

Lars Johan Skromme

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locating first at the old town a mile west of the present town, but moving to the new town in 1874. He aided in establishing the first bank in the town. For many years he was associated with his brother, A. L. Ormsby, in the management of the American Investment Company of Emmetsburg. He was for years president of the First National Bank of Emmetsburg, later the Farmers Trust and Savings Bank. Soon after arriving in town he led in organizing a local Methodist Episcopal church, and a Sunday school, and throughout his residence there he was an active church worker. He was superintendent of his local Sunday school twenty-five years and for some years was president of the State Sunday School Association. In 1881 he was appointed on the military staff of Governor John H. Gear with the title of lieutenant colonel, and thereafter was popularly known as Colonel Ormsby. From 1884 to 1896 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell College, and was vice president of the board from 1887 to 1895. He was also active in politics and in 1893 was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. In a field of six candidates he received 81 votes. Again in the 1895 convention in a field of seven candidates he received 84 votes. In 1904 he was elected as a presidential elector at large running on the Republican ticket. About 1905 he removed to California where he lived in retirement.

LARS JOHAN SKROMME was born in Norway in 1879 and died in a hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, December 23, 1934. Burial was at Roland, Story County. He was with his parents when they emigrated to the United States in 1885, settling on a farm near Roland. He received his early education in a country public school, and later attended Highland Park College, Des Moines, Red Wing Seminary, Red Wing, Minnesota, and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He was ordained a minister in the Lutheran church and served for a time as pastor at Eagle Grove, and at Pontiac, Illinois. At different times he was engaged in real estate business at Clarion, Iowa, and at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. On the entry of the United States into the World War he enlisted at Roland in the Iowa National Guard on April 6, 1917, and was assigned to the Second Ambulance Company, Medical Department. He became first class private, August 1, 1917; sergeant, August 17, 1917; and was honorably discharged June 4, 1918, to accept commission; appointed second lieutenant in infantry June 5, 1918; first lieutenant September 27, 1918. His principal stations were at Camp Pike, Arkansas; Camp McArthur, Texas; Camp Merritt, New Jersey; and Camp Funston, Kansas. He was honorably discharged December 11, 1918. After the war he was engaged in farm operations, and in the seed business at Roland where he organized the Skromme Seed Company. In 1924 he was elected senator and served in the Forty-first and Forty-second general assemblies. In 1928 he was a candidate in the primary election for the Republican nomination of governor in a field of four candidates when John Hammill received the nomination for a third term.

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