

## Edgar Rubey Harlan

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DANIEL FREDERICK COYLE, jurist, died September 17, 1941, in Humboldt, Iowa. Born in Avoca, Wisconsin, in 1858, he came with his parents to Humboldt County when four years old. Educated in the public school of Dakota City, he attended Humboldt College in 1874, and later the State University of Iowa, completing the law course there in 1881. Practicing law in Dakota City, he was elected mayor of that town in 1882. He was elected to the Twenty-third General Assembly in 1889, serving but one term in the House of Representatives. In 1906 he was elected to the bench of the 14th Judicial District, and served continuously until his retirement in 1930. In the meantime, until the college closed in 1915, he headed the law department of Humboldt College. He also taught law in the State University of Iowa College of Law. Following the closure of Humboldt College, Judge Coyle offered free instruction in law to students in his own home. He was also the originator of Lawyers' Chautauqua which meets annually at Lake Okoboji. Judge Coyle was interested in music and in youth bands, which he on occasions helped to direct, and for which he was generous in the provision of music, instruments, and lessons.

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EDGAR RUBEY HARLAN, former Curator of the Historical Department, died July 13, 1941, at his home in Des Moines. Born February 28, 1869, in Spartansburg, Indiana, the son of Samuel Alexander and Marinda Ellen Rubey Harlan, he moved with the family to Van Buren County, Iowa, at an early age. Graduated from the Keosauqua High School in 1889, Mr. Harlan attended the law department of Drake University, being graduated in 1896, and entering the practice of the law that same year in Keosauqua, Iowa. In 1898 he was elected County Attorney for Van Buren County, following which term he entered the law firm of Work, Brown and Harlan in 1901. In 1907 Charles Aldrich, founder of the Historical Department, brought Mr. Harlan to Des Moines as his assistant. Acting Curator from the death of Mr. Aldrich in 1908 until October 1, 1909, when he was appointed to head the Department, Mr. Harlan served continuously until April 1, 1937, when he was retired.

Mr. Aldrich founded the Department; it was Mr. Harlan's task to build upon that foundation. The vast additions to the museum division, the further functioning of the division of archives, the continuance of the other divisions of the Department, the newspapers, library and THE ANNALS OF IOWA, bear evidence of the success of his work.

An ardent conservationist, an enthusiastic collector and marker of historic objects and historic sites, Mr. Harlan's chief passions in history were the Pioneers, the Mormon Trail, and the Indians of Iowa, especially the Mesquakies of Tama. In 1907 he helped to found the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, now the largest association

of historians of American history in the country. While not an easy or prolific writer, he authored *A NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF IOWA*, a five volume work.

He served on the William B. Allison Memorial Commission, the Grenville M. Dodge Memorial Commission, the Revolutionary Soldiers Grave Commission. Mr. Harlan was especially active in the origins and the furtherance of plans for the Capitol Extension program. He was secretary of the Iowa State Board of Conservation from 1914-1925, and was a member of the Iowa Plant Life Commission, as well as a member of other natural history societies. He also was a member of the National Association of State Parks.

Keen in his historical interests, a lover of his work, Mr. Harlan will be best remembered for his support of conservation, his studies of Indian records, and his promotion of historical markers, in the last of which he frequently worked in conjunction with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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FRANK IRVING HERRIOTT, educator, died in Des Moines September 14, 1941. The son of John and Nellie M. Herriott, he was born in Scott County, Iowa, October 19, 1868. Educated in the Stuart High School, he received his bachelor's degree from Iowa College (Grinnell) in 1890, his master's degree from that institution in 1893, and a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University the same year. From 1895 to 1898 he was acting professor of political science, Grinnell College; 1897 to 1901 he assisted his father in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury as deputy. In 1903 began his long and fruitful career associated with Drake University, the first sixteen years of which he was professor of economics, political science and sociology, and of the latter two branches until his death.

Professor Herriott was active in welfare work, being on the board of the Associated Charities of Des Moines for thirteen years, and associated with the Iowa Children's Home Society. He was likewise engrossed in city and state government, their politics and their problems, both as a student and as a worker.

Combined with his training in the historical field, Professor Herriott possessed an abounding enthusiasm for that branch of his studies. His almost life-long interest in Lincolniana made him a recognized authority in that period of history, being especially interested in the problems centering around Lincoln's election and rise to national prominence. Professor Herriott was also keenly interested in the more localized field of state and regional history, and was a frequent contributor of articles bearing upon that field, *THE ANNALS OF IOWA* as well as to other historical periodicals.

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GEORGE J. KELLER, administrator of the Iowa WPA program, died at the age of 56, in Grinnell, Iowa, August 29, 1941, from injuries

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