

In October 1928, Mr. Baker was appointed a member of the Railway Emergency Board by President Coolidge, and in June, 1934, he was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree at the commencement exercises at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon. He was honored May 27, 1936, at a dinner marking the opening of the first dormitory for men at Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, where the new building was named George T. Baker Hall, in his honor.

Mr. Baker was also a member of the Beta Theta Pi, national social fraternity and was a member of the Episcopal church. He was always a staunch Democrat and was delegate-at-large to the Democratic National Convention in 1900. He was a member of the Elks Lodge at Davenport.

After the death of Mrs. Baker, he lived in the Baker home at 1514 Farnam Street, Davenport, with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Risley.

Of his service and worth as a citizen, it is difficult to speak adequately, but this committee does not hesitate to repeat what has been said regarding Mr. Baker: "He lived up to the highest ideals of citizenship. If anyone deserved to be called a perfect citizen, George T. Baker deserved to be thus designated."

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-ninth General Assembly, That, in the passing of George T. Baker, the state of Iowa has lost a valued and honored citizen, a conscientious statesman, and the family a loving father.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House of Representatives and that the Chief Clerk of the House be directed to send an enrolled copy of this Memorial to the two surviving daughters of the deceased.

HOWARD P. ECKERMAN,
WALTER DIETZ,
F. A. LATCHAW,

Committee.

Unanimously adopted, April 3, 1941.

HONORABLE JAMES E. BLYTHE

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the Honorable James E. Blythe, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

James E. Blythe was born in Cranberry, New Jersey, January 20, 1856, the son of Reverend Joseph William and Elizabeth Moore Blythe, grandson of Dr. James Blythe, personal friend of George Washington and an early president of Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky. He died September 24, 1938, survived by Grace Smith Blythe, to whom he was married in 1881, and two daughters, Maude Blythe Gilmore and Jeane Blythe Gentry.

While he was still a small boy, he moved with his parents to Indiana. After graduating from Hanover College in 1877 with the degree of Master of Arts, he settled in Mason City, Iowa, where he read law in the office

of Goodykoontz and Wilber. Immediately upon his admission to practice before the courts of Iowa in 1878, he formed a partnership with his former employer and sponsor, Frank M. Goodykoontz. In 1881, upon the removal of Mr. Goodykoontz to South Dakota, the partnership of Blythe and Markley (J. E. E.) was formed, which endured, with various changes in the junior memberships, until Mr. Blythe's death.

At an early day Mr. Blythe combined his genius for finance with his talent for the law. An editorial in the Charles City Press truly stated, "He was a gentleman of great ability and one of the best financiers in northeast Iowa." His cultural interests were not only national, but were worldwide and had been broadened and deepened by a world cruise, several trips to Europe and South America and twenty-odd visits to Mexico in the legal and financial interests of an American firm with extensive holdings there which he represented for more than thirty years.

His hobbies were oriental rugs and fishing. Of the former, he was a recognized connoisseur and had a choice collection, which was hand-picked in the course of his travels. He was engaged in the latter at the time of his sudden death at a quiet resort in northern Minnesota. His continued energy and capacity for work is demonstrated by the fact that he was at his desk in his office within the hour before leaving for Minnesota, two days before his death, completing directions for his secretary during his absence.

For fifty years Mr. Blythe had been widely known as a leader of Republican politics, during the 90's and the early 1900's. He was a member of the House of Representatives during the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Sessions; a member of the Republican State Central Committee during the years 1890 to 1895; its chairman in 1892, 1893 and 1894, during which years the Republicans gained all six seats in Congress previously occupied by Democrats. During his years of political activity, he was a friend and confidant of several presidents and a frequent visitor and guest at the White House; a trusted consultant and advisor of national political leaders; a close associate with such prominent Iowans as Leslie M. Shaw, Albert B. Cummings, William B. Allison, Jonathan P. Dolliver. It has rightly been said that he was the link between the past and present Iowa politics.

If this were a eulogy upon his life, instead of a simple biography, there are many, many things which should be said, but the writers content themselves with the tribute paid Mr. Blythe by W. Earl Hall in the Memorial Editorial of the Mason City Globe Gazette, "Mr. Blythe was a man of deep convictions. He had no hesitancy in opposing the current of public opinion if he believed that public opinion was wrong. Nobody was ever left doubting where Mr. Blythe stood on questions on which he was supposed to have an opinion. The sanctity of a contract was bred into his very being. He wouldn't concede, either as a debtor or a creditor, that there is any other honest or honorable thing to do to a debt besides pay it. America stands sorely in need of such philosophy today. In his more than sixty years of residence here, he sent his taproots deep into the Mason City community life. His contributions in the field of business, law and politics have been complemented by the religious and cultural graces possessed in a notable degree by his uni-

versally loved and admired helpmeet. The name of Blythe is not one that will soon be forgotten by this community."

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-ninth General Assembly, That, in the passing of the Honorable James E. Blythe, the state of Iowa has lost a valued and honored citizen, a conscientious statesman and the family a loving husband and father.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House of Representatives and that the Chief Clerk be instructed to send an enrolled copy to each member of the family of the deceased.

HERMAN M. KNUDSON,
CLAUS RANDALL,
WILLIAM KRUSE,
ARTHUR C. BLATT,

Committee.

Unanimously adopted, April 3, 1941.

HONORABLE RANSOM J. BIXBY

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character, and public services of the Honorable Ransom J. Bixby, a former member of the General Assembly of Iowa, serving in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second and Thirty-second Extra Sessions, begs leave to report as follows:

Ransom James Bixby, son of the Reverend Newell W. and Ruby Knapp Bixby, was born March 29, 1854, on the Bixby Homestead, three miles northwest of Edgewood, Iowa, and passed quietly away at his home in Edgewood on November 18, 1940, after a year's illness. His parents came from Vermont in 1847 as pioneer workers under the Free Baptist Mission Board. In this family were four children, deeply devoted to one another, and the two eldest, Dr. Sylvanus N. Bixby and Thera Bixby True, had gone before and were awaiting the coming of their brother to the Eternal Home.

From his seventeenth year, when he began teaching rural school, he served the public in one capacity or another until the end of his life, and had a statewide circle of friends. He received his higher education from Wilton College at Wilton, Iowa, graduating as valedictorian of his class, then taught in Delaware, Clayton and Cedar counties. He was principal of the Edgewood school when he was married to Miss Flora Blanchard, also a teacher in the school. The same year he entered into partnership with his father-in-law, Dr. Lewis Blanchard, in the mercantile business, and later established the village drug store, which he continued to operate until 1898 when he retired from commercial pursuits to concentrate on farming interests. In 1909 he opened an insurance and real estate office which he operated until 1923. Nearly everyone in the community went to him for advice and help in their legal and business problems.

Mr. Bixby was sent in 1904 as Representative from Delaware county to the state legislature where he served three terms, the Thirtieth, the Thirty-first, The Thirty-second, and the Thirty-second Extra sessions. He