada, settled for a time in Vermont, but returned to that country. By the death of his father, Mr. Consignéy's legal studies were interrupted and he engaged in mercantile life. When the war broke out, he enlisted in Company M, First Vermont Volunteers. He was in many important battles. He served as sergeant, orderly sergeant, second lieutenant, and was finally promoted to first lieutenant and then appointed adjutant of his regiment. Soon after the war he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, after two years to Cascade, and in 1872 to Avoca, where he afterward resided. He was prominent in the G. A. R. organization and at one time Department Commander in Iowa.

MATTHIAS J. ROHLFS died in Davenport, Iowa, September 5, 1900, at the age of eighty-four. He was a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He came to the United States in 1847, settling at Davenport. His expectation was to become a teacher, but he soon removed to a farm just out of the city. He was one of the leading citizens of Scott county for almost half a century. He served eight years in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he took a leading position. He was also for fourteen years county treasurer. During this time he was engaged in several successful business enterprises. At the start he conducted a German school and a singing society, and interested himself in whatever pertained to the gen-

eral culture of the people. While he was able to travel he was certain to attend the meetings of the Pioneer Law Makers of Iowa.

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DAVID BURKE HILLIS was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, July 24, 1825; he died at Keokuk, Iowa, September 9, 1900. He was educated at South Hanover College, Indiana, and graduated from a St. Louis medical college as a doctor of medicine in 1847. In 1860 he settled in Keokuk which was afterwards his home. In August, 1861, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Governor Kirkwood. In 1862 he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 17th Iowa Infantry. Col. John W. Rankin resigned soon after and Dr. Hillis was appointed to the place. His regiment participated with great credit in the battles of Iuka, Corinth and Champion Hills. After the war he returned to Keokuk where he engaged in the practice of medicine, in which he achieved high distinction.

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CHANDLER CHILDS, a journalist, naturalist and geologist, who settled in Dubuque in 1853, died at Mercy Hospital, in that city, September 6, 1900. We have no particulars of his early years. He was well educated and a man of considerable ability, a collector of books, documents and newspapers, relating to the general and scientific history of his city and county and of that portion of the State generally. He had written much for the local press and was for many years widely known as a scientist. We believe he was at one time connected with the geological survey of Iowa. In his later years he became very poor, during which time he owed much to the kindly offices of U. S. Senator William B. Allison.

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RAYMOND M. KELLOGG was born near Rutland, Vermont, July 15, 1825; he died July 30, 1900, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. R. Moninger, near Galvin, Marshall county, Iowa. Mr. Kellogg was one of the early settlers of Grinnell, having located there in the summer of 1855. He became a leading citizen of that place. He was an expert builder; for a time served as U. S. collector of internal revenue; he was for several terms a member of the city council and for many years a director of the First National Bank. He took an active interest in politics and was a delegate to the first Iowa Republican State Convention in 1856.

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SAMUEL J. GILPIN was born at New London, Ohio, June 11, 1837; he died at Winterset, Iowa, July 28, 1900. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company E, Third Indiana Cavalry. He was with the Army of the Potomac in many engagements and served until the close of the war. He then resumed his interrupted studies and graduated from South Hanover College, Indiana. In 1868 he removed to Winterset and began the practice of the law. He was for years a leading citizen of that county, taking a prominent part in public affairs. He was well known in political circles throughout the State.

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LORENZO D. LEWELLING was born in Salem, Iowa, December 21, 1846; he died at Arkansas City, Kansas, September 2, 1900. Mr. Lewelling resided in this State until 1887, when he settled in Wichita, Kansas. With his wife he had charge of the Iowa State Reform School for Girls for fifteen years. He was the first Populist governor of his adopted State, having been elected for the term of 1893-5. His administration was a stormy one, the history of which would fill a large volume.

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CARL ROHL-SMITH, the distinguished Danish sculptor, died in Copenhagen, September 23, 1900. He resided some years in Chicago, during which time he developed Mrs. Harriet Ketchum's sketch for the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, and also executed the art work, statues,

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