

Oliver Coomes

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Oliver Coomes." *The Annals of Iowa* 16 (1928), 397-397.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5214>

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until March, 1918. He was chief clerk of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh, and Thirty-eighth general assemblies, 1915, 1917, and 1919. In the primary election of 1918 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination of secretary of state, and in a field of four candidates was second in the number of votes received, the nomination going to William S. Allen for the fourth time. Mr. Allen resigned the office in April, 1919, and Mr. Ramsay was appointed to the position by Governor Harding and assumed the duties July 1, of that year. He was elected in 1920, 1922, 1924, and 1926, thus serving as secretary of state for eight years, seven months and eight days, a longer time than any one else in the history of the state in an elective state executive office.

OLIVER COOMES was born in Licking County, Ohio, August 26, 1845, and died in an automobile accident near Storm Lake, Iowa, June 27, 1921. Burial was in the Wiota Cemetery, Wiota, Cass County, Iowa. His parents were Isaiah and Mary Coomes. The family removed to a farm in Jasper County, Iowa, in 1856. Oliver attended common school in winters, and in summers worked in a pottery plant his father conducted. The winter of 1865-66 he was a student in Iowa College, Grinnell. In 1870 he removed to Franklin Township, Cass County, and engaged in farming. About this time he began writing vivid stories of the West which he sold to eastern publishers, the *New York Weekly*, and the *Saturday Journal* of New York publishing many of them serially, while many were published in the form of the dime novel of that period. Among the best known were *Adrift on the Prairie*, *Dakota Dan*, *Death Notch*, *Hawkeye Harry*, *Ironside*, the *Kid Bandy Series*, *Little Texas*, *The Raven of the North*, *The Dumb Spy*, and *The Scout*. He became one of the best known and most popular writers in the country of that class of adventure stories. He acted as postmaster at Wiota for some months when the office was established. Besides being a member of the local school board, he was elected representative in 1877, and was re-elected in 1879, serving in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth general assemblies. In 1905 he removed to Atlantic where he resided until his death.

MARCELLUS LUTHER TEMPLE was born in Monongalia County, Virginia (afterward West Virginia), September 16, 1848, and died in Osceola, Iowa, February 28, 1928. Opportunities for securing an education in the locality of his youth were then meager. He attended subscription school amounting in all to 140 days, then entered West Virginia State University at Morgantown and was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1873. The same year he removed to Osceola, Iowa. He read law a part of the time while taking his liberal arts course and was admitted to the bar at Osceola at the May term of the District Court in 1874. At first he had as partner R. B. Parott, but in 1875 he and John Chaney

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