



GIFFORD SIMEON ROBINSON

Member of the Supreme Court of Iowa, 1888-1899; member State Board of Control, 1900-1913. From a portrait from life in oil by Frederick Warne Freer, 1901, in the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### NOTABLE DEATHS

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GIFFORD SIMEON ROBINSON was born at Tremont, Illinois, May 28, 1843, and died at his home on West Okoboji Lake, Iowa, May 28, 1936, the ninety-third anniversary of his birth. Burial was at Storm Lake. His parents were Israel W. and Cornelia (Leonard) Robinson. He grew up on a farm near Tremont, and received his early education in common school and in a local academy. When nineteen years old, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, but was discharged two years later on account of a wound received in the Battle of Chickamauga. He attended Illinois State Normal University at Bloomington, taught district school, taught in Washington University, St. Louis, for two years, and received the degree of LL. B. from Washington University in 1869. In January, 1870, he located at Storm Lake, Iowa, for the practice of law. The town was new, only being laid out in that year. The county seat was at Sioux Rapids until in 1878 it was removed to Storm Lake. In 1875 Mr. Robinson was elected representative and he served in the Sixteenth General Assembly, his district being Pocahontas, Buena Vista, Palo Alto, and Emmet counties. In 1881 he was elected senator and he served in the Nineteenth General Assembly, his district being Woodbury, Plymouth, Sioux, Lyon, Cherokee, and Buena Vista counties. He also served as senator in the Twentieth and Twenty-first general assemblies, his district for both sessions being Buena Vista, Cherokee, Sac, and Ida counties. During the Twentieth General Assembly Senator Robinson was chairman of the Normal Schools Committee, and during the Twenty-first General Assembly he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee. From the organization of the State Normal School at Cedar Falls in 1876 until 1882 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of that institution. From the time he arrived at Storm Lake in 1870 until 1887 he practiced law and won a leading position in the legal profession in his part of the state. In November, 1887, while still a member of the Senate he was elected judge of the Supreme Court and was re-elected in 1893, serving twelve years, or from 1888 to 1899 inclusive. From 1890 to 1900 he was lecturer in the Law Department of the State University of Iowa. In 1895 the State University conferred on him the degree of LL. D. On retiring from the bench he was appointed February 23, 1900, by Governor Shaw to succeed Ex-Governor Larrabee as a member of the Board of Control, and served over thirteen years, or until July 1, 1913. He then retired from public service. To all these positions he brought industry, a high order of talent, and an integrity unquestioned, and thus rendered the state distinguished service.

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