

Nathan R. Leonard

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Nathan R. Leonard." *The Annals of Iowa* 14 (1923), 154-154.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6714>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

JAMES O. CROSBY was born at Lake George, Warren County, New York, March 22, 1828, and died at Garnavillo, Iowa, May 23, 1921. He attended common school, and Seneca Falls and Fredonia academies, read law in an office at Ellicottsville, and attended law school at Cherry Valley. He was admitted to the bar at Albany, May 9, 1849, and practiced at Ellicottsville until 1854 when he removed to Garnavillo, Clayton County, Iowa, formed a partnership with Elijah Odell, but after 1861 practiced alone. Garnavillo was the county seat of Clayton County at that time. Several men of talent who afterwards became prominent in Iowa affairs, became residents there about that time. When the railroads missed Garnavillo and when it lost the county seat they mostly left, but he remained. His law practice was large and extended to surrounding counties. He came to be recognized as not only a leading lawyer but also as a prominent public man of his part of the state. From 1870 to 1872 he served on the State Capitol Commission, being selected by the joint action of both branches of the General Assembly. This was the first Capitol commission and not the one that finally had the construction in charge. In 1889 he was a commissioner from Iowa to the International Exposition at Paris. In 1893 he was president of the Iowa Commission to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and received credit for the leadership in the admirable showing the state made on that occasion. In 1899 his standing as a lawyer was given recognition by his selection as president of the State Bar Association. For a great many years he was superintendent of a Sunday School at Garnavillo. He was always a student, had a wide range of information and thought, became an extensive traveler in his later life, was progressive and alive to the spirit of the age, brought the first automobile into his part of the state, and tried cases in court when he was over ninety years old.

NATHAN R. LEONARD was born in Columbus, Ohio, November 29, 1832, and died in Butte, Montana, July 8, 1917. He was with his parents in their removal to Burlington, Iowa, in 1844. The greater part of his education was obtained at Yellow Springs College, at Kossuth, near the present location of Mediapolis, Iowa. From 1852 to 1860 he was connected with Yellow Springs College, first as an instructor and later as president. In 1860 when the State University of Iowa was organized he was elected to the position of professor of mathematics and astronomy on its first faculty, and remained on the faculty for twenty-eight years. From 1866 to 1868, and again from 1870 to 1871, he was acting president of the University, and for many years he was dean of the Collegiate Faculty. In 1888 he removed to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where for ten years he was editor of the *Fort Wayne Gazette*. In 1898 he removed to Butte, Montana. He was president of the Montana School of Mining from its organization in 1890 until 1907, when he retired.

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.