

Daniel Frederick Coyle

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DANIEL FREDERICK COYLE, jurist, died September 17, 1941, in Humboldt, Iowa. Born in Avoca, Wisconsin, in 1858, he came with his parents to Humboldt County when four years old. Educated in the public school of Dakota City, he attended Humboldt College in 1874, and later the State University of Iowa, completing the law course there in 1881. Practicing law in Dakota City, he was elected mayor of that town in 1882. He was elected to the Twenty-third General Assembly in 1889, serving but one term in the House of Representatives. In 1906 he was elected to the bench of the 14th Judicial District, and served continuously until his retirement in 1930. In the meantime, until the college closed in 1915, he headed the law department of Humboldt College. He also taught law in the State University of Iowa College of Law. Following the closure of Humboldt College, Judge Coyle offered free instruction in law to students in his own home. He was also the originator of Lawyers' Chautauqua which meets annually at Lake Okoboji. Judge Coyle was interested in music and in youth bands, which he on occasions helped to direct, and for which he was generous in the provision of music, instruments, and lessons.

EDGAR RUBEY HARLAN, former Curator of the Historical Department, died July 13, 1941, at his home in Des Moines. Born February 28, 1869, in Spartansburg, Indiana, the son of Samuel Alexander and Marinda Ellen Rubey Harlan, he moved with the family to Van Buren County, Iowa, at an early age. Graduated from the Keosauqua High School in 1889, Mr. Harlan attended the law department of Drake University, being graduated in 1896, and entering the practice of the law that same year in Keosauqua, Iowa. In 1898 he was elected County Attorney for Van Buren County, following which term he entered the law firm of Work, Brown and Harlan in 1901. In 1907 Charles Aldrich, founder of the Historical Department, brought Mr. Harlan to Des Moines as his assistant. Acting Curator from the death of Mr. Aldrich in 1908 until October 1, 1909, when he was appointed to head the Department, Mr. Harlan served continuously until April 1, 1937, when he was retired.

Mr. Aldrich founded the Department; it was Mr. Harlan's task to build upon that foundation. The vast additions to the museum division, the further functioning of the division of archives, the continuance of the other divisions of the Department, the newspapers, library and THE ANNALS OF IOWA, bear evidence of the success of his work.

An ardent conservationist, an enthusiastic collector and marker of historic objects and historic sites, Mr. Harlan's chief passions in history were the Pioneers, the Mormon Trail, and the Indians of Iowa, especially the Mesquakies of Tama. In 1907 he helped to found the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, now the largest association

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