

James E. Blythe

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"James E. Blythe." *The Annals of Iowa* 21 (1939), 645-645.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6854>

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NOTABLE DEATHS

JAMES E. BLYTHE, lawyer, died in Mason City September 24, 1938. He was the son of Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Blythe, and was born in Cranberry, New Jersey, January 20, 1856. As a small boy he accompanied his parents in their move to Indiana, where he received all his education, finishing his A. M. work in Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana, in 1877. Shortly after completing his college work he moved to Mason City, Iowa, where after reading law just three months he was admitted to the bar in June, 1878. His long service made him the oldest practicing member of Cerro Gordo County bar in point of service at the time of his death.

Entering politics in 1888, he was elected to the 22nd General Assembly, and re-elected in 1890, during which term he was the floor leader for the republican party. During the following decade he was a dominant factor in his party's leadership, serving many of those years on the state central committee, and three years as chairman of that committee, in 1892, 1893, 1894 he managed the state campaigns which were so successful in the congressional races.

Among his other interests aside from the law it may be noted he helped to organize the first baseball team in Mason City, and for many years was the catcher on the team.

ORVILLE K. MABEN, insurance executive and former state representative, died in a La Crosse, Wisconsin, hospital due to complications resulting from an operation. He was the son of Grover Maben, who settled in Hancock County in 1856, Orville Maben being born on a farm in the northern part of that county on March 12, 1868. After attending the rural schools of the vicinity and spending a few terms in the Breckenridge Normal Academy in Decorah, Iowa, he completed his education in the Northern Business College, located in Garner, Iowa, being graduated in 1900. First a farmer, he entered the insurance field in 1900, associating as secretary in the company his father helped to establish. At the time of his death he was again serving as secretary in the same company, and in addition was a director in two other insurance firms.

A lifelong republican, he served Hancock County in the 30th, 31st, 32nd, and 32nd Extra General Assemblies. In 1932 he made an unsuccessful campaign for state treasurer on the republican ticket. As a ready and fluent speaker he was much in demand to address various business and vocational groups on historical and business subjects. He was a member of the Methodist Church.

EDWIN G. MOON, United States District Attorney and former state senator, died in Ottumwa, January 22, 1939. Born in Melrose, Iowa, November 12, 1870, he was the son of Charles P. and Mira G. Moon, who

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