

Rodney W. Tirrill

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Rodney W. Tirrill." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1927), 555-556.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5073>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

early life. He attended Amesville Academy, and also the University of Ohio at Athens for a short time, and in 1855 came in a covered wagon with his parents as they removed to a farm near Springville, Linn County, Iowa. He assisted in breaking the prairie land his father purchased, and in the farming, attended school in winter months, attended Fairview Academy, Fairview, Jones County, about a year, entered Cornell College, Mount Vernon, in 1858, taught school during vacations, and was graduated from Cornell College in 1861. He read law with Smyth, Young & Smyth of Marion and later taught in Tipton High School. He enlisted August 16, 1862, in Company C, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry, received several promotions and March 31, 1863, became captain of his company. He was with his regiment in the great battles and campaigns in which it participated, but as the war was apparently nearing its close he resigned September 27, 1864, and almost immediately entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan and was graduated therefrom in 1866. The same year he began practice at Marengo, Iowa, in partnership with John Miller, a former county judge of Iowa County. In 1874 he was elected district attorney of the Eighth Judicial District, comprising Cedar, Jones, Johnson, Linn, Iowa, Benton and Tama counties, and was re-elected four years later, serving from 1875 to 1883. In 1884 he was the Republican nominee for Congress in the Fifth District, but was defeated by Benjamin T. Frederick. Having removed to Cedar Rapids in 1882, in 1883 he entered the general law practice there. For about six years he was in partnership with John Powell as Smith & Powell. Later, when his son, Frank Smith, was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, the father and son formed the firm of Smith & Smith. He was also for a time a member of the firms of Smith & Clemons, and Smith & Kirk. In 1906 he was elected a judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District, comprised of Cedar, Jones and Linn counties, and was re-elected in 1910, 1914, and 1918, but owing to advancing age, resigned August 5, 1921. At that time he was more than eighty-six years of age, and it is thought he was the oldest man who had served as a district judge in the history of Iowa. He then remained in honored retirement at his home in Cedar Rapids until the final summons.

RODNEY W. TIRRILL was born at Stewartstown, New Hampshire, December 22, 1835, and died in a hospital in Anamosa, Iowa, October 2, 1926. Burial was at Manchester. His parents were Timothy and Mary (Drew) Tirrill, who with their family removed in 1850 to Lodi, Wisconsin. Rodney had secured a good public school education in Colebrook, New Hampshire, and on reaching Wisconsin he entered the State University at Madison. In 1856 he removed to Delaware County, Iowa. He taught school at different places, among them in Lodi Academy. He also had read law with his father and was preparing to attend law school at Albany, New York, when the Civil War began. On October 15, 1861, he enlisted as third sergeant in Company F, Twelfth Iowa

Infantry. On February 15, 1862, he was wounded at Fort Donelson, and also on April 6, 1862, at Shiloh, and was honorably discharged January 1, 1863. In 1864 he was elected superintendent of schools for Delaware County, was re-elected two years later, and served four years. For some twenty years he conducted at Manchester a war claims business, besides being successful in other business enterprises. In 1879 he was elected senator and served in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth general assemblies. Among his services in those assemblies he drafted the first oleomargarine bill passed by the legislature and the first passed in the United States. In 1893 he entered the Law Department of the State University of Iowa, being admitted to the bar in 1894. At the time he was taking this law course Mrs. Tirrill, who was Miss Eliza Jane Weeks previous to their marriage in 1860, also attended the University, taking English, French, and German. Mr. Tirrill was department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Iowa, for the year 1898-99, and for over twenty years was a member of the local school board. He and Mrs. Tirrill took two trips to Europe, visiting many countries, including Egypt and the Holy Land. He gave a beautiful park to the city of Manchester and set aside a fund of \$60,000 for its beautifying and care.

ULYSSES S. ALDERMAN was born in Nevada, Iowa, August 2, 1865, and died at his home in that city May 14, 1926. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore E. Alderman, established the first home on the present site of Nevada. Ulysses attended common school there and was graduated from the Nevada High School in 1883. He then engaged in the hardware business with his father, following that vocation until 1895, when he entered the Law Department of the University of Iowa and was graduated therefrom in 1897. He began the practice at Nevada, which he continued with success until his death. He was active in public and civic affairs. During the World War he was a leader in Red Cross organizations in his county, and in Liberty Loan drives and other patriotic work. In 1918 he was elected representative and served in the Thirty-eighth General Assembly.

JAMES SHERMAN SHEPHERD was born in Sangamon County, Illinois, December 4, 1834, and died at Mount Ayr, Iowa, November 10, 1925. Burial was at Keosauqua, Iowa. His parents, James and Jane (Sherman) Shepherd, removed with their family to Keosauqua, Iowa Territory, in 1844, and here James S. at the age of ten years commenced to learn the printing trade in the office of the *Iowa Democrat*, which his father had purchased. However, he attended school regularly until sixteen years of age, when he began serving his regular apprenticeship as a printer. In 1856 he was appointed postmaster at Keosauqua and served five years. In 1860 he and his father purchased the *Des Moines News* at

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.