

Ralph Otto

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Ralph Otto." *The Annals of Iowa* 16 (1928), 476-477.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5240>

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Teachers College at Cedar Falls, from which institution he was graduated in 1890. He then adopted teaching as a profession, and for six years was principal of the schools at Rippey, Greene County. While teaching he read law and was admitted to the practice in 1898. However, for two years he followed banking, being president of the Lehigh Valley Bank at Lehigh. In 1900 he removed to Webster City and with J. H. Richard formed the law firm of Richard & Thompson. Two years later Mr. Richard went on the bench after which Mr. Thompson practiced alone. When the Thirty-seventh General Assembly in 1917 provided for an additional judge in the Eleventh Judicial District, Governor Harding appointed Mr. Thompson. He was regularly elected thereafter as his terms expired, and was serving at the time of his death.

EDWARD M. CASSADY was born at Painesville, Lake County, Ohio, September 25, 1848, and died at Whiting, Iowa, February 1, 1928. He attended common school during his youth and in February, 1864, enlisted in Company A, Tenth United States Infantry, at Cleveland and served in the Army of the Potomac until the close of the war when he was transferred to Minnesota in the Indian country where he served the remainder of his three years' enlistment. He removed to Fremont County, Iowa, the fall of 1867, and to Monona County the spring of 1868, where he became a farm hand, but soon bought some wild land and began breaking and farming it. He farmed until 1880 when he removed to Whiting and formed a partnership with Will C. Whiting where they became dealers in general merchandise, lumber, implements, and grain. Mr. Cassady assisted in founding the Whiting Bank of which he became president. At the same time he continued to conduct very extensive farming operations, the breeding of Hereford cattle, and cattle feeding. He held several township offices and in 1906 was elected representative, and was re-elected in 1908, serving in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third general assemblies. He was father of Raymond W. Cassady, Iowa's first secretary of agriculture, who died in 1924.

RALPH OTTO was born in Iowa City, Iowa, July 18, 1876, and died in Iowa City, February 24, 1928. His parents were Max and Katherine (McInnery) Otto. His early education was obtained in the public schools of Iowa City. In 1898 he obtained his A. B. degree from the Liberal Arts Department of the State University of Iowa, and in 1900 his LL. B. degree from the Law Department. He then entered the practice in Iowa City, but relinquished it in 1902 and acted as court reporter for District Judge Byington from 1902 to 1906, returning to practice at the end of that time. In 1909 he was elected mayor of Iowa City, serving two years. In 1910 he became an instructor, and in 1911 a professor in the Law Department of the University, continuing in that capacity until 1918 when, on the resignation of Judge R. P. Howell in May, 1918, he was appointed by Governor Harding a judge of the

Eighth Judicial District. He was elected to that position in 1918, 1922, and 1926, and was serving at the time of his death. He affiliated with the Democratic party.

G. NORMAN CLARK was born on a farm in Grundy County, Iowa, January 1, 1875, and died at a hospital in Fort Madison January 26, 1928. Burial was at Mason City. In 1883 his parents removed with their family to Parkersburg and there the son was educated in public school. After completing the course he entered a drug store as a clerk. In time he purchased the store and conducted it and remained in the retail drug business, as clerk and later as proprietor, for eighteen years, or until 1910 when he removed to Mason City. There he engaged in real estate business and the operation of farm lands until in 1928 when he was appointed as the Democratic member of the Board of Control of State Institutions to succeed John B. Butler, and assumed his duties July 1 of that year. In the division of work there was assigned to him supervision of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Davenport, the Juvenile Home at Toledo, the hospitals for the insane at Mount Pleasant and Independence, and the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison. In his short service on this board he demonstrated high capability for the important duties of the position.

WILLETT M. HAYS was born on a farm near Eldora, Iowa, October 19, 1860, and died at Cherokee January 15, 1928. Burial was at Eldora. His parents were Silas and Christina Hays. He attended common school, Oskaloosa College, Drake University, and Iowa Agricultural College, Ames, being graduated from the latter in 1886. After graduating he acted as an instructor at Ames, then acted as an assistant editor of the *Orange Judd Farmer*, Chicago, after which he became a professor in the Minnesota Agricultural College at Saint Paul where he made a remarkable reputation in breeding of grains, as well as in other lines. In 1903 he was appointed United States assistant secretary of agriculture by Secretary James Wilson and served eight years. He also served one year at Buenos Aires and Tucuman, Argentine, as adviser to the agricultural department of that country. He achieved distinction in the field of scientific agriculture, and lost his health in his meritorious service.

RUFUS L. CHASE was born in Albany, New York, March 6, 1847, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 2, 1928. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines. He was educated in an academy in Fergusonville, New York. When seventeen years old he enlisted in the Third Regiment, New York Cavalry, and served to the end of the war. He studied dentistry at Franklin College, Franklin, New York, and in 1869 removed to Parkersburg, Iowa, where he practiced dentistry two years. He was elected auditor of Butler County, and was re-elected twice, serving from 1871 to 1877. He removed to Des Moines in 1880

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