

R. G. Clark

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"R. G. Clark." *The Annals of Iowa* 25 (1943), 143-144.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6236>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

while there kept his association with the military by entering the New York national guard; continued law studies in law office of Grimm, Trewin & Moffit in Cedar Rapids and admitted to the Iowa bar in 1904; served as judge of the superior court of Cedar Rapids, by appointment of Gov. B. F. Carroll, until this country entered the war with Germany, when he assisted organizing Battery E in Cedar Rapids and went to Camp Cody, N. M. for service on the border with rank of major on the staff of General H. A. Allen; later assigned to the Thirty-fifth division in France, and to the Thirty-fourth division in the United States; following the war becoming a major in the U. S. army reserve and subsequently promoted to the rank of colonel in command of the 349th regimental U. S. infantry, and served as commander of the Iowa department of the American Legion.

During the administration of Pres. Calvin Coolidge, Colonel Robbins was named assistant secretary of war, succeeding Col. Hanford MacNider, of Mason City, Iowa, who resigned to receive the appointment of Minister to Canada. Upon his retirement from the war department he re-assumed command of the 349th regiment of infantry, retiring as its commander in 1940. He was the first president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines in 1931 and also has served as its chairman, having a territory including Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. He was active in Cedar Rapids social and business life; was president of the Cedar Rapids Life Insurance Co.; was a collector and student of rare coins and had a collection of more than 5,000 coins. In recent years had served as counsel and general manager of the American Life convention. The burial was in Arlington national cemetery at Arlington, Va.

R. G. CLARK, legislator and state dairy and food official, born Feb. 9, 1861, at Lawrence, Mass., died June 25, 1943 at his home in Des Moines, Iowa; when ten years old came with his parents to Manchester, Iowa, where his father, a long time produce merchant, purchased and embarked in the creamery, egg and poultry business; completed his education in the public schools, the Manchester academy and Grinnell college, graduating in 1882; entered the butter and egg business for himself at Marcus, Iowa, in 1883; removed to Webster City in 1885 continuing in the creamery, egg and butter business until appointed Dairy and Food Commissioner of Iowa by Gov. N. E. Kendall on May 1, 1922; married Oct. 13, 1887 to Emily S. Rann, of Manchester. Mrs. Clark and an only daughter, Sibyl, survive him. The family resided in Des Moines twenty-one years.

"Rush" Clark was for many years a distinguished citizen of Webster City, which he always regarded as his home, serving

there in turn as mayor, long-time member of the school board, postmaster for eleven years, an ardent advocate of municipal ownership and an active republican worker. His combination of characteristics marked him as an able man—clear thinking, keen analysis, aggressive action, unfailing loyalty and unimpeachable integrity, all influencing his course in life. With wide acquaintance he exercised great influence in Iowa political affairs, enthusiastically espousing the cause of men and measures having his approval.

Mr. Clark served as representative from Hamilton county in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assemblies. Later serving as dairy and food commissioner, he continued as director of the dairy and food division of the newly organized State Department of Agriculture, under Raymond W. Cassady, the first secretary of agriculture. Mr. Cassady died in 1924 and Governor Kendall appointed Mr. Clark as the interim secretary, until a successor was nominated in the person of Mark Thornburg, who retained Mr. Clark in his old position until recent years when failing health caused his retirement. Through a long period of years he bore an honorable part in the affairs of Iowa, always a firm believer in the right of popular suffrage and having an abiding confidence in the ability and right of the people to enjoy the widest possible privileges in fixing the policies of government.

ROBERT L. SAFELY, railroading and insurance service, born at Cohes, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1863; died at the Iowa City hospital, June 20, 1943, a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, more than sixty years; came there with his father in 1877, the father being master mechanic of the old B. C. R. & N. Ry.; a first cousin of Col. W. G. Dows; served first as a clerk under Robert Williams of the same railroad, and then as the private secretary of Pres. C. J. Ives; for years was a director of the Iowa Railway and Light Co.; later becoming owner of and conducted a large fire insurance agency until his death; married a daughter of Col. C. A. Clark, who died in 1919; survived by a sister, two daughters and two sons.

Mr. Safely was active in the commercial life and club interests of his city and served as an officer of those aggressive in the upbuilding of Cedar Rapids; organized one of the first professional base ball clubs, played on such teams as the Captain Ansons in Marshalltown; encouraged development of John McGraw later of the Baltimore Orioles and the New York Giants; also personal friend and sponsor of William Hutchinson, later star pitcher of Des Moines and Chicago Cubs. Mr. Safely was a member of the Episcopal church and a republican. He made a number of trips to Europe and was proficient in speaking the French language.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.