

Rapids Library Board and in 1901 was president of the Iowa Library Association. He drafted the bill that was with few changes passed in 1900 creating the Iowa Library Commission, and from then until his last illness was its legal adviser.

---

ROBERT SLOAN was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 21, 1835, and died at Keosauqua, Iowa, June 5, 1922. His earliest education was obtained in a school in New Lisbon where Mark Hanna was one of his schoolmates. In 1853 he came with his parents when they migrated by boat to Keokuk, and partly by boat and partly on foot to where they purchased a farm across the Des Moines River from Iowa-ville, which farm is still in the possession of the Sloan family. The time from 1853 to 1860 was spent by Robert working on the farm, in teaching school, and in mercantile employment. In April, 1860, he began reading law at Keosauqua, and in March, 1861, he was admitted to practice. On June 1 of that year he became a member of the firm of Webster & Sloan. Mr. Webster removed to Nevada in 1864 and Mr. Sloan then joined the firm of Rankin & McCrary of Keokuk, he caring for the business at Keosauqua. In 1869 he was elected judge of the Circuit Court and served until 1880, when he again entered practice, becoming the senior member of the firm of Sloan, Work & Brown. In 1895 he was elected a judge of the District Court of the Second Judicial District, and served until 1906. He then formed a partnership with his son, Hugh B. Sloan, which continued until his death. He served as master in chancery in 1911 in the trial of the noted Des Moines gas case, then pending in Federal Court, as well as in a number of other cases referred to him at different times. He was distinguished throughout Iowa for his strong and lucid opinions.

---

GEORGE W. KOONTZ was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1843, and died at Iowa City, Iowa, June 30, 1922. He removed to Iowa City in 1855 and attended common school and high school there. He was elected clerk of the District Court of Johnson County in 1874, was re-elected in 1876, and again in 1878. In 1883 he was elected county auditor and was re-elected in 1885. In 1884 he was admitted to the bar. On the death of Representative Joe A. Edwards in the summer of 1898, Mr. Koontz was elected to fill the vacancy in the Twenty-seventh General Assembly, but as no extra session of that assembly was convened he did not sit as a member. However, the next year he was elected representative in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly and was regularly re-elected to the seven succeeding assemblies, his last service being in the Thirty-fifth. Thus for eight consecutive assemblies, or sixteen years, he served as representative, exceeding by two assemblies the service of any other man as representative in the history of the state. He was a Democrat in politics, was the leader of his party in the House for several sessions, and always held important

committee appointments. The State University was indebted to him for loyal service. From 1911 to 1916 he was mayor of Iowa City. In 1918 he was Democratic candidate for state railroad commissioner. For several years he was president of the Citizens Savings Bank of Iowa City. He was also at various times school treasurer, city treasurer, and justice of the peace.

---

JOHN WATSON ROWLEY was born at New Garden, Columbiana County, Ohio, July 23, 1846, and died at Keosauqua, Iowa, September 7, 1921. His parents were Theodore B. and Emeline Rowley. He came with them in 1854 in their removal to a farm near Utica, Van Buren County, Iowa. Most of the time between 1866 and 1875 he taught school. In 1875 he was elected county superintendent of Van Buren County and served four years. In 1879 he removed to Keosauqua, purchased a half interest in the *Keosauqua Republican*, became its editor and continued as such until his death, a period of over forty years. During that time he had two partners, Joshua Sloan from 1879 to 1895, and John H. Landes from 1895 during the remainder of his editorship. In 1880 he was supervisor of census for the First District, and had the unique distinction of holding that position four consecutive times, namely 1880, 1890, 1900, and 1910. From 1882 to 1886 he was a member of the State Board of Educational Examiners, most of the time its secretary. In 1914 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor, made his campaign in opposition to the extension of the State Capitol grounds, and received 19,363 votes while George W. Clarke received 86,141. In 1916 he was elected representative and served in the Thirty-seventh General Assembly. He was a man of marked ability, of the old-time school of editor, and a very conservative citizen. He neither asked nor gave quarter in affairs that he espoused in personal or public character. He was in every way that which he made the motto of his paper, "Radical Republican; Neutral in Nothing."

---

WILLIAM THEOPHILUS was born in Carmarthenshire, Wales, August 6, 1858, and died in Davenport, Iowa, November 23, 1922. His parents were Daniel and Margaret (Williams) Theophilus. He was with his parents in their migration to a farm near Lime Springs, Howard County, Iowa, in 1868. He attended public school and taught several terms in the vicinity of his home. In 1882 he was elected clerk of the District Court of Howard County, and was re-elected in 1884. In 1886 he was Democratic candidate for clerk of the Supreme Court of Iowa. In 1887 he was elected representative and served in the Twenty-second General Assembly. In 1889 he removed to Arkansas City, Kansas. He had been reading law for some years, was admitted to the bar in Kansas, and soon thereafter was elected city attorney for Arkansas City and had charge of important litigation. He removed to Davenport, Iowa, in 1894 and the next year formed a partnership for the practice of law

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.