

James L. Brookhart

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JAMES L. BROOKHART was born in Scotland county, Missouri, September 9, 1871, and died in Washington, Iowa, November 11, 1926. His parents were Abram Colar and Cynthia Ann (Wildman) Brookhart. In 1875 the family removed to Minnesota, but in 1877 returned to the neighborhood of their former home in Missouri. In 1879 they removed to a farm in the southwest part of Jefferson county, Iowa, and in 1885 to the northwest part of Van Buren county. James L. had attended common school in the neighborhoods where the family had resided, and when seventeen years old began teaching country schools in the vicinity of the family home, which he continued a few years. In 1896 he was graduated from Washington Academy. He was principal of a grade school in Washington, studied law in the office of his brother, Smith W. Brookhart, and was admitted to the bar in 1898, and was appointed county attorney of Washington county to serve in the place of his brother, Smith, who was absent in the Spanish-American War. He was engaged in the practice of law and other enterprises in Washington with his brother, Smith. He was elected senator in 1918 and was re-elected in 1922, serving in the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, Fortieth Extra, and Forty-first general assemblies. He was a candidate for renomination as a Republican in the primaries of 1926, but was defeated by William Carden. In his legislative service Mr. Brookhart supported a bill to guarantee individual bank deposits, and favored divesting the State Highway Commission of some of its authority.

WILLIAM JASPER SPRINGER was born at Clinton, Dewitt County, Illinois, November 13, 1852, and died at a hospital at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, February 24, 1926. Burial was at New Hampton, Iowa. He was a son of William G. Springer, a pioneer schoolmaster of Illinois and a Christian minister of Illinois and Iowa, and Lydia Miller Springer. He was brought by his parents in their removal to the village of West Pilot, Iowa county, Iowa, in 1856. The first school he attended was one taught by his father at West Pilot. He later attended school at North English and at Iowa City. He taught school in North English, read law with Rumble & Lake at Marengo, and was admitted to the bar August 27, 1879, at Marengo. Shortly thereafter he removed to New Hampton where he began practice, being for many years the senior member of the firm of Springer & Clary, and later of Springer, Clary & Condon. He acted as assistant county attorney of Chickasaw county in 1890-94. He was twice mayor of New Hampton—March, 1892, to March, 1893, and again from March, 1900, to March, 1901. He was appointed judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District by Governor Carroll August 1, 1912, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge L. E. Fellows and, by reason of four elections, held that position until his death. He was twice elected president of the Iowa Judges Association, and was held in honorable estimation by members of his profession and by the public.

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