

## Silas Matteson Weaver

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Soon thereafter he returned to Britt and he with T. A. Way purchased the *Britt Tribune*. A little later he purchased Mr. Way's interest and, excepting two brief interruptions, he edited and published the *Tribune* continuously for over thirty years, or until October, 1918, when he sold it to L. G. and R. R. Roberts, publishers of the *Britt News*, and permanently retired. In 1901 he was appointed postmaster at Britt and served eight years, resigning in February, 1909. Mr. Bailey was doubtless in his time the best known humorous writer among Iowa newspaper men. Many of his short articles were gems of their kind, almost classics. Among them were comments on his "Daughter's Wedding," "The Country Dance," "The Osteopaths and Chiropractors," "The Dancing Teacher," "Cleaning House," "His First Automobile," and "How to Feed a Calf." His articles advertising the famous "Hobo Convention" at Britt, August 21, 1900, set the whole country laughing. He also wrote vigorous English in advocating his views. He was emotional, a man of strong likes and dislikes, but withal a kindhearted man. He was known as "Bailey of Britt," and brought fame to his town. If syndicating such writing had been in vogue when he was in his prime, he would have reaped financial returns commensurate with his unusual talent.

SILAS MATTESON WEAVER was born at Arkwright, Chautauqua County, New York, December 18, 1843, and died at Iowa Falls, Iowa, November 6, 1923. He acquired his education at Fredonia Academy, Fredonia, New York, was admitted to the bar at Buffalo, New York, in 1868, and the same year at Iowa Falls, Iowa, and began the practice of law. For the next eighteen years he devoted himself principally to his law practice, although from 1874 to 1879 he was editor of the *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, and later he edited the *Hardin County Citizen* for a time. In 1883 he was elected representative and was re-elected in 1885, serving in the Twentieth and Twenty-first general assemblies. In the Twentieth he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee. That was the session of the famous fight for the adoption of the prohibition statute after the constitutional amendment had been declared illegal by the Supreme Court. The House was so evenly divided on the measure that every vote of those favorable was required, and Mr. Weaver, who at the time was sick at his home in Iowa Falls, arose from the sick bed, came to Des Moines and was carried into the State House and into the House Chamber on a stretcher and voted for the measure, helping to save it from defeat.<sup>1</sup> In the Twenty-first Assembly he was chairman of the Board of Managers in the impeachment trial of John L. Brown, auditor of state. In 1886 he was elected a judge of the District Court of the Eleventh Judicial District, and was re-elected in 1890, 1894, and 1898. In 1901 he was elected a judge of the Supreme Court and was re-elected in 1908, 1914, and 1920. Thus for fifteen years he was on the

<sup>1</sup>The measure received fifty-two votes, one more than a constitutional majority. See page 278, Journal of the House, Twentieth General Assembly.

district bench and for twenty-two years on the supreme bench, thirty-seven years in all of continuous judicial service. His mind was that of the trained lawyer and of the cultured scholar. His style as shown in his written opinions excelled in clarity and in felicity of expression, frequently attaining literary excellence. He had independence and vigor of thought, was modest and unpretentious, and had a sympathy for all humanity, especially for the oppressed. He was a life-long Republican and a member of the Methodist church.

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GEORGE W. CULLISON was born near New London, Iowa, October 6, 1848, and died at Harlan, Iowa, October 4, 1923. In 1858 his parents, Elisha and Matilda (McCabe) Cullison, removed to Adair County, Missouri. The Cullison family was ardently for the Union and during the war suffered much by reason of border warfare. Conditions there prevented young George W. from obtaining much schooling, but in 1865 he entered college at Monroe, Missouri, and remained there about two years. He then entered the Missouri State Normal School and was graduated in 1870. He then taught country school for a time, reading law at intervals. He returned to Iowa in 1871 and established the Troy Normal School at Troy, Davis County, which he conducted for four years when he was chosen principal of the Southern Iowa Normal Institute at Bloomfield, and later went to Allerton as principal of the schools there. He was actively engaged in summers during these years in teaching and conducting teachers' normal institutes. He had in the meantime studied law with H. C. Traverse of Bloomfield and was admitted to the bar in 1876. In 1880 he removed to Harlan and formed a partnership for the practice of law with T. H. Smith, which continued fourteen years. In 1899 he joined with L. H. Robinson in the practice, but in 1908 he and his son, Shelby Cullison, became partners. In 1920 Governor Harding appointed him to the vacancy on the district bench to succeed Judge Thomas Arthur, who had been advanced to the Supreme Court. His election for the balance of the year followed later, and in 1922 he was elected for a full term of four years. Mr. Cullison was very successful as an educator, as a lawyer, and as a judge. Among his local activities in Harlan was his service of eighteen years on the school board. During most of his life he affiliated with the Democratic party. In 1877 he was his party's nominee for state superintendent of public instruction, and in 1886 for district judge, and in 1902 for Congress in the Ninth District. In later years he affiliated with the Republican party.

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THOMAS W. LAMBERT was born near Sabula, Iowa, February 13, 1855, and died at Sabula, September 2, 1923. His parents were Thomas D. and Sarah (Guenther) Lambert. His schooling was obtained in the Sabula public school and in a private school taught by Mrs. A. R. Darling. When a boy he learned the trade of stone mason with his father, and later he worked as a butcher. In 1880 he and Alex N. Gray pur-

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