



WILLIAM H. BERRY

NOTABLE DEATHS

WILLIAM H. BERRY was born in Cass County, Illinois, October 23, 1849, and died at Indianola, Iowa, March 25, 1923. His parents were Benjamin C. and Isabel (Van Eaton) Berry, with whom he came in their removal to Warren County, Iowa, in 1867. He was graduated from Simpson College, Indianola, in 1872 and then entered on the study of law with J. H. Henderson at Indianola, was admitted to the bar in 1873, and at once formed a partnership with Mr. Henderson as Henderson & Berry. In 1885 Mr. Henderson was elected circuit judge, after which Mr. Berry practiced alone until Mr. Henderson in 1896 resigned the district judgeship, to which he had been elected after the circuit court was abolished. Then the partnership of Henderson & Berry was renewed and continued until 1901, after which Mr. Berry practiced alone until 1903 when he was joined by J. O. Watson as Berry & Watson, which firm continued to 1906, and was renewed in 1911 and continued until 1920. Walter W. Ripper was his partner in the firm of Berry & Ripper the last few years. In the fifty years of his practice he had the distinction of attending all the 200 terms of court held in his county, excepting one when he was sick with typhoid fever. He was an able lawyer and had a large practice both as consulting counsel and in the trial of cases. He also had a large loan business, was president of the Worth Savings Bank from its organization until his death, and was a conservative and successful business man. For thirty years he was superintendent of the Indianola Methodist Sunday School, and in 1884 was a lay delegate to the General Conference in Philadelphia, and again in 1904 in Los Angeles. He was a trustee of Simpson College for over thirty years, being chairman of the board a part of the time. For years he was a leader in the Ancient Order of United Workmen, represented the Grand Lodge many times in the Supreme Lodge, and acted in a legal capacity for the Supreme Lodge in important litigation. In 1892 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis. In 1895 he was elected senator and served in the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-sixth Extra and Twenty-seventh general assemblies. The work of these sessions not only included the code revision of 1897 but the enactment of much important legislation, including the creation of the Board of Control, in all of which he took an active and important part. Governor Cummins appointed him a member of the Board of Parole for the term of two years commencing July 1, 1907, which made him chairman of the board at its organization and when its early policy was being developed. In 1909 Governor Carroll re-appointed him on the board for a full six-year term, which he served, being chairman again the last two years. In 1908 he had strong support for the nomination of judge of the Supreme Court, and more than once he was popularly considered for the Republican nomination for governor. He was a man of large ability and of sterling integrity.

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