

## William Harrison Needham

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

---

### Recommended Citation

"William Harrison Needham." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1925), 75-76.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4938>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

HENRY CANTWELL WALLACE was born in Rock Island, Illinois, May 11, 1866, and died in Washington, D. C., October 25, 1924. Burial was in Des Moines, Iowa. His parents were Henry and Nannie (Cantwell) Wallace, who removed to Morning Sun, Iowa, in 1871 and to Winterset in 1877, where Mr. Wallace took up farming near there. Henry C. attended town schools at Morning Sun and Winterset, worked some on his father's farms, and commenced to learn the printing trade in the offices of the papers at Winterset in which the elder Wallace was beginning his career as an agricultural journalist. In 1885 he entered Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames, but in 1887 returned to Winterset and rented one of his father's farms and operated it for five years. In 1892 Hon. James Wilson, who was then professor of agriculture at Ames, prevailed on Mr. Wallace to return to the college. He was graduated in 1892 and was made assistant professor of agriculture and put in charge of the Dairy Department of the college. In 1894 he became interested in *The Farm and Dairy*, and the next year he with his father and his brother, John P. Wallace, became sole owners of the paper, and in 1895 removed to Des Moines, changing its name to *Wallaces' Farmer*. Henry C. was associate editor, and on the death of his father in 1916 became editor. Through his editorial work he led the fight for the creation of the office of commerce counsel. As secretary for seventeen years of the Corn Belt Meat Producers Association and in his paper he led in the contest for equalizing railroad rates on farm products, and became recognized as a leader in the nation-wide movements in the interest of agriculture. On March 4, 1921, he entered President Harding's Cabinet as secretary of agriculture, which position he retained after Mr. Coolidge became president. He brought to this position his rare qualifications of practical farming experience and educational and business training. He had rare judgment, energy, enthusiasm and devotion to his task. The conservation of national resources, agricultural credits, and co-operative marketing were among the great questions with which he and his department grappled during his administration. The depression in prices following the World War made his work doubly hard, and it is thought that the exhausting labors of his great work was one cause of his early demise.

---

WILLIAM HARRISON NEEDHAM was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, August 22, 1840, and died at Sigourney, Iowa, October 15, 1924. Burial was at Oskaloosa, Iowa. His parents were David and Margaret Shaffner Needham. The family removed to Oskaloosa in 1853. William attended common school and in 1857 became an apprentice in the printing office of the *Oskaloosa Herald*, then owned by his brother, Lieutenant-Governor John R. Needham. July 31, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, received several promotions, was made first lieutenant August 3, 1863, and was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, July 25, 1865. Returning from the war he purchased

a half interest in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, which he retained until 1877. In 1870 he was appointed postmaster at Oskaloosa and served until 1877. In November, 1878, he purchased the *Sigourney News*, removed to Sigourney and continued to edit and publish that paper until his death, except as his sons and daughters grew up they took over the more active management in his later years. He was the Sixth District member of the Republican State Central Committee from 1890 to 1894, was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1896, and was postmaster at Sigourney from 1898 to 1911. He was for years commander of the local Grand Army post, was elected commander of the Department of Iowa in June, 1924, and in August led the Iowa Division in the parade at the National Encampment at Boston. Mr. Needham was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. All four of his sons are following his life-long vocation—country newspaper publisher—Charles K. of the *Grinnell Register*, John R. of the *Centerville Iowegian*, Sherman W. of the *Hardin County Ledger*, and William H., Jr., of the *Keokuk County News*. One of his three daughters, Mrs. Edna Pauline Beck, is the wife of J. M. Beck, editor of the *Centerville Iowegian*. At the time of his death Mr. Needham was thought to have been in active newspaper work in Iowa longer than any one else.

---

HOWARD MARSHALL REMLEY was born at Lewisburg, Virginia, now West Virginia, January 17, 1843, and died at Anamosa, Iowa, October 29, 1923. With his father's family he came to Iowa City, Iowa, in November, 1855. In 1856 they removed to a farm near Oxford, but in 1858 returned to Iowa City. Howard M. alternately worked on the farm and attended school in Iowa City until he was graduated from the Liberal Arts Department of the State University in 1871, and from the Law Department in 1873. That year he entered on the practice of law at Anamosa in partnership with his brother, Milton Remley. The next year, Milton Remley having removed to Iowa City, he continued practice alone. In October, 1896, he was appointed a judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge William P. Wolf. By reason of elections he served until 1902 when he declined a further nomination and returned to the practice, forming a partnership with his son, James E., which continued until his death. He was president of the Jones County Bar Association, was an active member of the State Bar Association, and a member of the American Bar Association. In 1899, 1900, and 1901 he was president of the Iowa Baptist State Convention. He was also at one time president of the State Sunday School Association. In 1873 Mr. Remley was married to Miss Mary E. Underwood of Muscatine, also a graduate of the State University. Ten children were born to them, all of whom were living at the time of the death of their father, and all of whom had been graduated from the State University. The mother preceded Judge Remley in death about two years.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.