

Thomas W. Harrison

ISSN 0003-4827



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Recommended Citation

"Thomas W. Harrison." *The Annals of Iowa* 9 (1910), 560-560.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol9/iss6/35>

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the practice of law with Hon. E. H. Stiles. He remained in the practice until 1872, when he assisted in the organization of a number of very important enterprises which advanced the city of Ottumwa to the forefront as a western manufacturing center. He resumed the practice in 1875. In 1879 he was elected to the House and in 1881 to the Senate of the state Legislature, being re-elected to the Senate in 1884. He was a member of the ways and means and judiciary committees. The system of registration for elections was one of the best of his many good measures. He was nominated for Governor by the Republican state convention in 1889, being defeated at the election by Horace Boies. He promoted and for seven years served as president of the Ottumwa National Bank. In 1891 he established a wholesale grocery business bearing his name and retained its management while he lived. He was president of the Ottumwa Law and Order League. He was alert, courageous and most effective in his enterprises for the good of his community, and carried a state-wide reputation for honesty, integrity and nobility of character.

THOMAS W. HARRISON was born in Waukesha county, Wis., March 7, 1842; he died at Topeka, Kansas, May 21, 1910. He was educated in the common and high schools of Wisconsin and at the University of Michigan. He enlisted in the 10th Wisconsin volunteer infantry in May, 1861, and with his regiment participated in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamaugua, and the engagements about Atlanta. At Chickamaugua he was captured Sept. 20, 1863, and for ten months confined in Confederate prisons, being removed from one to another. On June 29, 1864, when on the way from the prison at Columbia to Andersonville, he made his escape by cutting through the bottom of the freight car in which he was being transported, and after traveling through the enemy's country, reached Sherman's army between Chattanooga and Atlanta. He continued in the army until August, 1865, receiving a commission as lieutenant-colonel for meritorious service. After the war Col. Harrison attended the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating in 1869. Upon his admission to the bar, he removed to Independence, Iowa, where he practiced for a short time, thence in 1870, to Emmetsburg. He served as county surveyor in 1871, and held a number of minor public offices. He did much to foster horticultural and agricultural enterprises in Palo Alto county. In 1883 he was elected a member of the lower house of the 20th General Assembly. Failing health in 1887 caused his removal to Topeka, Kansas, where he afterward resided. He was a writer on agricultural subjects and was an active member of fraternal societies, being a 33d degree Mason, and a member of the G. A. R., and of the Sons of the American Revolution.

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