

George H. Woodson

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"George H. Woodson." *The Annals of Iowa* 19 (1933), 159-160.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5656>

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schools in that locality and Independence High School, taught rural common schools, and then entered the Law School of the State University of Iowa from which he was graduated in 1872. He began practice in Manchester and continued it until about two years before his death, or for fifty-nine years, attaining honored distinction in his profession. In 1875 he purchased an interest in the *Manchester Democrat* and was one of its editors throughout the remainder of his life. He assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Manchester, was president for three years of the Oneida and Manchester Railroad, and was connected with many business concerns of his home city. For several years in early life he was a member of the Iowa National Guard, being commissioned captain of Company C, Fourth Infantry, on March 18, 1877, and commissioned judge advocate with the rank of major May 19, 1879. He actively supported the Democratic party. In 1896 he was permanent chairman of the state convention that selected delegates to the national convention. He was secretary of the state committee in 1896 and 1897, and was also a member of the committee from 1896 to 1902. In 1904 he was a delegate at large to the national convention, and was chairman of the delegation. In 1906 he was nominated by his party for justice of the Supreme Court of the state. He served as postmaster at Manchester from March, 1915, to March, 1922, when he voluntarily resigned. Among the varied activities of this useful citizen was his help in the movement that resulted in the establishment of the Backbone State Park near Manchester.

GEORGE H. WOODSON was born of slave parents in Wytheville, Virginia, December 15, 1865. He died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 7, 1933, and was buried in Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, with both masonic and military honors. His grandfather served in the Revolutionary War and his father was killed in the Civil War. His mother also having died in his infancy, he was reared by an aunt, Mrs. T. Sheffey, by whom he was sent to Petersburg Normal University at Petersburg, Virginia, which graduated him with the A. B. degree in 1890. Soon thereafter he enlisted and served for three years in the Twenty-fifth U. S. Infantry. After his honorable discharge he entered the Law College of Howard University, Washington, D. C., where he received his LL.B. degree in 1896. He came to Iowa thereafter and located at the mining town of Muchakinock, Mahaska County, then the largest Negro community in the state. About 1900 this community was abandoned when he located for a while in Oskaloosa, then followed the mining community to Buxton, Monroe County. When this community was abandoned about 1918, he removed to Des Moines where he remained in the practice with the exception of about ten years that he was deputy collector of U. S. customs. While residing in Mahaska County he was made vice president of the Mahaska County Bar Association and was also nominated by the Republican party as county attorney. While residing in Monroe County he was nominated by the Republicans as candidate for state representative, being the only Negro ever nominated for either of these offices in Iowa. In 1926 Presi-

dent Coolidge appointed him chairman of an all-Negro commission to investigate and report on economic conditions in the Virgin Islands, which duty he very creditably performed. He organized in Des Moines the Iowa Negro Bar Association in 1901 and the National Negro Bar Association in 1925, of both of which he was the first president.

ALBERT BOYNTON STORMS was born at Lima, Washtenaw County, Michigan, April 1, 1860, and died in Berea, Ohio, July 1, 1933. His parents were Irving and Mary (Boynton) Storms. He was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of A. B. in 1884, and of A. M. in 1893. He was ordained a minister by the Methodist Episcopal church in 1884 and held pastorates at Franklin, Michigan; Hudson, Michigan; Detroit, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin; and at First Church, Des Moines, Iowa, the latter being from 1900 to 1903. In 1903 he was chosen president of Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, remaining in that position until 1910. Returning to the ministry he was pastor at Indianapolis, Indiana, and followed that by being district superintendent at Indianapolis. In 1918 he became president of Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, and retained that position until his death. He was a noted pulpit orator, an able educator and the author of several books and many magazine articles.

ALFRED MARTIN HAGGARD was born near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 11, 1851, and died at Pine Bluff, Colorado, June 20, 1933. He was graduated from Oskaloosa College with the degree of A. B. in 1879 and of A. M. in 1889. He was president of Oskaloosa College from 1889 to 1892, was secretary of Iowa Christian Convention from 1893 to 1898, dean of the Bible College, Drake University, from 1899 to 1910, and professor of Christian evidences at the same institution from 1910 to 1916. Besides his work as an educator, he studied divinity and as early as 1870 became a minister in the Disciples of Christ church and, interspersed with his teaching, was pastor and preacher at the following locations in Iowa: Eddyville, DeSoto, Oskaloosa, and Colfax, besides at Washington, Illinois. At one time he was secretary of the Iowa Christian Missionary Society, was a field worker for the Anti-saloon League, and by ability and fine personality exerted a real influence in his several fields.

CLARENCE L. ELY was born in Maquoketa, Iowa, April 10, 1886, and died there July 17, 1933. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Maquoketa. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Ely. He was graduated from Maquoketa High School in 1903 and from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1908. From 1910 to 1912 he was secretary to Congressman I. S. Pepper. In 1912 he entered the law office of G. L. Johnson of Maquoketa. The same year he was elected county attorney of Jackson County and continued in that office three terms, or until January, 1919. The fall of 1926 he was elected judge of the Seventh Judicial District, in which position he was serving when he died. He was a Democrat in politics.

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