



THOMAS J. NOLL
Grinnell

State Commander Iowa Department G. A. R.
1932-1933 and 1943
National Judge Advocate General
1940-1943

NOTABLE DEATHS

THOMAS J. NOLL, attorney and superior court judge, State Commander of the Department of Iowa, Grand Army of the Republic and National Judge Advocate General at the time of his passing, died at his home, 2009 York street, Des Moines, Iowa, August 31, 1943 in his 99th year; born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1844; the fifth of eleven children of Jacob Edelmann Noll and Hester Temple Noll. One of Jacob's brothers, Christian Noll, came to Iowa and settled in Cedar County about 1854 and many of the latter's decendants now reside in the section of the state from Ida Grove to Spencer. Jacob Noll operated a hotel and ran a ferry across the Susquehana river in Lycoming county, the family moving to Illinois in 1852, settling in a community a few miles south of Pecatonica, where the father and eldest son engaged in tailoring.

At about twelve years of age Thomas Noll started earning his own way, working for farmers east of Pecatonica through the summers for his board and room and attended the winter terms of school. Two elder brothers entered the Federal army forces at the beginning of the war and later Thomas with his brother John enlisted together, Thomas serving as private Co. C 146th Illinois infantry for ten months. Upon returning from the army he came to Iowa, his father having joined his brother Christian in Cedar county. Thomas farmed and taught school two years then went back to Rockford, Illinois, in August 1867, where he attended the Lownsberry academy for two years, assisting in teaching the last year; also teaching in Tama county, where he was principal of the Buckingham school, a town site laid out being about a mile and a half northwest of Traer, but lost its prestige when the railroad was built through the latter region and Traer becoming a station was built up.

Mr. Noll went to the University of Iowa, at first intending to study medicine but switching to law, graduated from the university law school in 1875. That same year he married Sarah Stuart, a graduate of Iowa college, now known as Grinnell college. They resided first in Sibley, then in Traer, before settling in Grundy Center. In the summer of 1942 Mr. Noll drove through Sibley and expressed great pride in the attractive park there which he had surveyed and laid out years before. He practiced law in Grundy Center and Grinnell, Iowa, serving as judge of the superior court in Grinnell from 1929 to 1933. He was also a justice of the peace in both localities. A man of sterling honesty, with an unshakable belief in people, he had a sense of humor that endeared him to

all, that never deserted him to his last day. He was a devoted husband and father, a friend who enjoyed meeting and knowing those around him, yet withal modest in his evaluation of himself; a Christian gentleman who made his religion a practical part of his life.

One of the greatest pleasures of Mr. Noll's later life came when he was appointed representative of Iowa Civil war veterans to return the flag of Alabama to the capitol of that state. The cordial welcome shown him by the Daughters of the Confederacy and Governor Dixon and his wife touched him deeply. He was glad to stand, hands clasped with the State Adjutant of the Confederate veterans under the star where Jefferson Davis took oath of office. To him it symbolized the ideal that North and South were united. A charter member of the Wilson Post No. 71, Grand Army of the Republic of Grundy Center, Iowa, having joined March 22, 1882, he removed to Grinnell, Iowa in 1897 and was transferred to the Gordon Grander Post No. 64. He was elected Department Commander of Iowa, first in 1932 at Council Bluffs and again in 1943 at Davenport. He was appointed assistant adjutant and assistant quartermaster general of Iowa in 1938 when he moved to Des Moines and served in that office until 1942. Following the death of Judge James W. Willett in May 1940 he was appointed National Judge Advocate General and reappointed each year at each succeeding national encampment.

He is survived by four children, eight grand children and six great grandchildren. Of the children Grace E. Noll Smith was formerly a high school instructor at Grand Junction, Colorado; Ashley J. Noll, in the ship building industry at Tacoma, Washington; Amy Noll, Des Moines, state secretary of the Department of Iowa, Grand Army of the Republic, formerly a librarian; and Warren S. Noll, instructor in the Army Training School, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His youngest grandchild, Robert Noll of Tacoma, Washington, graduate of Pacific university August 31, 1943, was on his way to Northwestern university for training as ensign at the time of his grandfather's death. Interment was in Hazelwood cemetery, Grinnell, Iowa on September 2, 1943.

JOHN R. NEEDHAM, newspaper publisher, born March 3, 1873, Oskaloosa, Iowa, died October 21, 1943, Centerville, Iowa, the second of seven children of William H. Needham, a pioneer Iowa publisher, and Olive Knowlton Needham. His uncle, John R. Needham, once lieutenant governor of Iowa, was one of the founders of the Oskaloosa Herald. His father was a printer before the Civil war, but laid aside his work to volunteer in the Twenty-second Iowa infantry, becoming a lieutenant and commanded his company in critical undertakings. Returning from the war he was identified with the Oskaloosa Herald, married and with his

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