

Clifford Thorne

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CLIFFORD THORNE was born at Brooklyn, Iowa, January 20, 1878, and died at a hospital in London, England, November 13, 1923. Burial was at Washington, Iowa. His parents were Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Thorne, Mr. Thorne being a Methodist minister who occupied pastorates in southeastern Iowa. Much of Clifford's youth was spent in Washington, Iowa. He attended public school, Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant, and Iowa State University. He enlisted in Company D, Fiftieth Iowa Infantry, in which he served during the Spanish-American War. He was graduated from the Law Department of Iowa State University in 1899, and obtained the degree of Ph. D. from Yale University in 1901. He began the practice of law at Washington in 1901 and specialized in the law relating to railway rates, becoming attorney for the Corn Belt Meat Producers Association, the American National Livestock Association, and the Co-operative Grain Dealers Association, conducting cases before the Iowa State Railroad Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1910 he was elected a member of the Iowa Railroad Commission, and was re-elected in 1914. In 1915 while a member of the Iowa Railroad Commission he appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Chicago in a noted hearing in which he represented the Iowa Railroad Commission and the shipping interests of Iowa, resisting advances in rates asked by the railroads, and the advances were generally denied. He also appeared for the state in other important rate cases. In 1916 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for congressman from the First District, lacking 380 votes of winning it. He resigned from the commission in 1917 and entered the practice of law in Chicago, giving special attention to railway rate cases. Besides the associations mentioned above he also became attorney for the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Farmers National Grain Dealers, the Western Petroleum Refiners Association, the National Wholesale Grocers Association, and many other associations and firms that were contending for the adjustment of freight rates, and became recognized as perhaps the best posted man in the United States on railway rate and kindred questions. In 1922 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for United States senator, and at the primary ran second in a field of six. In 1923 he was an expert witness in the tax cases brought by certain Iowa railways against the state in assessments made by the Executive Council. In September, 1923, he and his wife started on a tour of the world and while at London he was stricken with pneumonia, which soon terminated fatally.

JAMES BIRNEY HARSH was born in Clinton County, Ohio, September 8, 1845, and died at Creston, Iowa, June 19, 1923. His parents were Daniel and Nancy (McKay) Harsh. His father died in 1849 and his mother with her family removed to Bureau County, Illinois. He attended common school and at sixteen years of age began teaching in winters, working at farm labor in summers. He enlisted in Company

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