

## John Francis Webber

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tional Bank with Mr. Casady first vice president. In 1909 he retired from that bank and entered the Central State Bank, of which he became president. He retired as president in 1925 and became chairman of the Board of Directors. He helped organize the Bankers Life Insurance Company, was for years its treasurer, and was a director not only of it but also of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa. He was a past president of the Iowa Bankers' Association, and was the first president of the Des Moines Clearing House. His ability, character, poise and judgment were such as to create confidence. He was an authority on the early history of Des Moines.

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JOHN FRANCIS WEBBER was born near Ferris, Hancock County, Illinois, September 26, 1874, and died in Ottumwa, Iowa, April 7, 1928. His parents were William J. and Mary Ann (Pilkington) Webber. As a boy he worked on his father's farm in summers and attended country school in winters, but when nineteen years old spent a year in the academic department of Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois. He entered the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in September, 1897, and was graduated and admitted to the bar in June, 1899. He was a traveling representative of a farm implement company with headquarters at Ottumwa for over two years, and in 1902 opened a law office in Ottumwa, giving particular attention to farm mortgages and investments. In 1910 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth general assemblies and took a leading part in legislation, especially on the subjects of taxation and public utilities. He was a Democrat in politics, and was prominent in the party councils. He had early become interested in banking and in 1919 was made president of the Ottumwa National Bank, which position he relinquished January 1, 1928, but retained the presidency of the Wapello Savings Bank. He had extensive land holdings, was a keen student of farm conditions, and was a director of the Iowa Good Roads Association. His violent death was a tragedy precipitated by a deluded customer of a bank with which Mr. Webber was connected.

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MARTHA TOLL HEMENWAY was born in Rushville, Illinois, December 10, 1840, and died at her home in Lansing, Iowa, December 10, 1927. She was the daughter of John Honey, Sr., and Fanny Honey. Mrs. Hemenway was the pioneer resident of Allamakee County, having come with her parents, October 14, 1848, to the site where the town of Lansing is now situated. Her father with his son James had come in the spring of 1848. He had secured from the government a grant of land in that locality and in conjunction with H. H. Houghton of Galena, Illinois, founded the town of Lansing, now one of the beauty spots of the upper Mississippi. Mrs. Hemenway received her education through private teachers and at Upper Iowa University, graduating in the famous "War Class" of 1861. On September 30, 1866, she was united in marriage with

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