

Leslie Mortier Shaw

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ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NOTABLE DEATHS

LESLIE MORTIER SHAW was born at Morristown, Vermont, November 2, 1848, and died in Washington, D. C., March 28, 1932. The body was placed in the family mausoleum in Oakland Cemetery, Denison, Iowa. His parents were Boardman O. and Lovisa (Spaulding) Shaw. He received his early education in Vermont. When twenty-one years old he removed to Iowa where he worked as a farm hand. He soon entered Cornell College, Mount Vernon, working his way through by intermittently teaching school and selling fruit trees, and received his B. S. and M. S. degrees, the latter in 1874. Soon thereafter he entered the Iowa College of Law, Des Moines, from which he was graduated in 1876. The degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by Simpson College in 1898, Cornell College in 1899, and Wesleyan University in 1904. In 1876 he located in Denison in the practice of law and soon formed a partnership with J. P. Conner as Conner & Shaw which continued until Mr. Conner became circuit judge in 1884. Mr. Shaw then formed a partnership with Carl F. Kuehne as Shaw & Kuehne which continued until 1897. A loan business was added and they also established the Bank of Denison, and a branch bank at Manilla. Mr. Shaw was also identified with a bank at Charter Oak. Up to 1896, although he had been active in helping in local affairs, church, Sunday School, educational, and business enterprises, he had taken no active part in politics, but in the presidential campaign of that year he was asked by some of his friends to make a speech at Denison in reply to the free coinage of silver then advocated by W. J. Bryan, which he did, and it was so well received that he was called to speak extensively in that campaign, establishing a reputation more than state wide. In 1897, although there was a field of five able candidates for the Republican nomination for governor, Mr. Shaw was entered as a "dark horse" and won on the third ballot, and was elected, defeating the Democratic nominee, Fred E. White. In 1898, when the International Monetary Convention met in Indianapolis, Governor Shaw was permanent chairman. He was re-elected governor two years later, the Democratic nominee again being Mr. White. His four years as governor included the time of the Spanish-American War which added great interest to that period. At the end of his administration he retired to his home in Denison, but soon thereafter President Roosevelt appointed him secretary of the treasury, although Iowa already had one member of the Cabinet, James Wilson, secretary of agriculture. Mr. Shaw assumed his new duties February 1, 1902, and served until March 4, 1907. Soon after leaving the Cabinet

he became president of the Carnegie Trust Company. Later he was for a time affiliated with a bank in Philadelphia after which he made Washington his home. He took part as a Republican speaker in every presidential campaign from 1896 to 1928, speaking in various sections of the country. He did much lecturing before Chautauqua and other assemblies. Some years ago he published a book, *Vanishing Landmarks*, which attracted general interest. As governor he was a prompt and efficient executive. As secretary of the treasury he administered that great office with credit. When in his prime there were few public speakers who equalled him in ability to entertain and instruct. Clear in statement and in logic, quaint in style and illustration, he taught an old but sound philosophy. He was a life-long member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a lay delegate to General Conference in 1888, 1892, 1896, and 1900.

CHARLES SANDERSON MEDBURY was born in Warren, Ohio, November 19, 1865, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, Sunday, April 24, 1932, at the end of his sermon in his own pulpit. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were Sheldon and Melinda (Sanderson) Medbury. He attended public school in Warren and in Cleveland. From 1883 to 1888 he was in fire insurance work in Cleveland, in Erie, Pennsylvania, and in Chicago, filling positions in general offices. He resigned a position with the Royal Insurance Company of England while in Chicago and for a time during 1889 and 1890 was with the *Christian Oracle*, Chicago, and also preached at Crystal Lake, Illinois. He then entered Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois, where he completed his education. He was pastor at El Paso, Illinois, in 1893-96, was ordained a minister by the Church of Christ (Disciples) in 1894, was pastor at Angola, Indiana, 1897-1903, and of the University Church of Christ, Des Moines, from January, 1904, until his death. On coming to Des Moines, besides being the efficient pastor of his own growing congregation, he soon entered into wider activities. From 1905 to 1917 he served as chaplain of Drake University, and was a member of its Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee of that board. The University conferred on him the honorary degree of D. D. in 1910. He was president for some time of the Des Moines Ministerial Association, did his part in public welfare movements, received the *Des Moines Tribune* award for the most distinguished service to his community in 1923, was a member of the Des Moines Inter-Racial Commission, and advocated the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment and helped organize the Allied Forces for Prohibition. He came to be in great demand as a public speaker and went from coast to coast lecturing both for summer Chautauquas and for lyceum bureaus. When in Indiana during the Spanish-American War he was chaplain of the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. In 1917 and 1918 he was a lecturer in army camps for the League to Enforce Peace and the Y. M. C. A., and later was a member of the League of Nations Association of

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