

John Sumner Runnells

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"John Sumner Runnells." *The Annals of Iowa* 17 (1930), 237-237.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6756>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

NOTABLE DEATHS

JOHN SUMNER RUNNELLS was born at Effingham, New Hampshire, July 30, 1844, and died at Chocorua, in the county of his birth, July 11, 1929. His parents were John and Huldah (Staples) Runnells. In 1850 the family removed to the nearby village of Tamworth. During his boyhood he was under the tutelage of his father who was a Baptist minister. For two years he attended the New Hamilton Academy, and was graduated from Amherst College in 1865 with the degree of A. B. Following this he taught school, first at Rochester, New Hampshire, and then at Dover, meanwhile studying law with local attorneys. Samuel Merrill, who was elected governor of Iowa the fall of 1867, had been intimately acquainted with the Runnells family in New Hampshire and had asked John S. to become his private secretary, so in January, 1868, the young man appeared in Des Moines in that capacity. Early in 1869 he resigned, having been appointed United States consul to Tunstall, England. Previous to his departure he married Helen R. Baker, daughter of Adjutant General N. B. Baker. In 1871 he returned to Des Moines and for a short time was on the editorial staff of the *Iowa State Register*, but in the same year was admitted to the bar and in 1872 joined with C. H. Gatch and Thomas S. Wright in the firm of Gatch, Wright & Runnells. The fall of 1874 he was elected reporter of the Supreme Court and soon thereafter withdrew from the firm. In 1877 he formed a partnership with Galusha Parsons which continued for ten years, the firm obtaining an extensive practice, especially as corporation attorneys. During this time Mr. Runnells joined with J. S. Clarkson in helping secure the building of the Burlington and Wabash railroads into Des Moines. He also became active in state and national politics, being chairman of the Republican State Central Committee from 1879 to 1881, was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1880, and was the Iowa member of the Republican National Committee from 1880 to 1884. He was United States district attorney for Iowa from 1881 to 1885, resigning his position as reporter for the Supreme Court on his appointment as district attorney. In 1887 he became general counsel for the Pullman Company and removed to Chicago. He was president of that corporation from 1905 to 1911, and chairman of the Board after that date. He had a winning personality, was a brilliant orator, and an able lawyer.

SAMUED MARCELLUS STOUFFER was born in Ogle County, Illinois, November 1, 1865, and died at Daytona Beach, Florida, October 11, 1929. Burial was at Sac City, Iowa. His parents were Andrew and Lucinda (Rhinehart) Stouffer who removed with their family to near State Center, Iowa, when Samuel was three years old. He attended common school and was graduated from Western College, Toledo, in 1890 with the degree of A. B. For two years he taught school, then served an

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.