



A. O. Sawyer

NOTABLE DEATHS

HORACE E. DEEMER was born at Bourbon, Marshall County, Indiana, September 24, 1858, and died at Red Oak, Iowa, February 26, 1917. He was of Dutch and Scotch-Irish descent, the grandparents of his father having emigrated from Holland to Pennsylvania shortly after the Thirty Years' War, and his mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Erwin, of Columbus City, Ohio, was Scotch-Irish. On both sides his ancestors espoused the cause of the Colonists in 1776 and always were opponents of slavery. The blood of the Teuton and Celt mingled in his veins and his fine appreciation of the rights of man may be traced to the sentiments of rugged pioneers, who, regardless of environments believed in universal freedom and equality. His father was a lumberman, but later kept a furniture store, and in assisting him, Deemer became a skilled carpenter. In 1866 the family removed to West Liberty, Iowa, where Horace, then eight years of age, attended school, being a member of the first class graduating from the high school of that place. After attending the Academic Department of the State University of Iowa one year he entered the Law Department from which he was graduated in June, 1879, with the degree of LL. B., and was admitted to the bar. He then passed several months in the offices of a firm of lawyers in Nebraska and, not being content, started for home. He had written J. M. Junkin, a member of his class, who had settled at Red Oak, to meet him at the train. Junkin did so and invited Deemer to join him in the practice of his profession. Deemer abandoned his journey and after looking over the field, accepted the proposition and continued a member of the firm until his elevation to the bench. They were successful from the first. Junkin, who subsequently served as state senator with distinction, departed this life several years ago. The circuit court was abolished early in 1886 and the number of districts and district judges increased. Deemer with A. B. Thornell and George Carson, recently deceased, were elected judges of the Fifteenth Judicial District in November of that year. The only objection urged against his candidacy was his youth (he was then twenty-eight) and some thought skill as a base ball player (Deemer was conceded to be one of the best in the state) was not commendatory of him for the position of judge. He served the people and bar as district judge with great acceptability for more than seven years. He was a student as well as a keen observer. His readings covered a wide field and his studies of the law were thorough and profound. In 1894 the number of judges of the supreme court was increased to six. Frank D. Jackson was then governor of the state and upon the endorsement by the bar and people of his district of Deemer's fitness, and his own knowledge of his qualifications for the place, the Governor appointed him to fill the vacancy created. Those who knew Judge Deemer ap-

proved of his selection, for at the age of thirty-five, he was as thoroughly equipped for the office as any lawyer in the state. His opinions, numbering about two thousand, filed during a period of more than twenty-two years, bear conclusive evidence of his great learning as a lawyer, scholastic attainments, wide knowledge of human affairs, keen sense of justice, faultless logic and powerful reasoning and of that wisdom peculiar to the judicial temperament. All are clothed in elegant diction. His courage never faltered. He was as immovable as a mountain after having become convinced, save on showing of some defect in reason, logic, or the premises, but if that happened, and it seldom did, he was quick to correct and eager to readjust his conclusion. In short, he was absolutely honest in his thinking. There is a boldness in his opinions which only can emanate from a thorough mastery of the law and entire familiarity with the facts and a conviction of the righteousness of the judgment pronounced. His opinions will be his monument, though he was interested in many activities and a member of many societies. He belonged to the National Guard and at one time was inspector with rank of major. As member of the Supreme Court he was ex-officio trustee of the State Library and Historical Department, and from 1898 until his death was chairman of the book committee, passing on the lists of books submitted for purchase by the several departments—always taking a deep and intelligent interest in the building of a great reference library for the people of the state. He entertained a similar interest in the Law Library and the collections of the Historical Department. He was never without the necessary time for consultation, personally or by correspondence, with the heads of the several departments—Mr. Small, in charge of the Law Library, Mr. Aldrich, and after his death, Mr. Harlan, curator of the Historical Department, and Mr. Brigham, the state librarian—and he was exceedingly helpful to all, for he kept abreast with the work of each. Judge Deemer was lecturer in the Law Department of the State University from 1895 until 1904, and in 1900 was tendered the position of dean of that department. He belonged to many societies among which may be mentioned the Iowa Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, State Association of Charities and Corrections, American Forestry Association, State and American Bar Associations, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Political and Social Science Association, National Association for the Promotion of Industrial Education, and many others. In 1912 he published his work on "Pleading and Practice," and was the author of several monographs on important subjects and delivered addresses on a wide range of subjects, only a partial list of which appears in a volume entitled "Iowa Authors." The degree of LL. D. was conferred on him by the Iowa State University and by Cornell College in 1904. He received a large vote in the General Assembly in 1911 for United States senator to succeed Senator Dolliver and was twice candidate for appointment as justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Deemer was married July 12, 1882, to Jeanette Gibson, a lady of culture and rare graces of refined womanhood.

She with one daughter and two grandsons survive him. In a sketch like this it is impossible to do more than enumerate the leading events of such a life. He filled the measure of usefulness and efficiency to the brim. His character and achievements are worthy of highest emulation.—
S. M. LADD.

CAPTAIN EDWARD M. SHEEHAN was born at Independence, Iowa, September 27, 1880, and died of pneumonia, in the base hospital at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico, January 12, 1918. He spent his boyhood in Independence, attended school at Seminary Notre Dame, Independence, and the Independence High School, attended the Medical Department of the State University of Iowa for two years and finished his medical course at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1905. He was connected for a time with St. Joseph's Hospital at Denver, Colorado, later practiced medicine two years at Elkader, Iowa, also a short time at Lamont, but returned to his former home at Independence in 1909 and entered practice there. He began his military career by enlisting in Company E, Forty-ninth Iowa Infantry on February 5, 1900, and remained a member until it was mustered out May 10, 1902. On June 16, 1902, he enlisted in Company L of the Forty-ninth Iowa Infantry and was commissioned second lieutenant. On February 12, 1907, he was honorably discharged, owing to his removal from the home station. On July 11, 1907, he re-enlisted and was commissioned second lieutenant and appointed battalion quartermaster and commissary officer of the Fifty-third Iowa Infantry. August 1, 1913, he was transferred to the medical corps as first lieutenant. When relations with Mexico became strained in 1916 he closed his office, abandoning a good practice, and joined his regiment at Brownsville. Returning home that winter he resumed his practice until the spring of 1917 when he entered service again, and was promoted to captain. He was put in charge of the recruiting station at Fort Dodge, and also of the companies who were guarding bridges and other property in Iowa, at Boone, Fort Dodge, Madrid and Jefferson. In the fall of 1917 for a time he was on duty in the base hospital at Camp Dodge, Des Moines. In September, 1917, he went with his regiment to Camp Cody, being on duty there at the time of his death.

HENRY HARRISON ROOD was born at Greenwich, Washington County, New York, February 6, 1841, and died at State Center, Iowa, October 25, 1915. Interment was at Mount Vernon. His parents having died he came to Nevada, Iowa, when fifteen years old. He worked as a day laborer and taught school and in 1860 went from Tama to Mt. Vernon on foot and entered Cornell College. He remained there until in September, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, and was commissioned second lieutenant. He soon became first lieutenant and later, adjutant. He was then made judge advocate of the Fourth

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