

Robert Sloan

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Rapids Library Board and in 1901 was president of the Iowa Library Association. He drafted the bill that was with few changes passed in 1900 creating the Iowa Library Commission, and from then until his last illness was its legal adviser.

ROBERT SLOAN was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 21, 1835, and died at Keosauqua, Iowa, June 5, 1922. His earliest education was obtained in a school in New Lisbon where Mark Hanna was one of his schoolmates. In 1853 he came with his parents when they migrated by boat to Keokuk, and partly by boat and partly on foot to where they purchased a farm across the Des Moines River from Iowa-ville, which farm is still in the possession of the Sloan family. The time from 1853 to 1860 was spent by Robert working on the farm, in teaching school, and in mercantile employment. In April, 1860, he began reading law at Keosauqua, and in March, 1861, he was admitted to practice. On June 1 of that year he became a member of the firm of Webster & Sloan. Mr. Webster removed to Nevada in 1864 and Mr. Sloan then joined the firm of Rankin & McCrary of Keokuk, he caring for the business at Keosauqua. In 1869 he was elected judge of the Circuit Court and served until 1880, when he again entered practice, becoming the senior member of the firm of Sloan, Work & Brown. In 1895 he was elected a judge of the District Court of the Second Judicial District, and served until 1906. He then formed a partnership with his son, Hugh B. Sloan, which continued until his death. He served as master in chancery in 1911 in the trial of the noted Des Moines gas case, then pending in Federal Court, as well as in a number of other cases referred to him at different times. He was distinguished throughout Iowa for his strong and lucid opinions.

GEORGE W. KOONTZ was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1843, and died at Iowa City, Iowa, June 30, 1922. He removed to Iowa City in 1855 and attended common school and high school there. He was elected clerk of the District Court of Johnson County in 1874, was re-elected in 1876, and again in 1878. In 1883 he was elected county auditor and was re-elected in 1885. In 1884 he was admitted to the bar. On the death of Representative Joe A. Edwards in the summer of 1898, Mr. Koontz was elected to fill the vacancy in the Twenty-seventh General Assembly, but as no extra session of that assembly was convened he did not sit as a member. However, the next year he was elected representative in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly and was regularly re-elected to the seven succeeding assemblies, his last service being in the Thirty-fifth. Thus for eight consecutive assemblies, or sixteen years, he served as representative, exceeding by two assemblies the service of any other man as representative in the history of the state. He was a Democrat in politics, was the leader of his party in the House for several sessions, and always held important

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