

Charles G. Saunders

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was for twelve years a member of the State Board of Law Examiners, and was at different times chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Committee, chairman of the Ninth District Republican Committee, and was the Ninth District member of the Republican State Central Committee, holding the latter position in the campaigns of 1912, 1914, and 1916. President Harding appointed him United States attorney for the Southern District of Iowa and he assumed the duties June 16, 1922, which position he was filling at the time of his death.

RAYMOND W. CASSADY was born at Whiting, Iowa, November 13, 1881, and died in Des Moines, July 7, 1924. Burial was at Whiting. He attended common school, the State University of Iowa in 1899 and 1903, and the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in 1903, and again in 1908 and 1909, specializing in animal industry. In 1909 he was one of the Iowa State College judging team at the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago, and in judging beef cattle won the ranking score. He engaged in farming and stock raising, giving special attention to breeding Hereford cattle. He was associated with his father, E. M. Cassady, in the operation of the latter's extensive farming, stock raising, and other large business interests. From 1919 to 1923 he served as a member of the State Commission of Animal Health. When the Fortieth General Assembly passed an act consolidating many administrative agencies into the State Department of Agriculture, Governor Kendall appointed Mr. Cassady secretary. He came to Des Moines May 1, 1923, and began the organization of the new department, which went into operation on July 1 following, and successfully administered it to the time of his death. He had been nominated without opposition in the June primary in 1924 as the Republican candidate for that office for the ensuing term.

CHARLES G. SAUNDERS was born at Westmoreland, Oneida County, New York, April 10, 1861, and died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, March 2, 1924. His parents were George W. and Mary E. Walker Saunders, both natives of England. The family removed to Iowa City, Iowa, in 1868, to a farm in Adair County, near Stuart, in 1873, and to another farm near Vail, Crawford County, in 1876. Charles attended public school and entered Drake University in 1882, and was graduated in the classical course in 1886. He taught school a year in Des Moines, read law with Hon. C. C. Nourse, entered the Law Department of the State University of Iowa and was graduated in 1888, and that fall commenced practice in Council Bluffs. In 1894 he was elected county attorney of Pottawattamie County and was re-elected in 1896, serving four years. In 1902 he was elected senator to fill a vacancy, was re-elected in 1903, and again in 1908, serving inclusively from the Thirtieth to the Thirty-fourth general assemblies. He took high rank as a legislator. In the Thirtieth General Assembly he was appointed on

behalf of the Senate with M. L. Temple and F. F. Jones on behalf of the House as a committee to investigate the "Indeterminate Sentence and Elmira Reformatory System." The committee reported to the Thirty-first General Assembly and largely by reason of this report and its recommendations the Thirty-second General Assembly enacted an indeterminate sentence and parole law which, with very little change, remains in force. Mr. Saunders was a man of various activities. In 1895 Governor Drake appointed him an aide on his military staff with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1897 Governor Shaw appointed him judge-advocate general of the Iowa National Guard, and by reason of reappointments of Governors Cummins and Carroll he served until December 31, 1913. In 1901 he was elected a director in the Modern Woodmen of America and served four years. For many years he was a member of the board of trustees of Drake University, chosen by the alumni. His firm, Saunders & Stuart (David E.), were local attorneys for years for the Rock Island and the Great Western railroad companies. He was president of the State Bar Association in 1912. He was an accomplished public speaker, a citizen of high ideals, and rendered valuable service to his community and state.

ELMER E. MITCHELL was born on a farm in Prairie Township, Mahaska County, Iowa, January 27, 1863, and died there March 17, 1924. His parents were John and Eveline (Howar) Mitchell. He attended public school and when seventeen years old entered Oskaloosa College, remaining there two years. The following several years he taught in public schools of his county and worked on his father's farm in vacations. In 1890 he was appointed to a position in the United States Census Office in Washington, D. C., where he remained two years, when he was transferred to the Government Printing Office, remaining there several years, during which time he attended the University of Washington and was graduated in law. He took a postgraduate law course in Columbia University in 1895 and was admitted to practice in United States courts. However, he never entered practice but on the death of his father took over the management of the home farm. In 1916 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies.

MERRITT W. HARMON was born in Seneca County, Ohio, June 25, 1844, and died in Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, August 13, 1924. Burial was at Independence, Iowa. His parents were Merritt and Minerva Harmon. He was with his parents in their removal to Ingham County, Michigan, in 1848, to Cascade, Iowa, in 1855, and to Hopkinton, Iowa, in 1856. He entered Collegiate Institute at Hopkinton in 1859 and continued three years. On July 28, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry, was later promoted to fourth sergeant, and was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 15,

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