

A most creditable record in connection with the judicial history of North Dakota is that of Judge Will H. Carleton, of Cooperstown, who has been eight times elected county judge of Griggs county, a record which proves his capability and his fidelity to the high purposes and standards of the office which he occupies. He was born in St. Clair county, Michigan, December 16, 1853, a son of Moses F. and Mary (Latham) Carleton, the former born in New Hampshire in 1831, while the latter was a native of New York. The grandfather William H. Carleton, was a representative of an old colonial family and on leaving the east he removed to Michigan, settling on the present site of St. Clair, in which vicinity a number of his relatives took up their abode about 1831, thus aiding in reclaiming that region for the purposes of civilization. One of the thoroughfares of St. Clair still retains the name of Yankee street, which was given to it by these early settlers. They took up land and engaged in farming and Moses F. Carleton long occupied the original homestead of the family there. Prominent in the public life of the community, he was elected county clerk and occupied that position for six years, while for four years he was deputy county treasurer and made his home in Port Huron, Michigan. In 1864, at the time of the Civil war, he enlisted as a member of Company I, Fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, serving in eastern Tennessee and northern Alabama, while later he was sent with his regiment to Texas, where they were held on guard duty until 1866. He had first joined the Thirtieth Michigan Regiment, which had been recruited but was then divided, part of the troops being assigned to the Fourth Regiment and part to the Third Regiment of Michigan Volunteers which were being organized. He entered the service as first sergeant and was mustered out as second lieutenant, receiving his honorable discharge at Detroit. He passed away in 1905 at the age of seventy-four years.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Moses F. Carleton numbered two daughters and Judge Carleton is the only son. He began his education in the district schools and afterward attended the high school at St. Clair. He acted as deputy while his father filled the office of county clerk, and later he took up the study of law but owing to impaired health was obliged to return to the farm, whereon he remained for two years, although he had been admitted to the bar. In 1882 he made his way to the present site of Cooperstown, North Dakota, and took up a preemption and later a homestead claim in Cooperstown township. He then turned his attention to farming, concentrating his efforts upon the development and improvement of his land until 1888, when he established his home in Cooperstown. He was employed by the Gull River Lumber Company, being connected for a number of years with a lumberyard owned by them. He also practiced law and in 1889 his fellow townsmen elected him states attorney of Griggs County, which position he filled for two years. He then entered upon the active work of his profession in private practice and so continued until 1889, when he was appointed county judge to fill out an unexpired term and at each successive election since that time, eight in all, he has been chosen by popular suffrage for the office and since the first two terms has had no opposition.

In 1879 Judge Carleton was married to Miss Eliza Davis, who was born in St. Clair county, Michigan, a daughter of William H. and Mary Ann Davis. She passed away in 1904 and in 1910 Judge Carleton wedded Daisy A. Smithers, a native of England, who was engaged in teaching.

The Judge is a Mason and is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, but he concentrates his energies almost entirely upon his official duties and his marked ability, fairness and impartiality are indicated by his long retention in an office to which life and liberty, truth and justice must look for protection. He has ever been interested in the matter of family history and compiled a genealogy of the Carletons, tracing the line back to Baldwin de Carleton, A.D. 1066, who was the founder of the Carletons of Cumberland county, England. The prefix de was continued for thirteen generations. Edward Carleton settled in Massachusetts in 1638, becoming the founder of the family in the new world. Among the names of prominence figuring on the pages of the family history several have been knighted. Sir William Carleton was of the seventeenth generation of the Carletons of Carleton Hall, Cumberland, England, and Sir Walter de Carleton was of the branch that settled in Oxfordshire, while Sir Dudley Carleton, Viscount Dorchester, was also of the Oxfordshire branch. Will^M Carleton, the famous American poet, was of the same parent stock as Moses F. Carleton, whose records of the family are complete from the year 1066 to the present generation.

WILL H. CARLETON.

From Compendium of N.D.

WILL H. CARLETON, county judge of Griggs county, is a gentleman of excellent characteristics, and is highly esteemed throughout that section. He is one of the pioneer settlers of Cooperstown, and has been identified with its financial and social growth, and is deservedly popular as a public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Carleton was born on a farm in St. Clair county, Michigan, December 16, 1853, and was the only son in a family of three children born to Moses F. and Mary (Latham) Carleton. His father was an attorney by profession and was a prominent man in St. Clair county. He served two years in the Fourth Michigan Infantry during the Civil war. The mother of our subject was a native of New York.

Our subject was the eldest in the family of children, and after completing his studies he served as deputy county clerk in his native county for several years, and afterward began reading law in the office of Avery Brothers, at Port Huron, Michigan. He returned to the farm in the late '70s, and remained two years, and in 1882 went to Griggs County, North Dakota. He filed on land soon after his arrival there and became one of the pioneer settlers of the county.

Our subject was married, in St. Clair county, Michigan, during the late '70s, to Miss Eliza J. Davis, a native of that county, and a daughter of William H. Davis. Mrs. Carleton's father was a prominent farmer of that county. Mr. Carleton is a man of exceptional ability, and enjoys the confidence of the people. He has served as clerk of the village since its organization, and he served two years as district attorney of the county, and was appointed judge of Griggs county in 1899. He is prominent in the Modern Woodmen of America lodge, and is the clerk of the local camp. Politically Mr. Carleton is a Republican.

WILL H. CARLETON

William H. Carleton was born Dec. 16, 1853 on a farm near St. Claire, Mich. where he attended grade school. He graduated from the St. Claire (Mich) High School.

At the age of 19, Mr. Carleton moved to Port Huron, Mich. where he filled the office of Deputy County Clerk of Court for 6 years; one year he worked in the County Attorney's office.

In the spring of 1881, a group of young men from Mr. Carleton's home town (St. Claire) had gone to what is now Griggs County to work at the Cooper Bros. farm. These men were spending the winter of 1881 at their various homes in St. Claire.

In the early spring of 1882, R.C. Cooper telegraphed the group of men to come to Dakota Territory immediately as he had employment for them; they could begin seeding at once as the snow was already off the ground.

Will Carleton, who suffered in health on account of the damp climate in Michigan decided to accompany these men to Dakota Territory. Mr. Carleton with the rest of the men arrived (in a boxcar with horses and machinery) to Fargo March 26, 1882. It took them a whole day to travel from Fargo to Sanborn where they were greeted by a howling blizzard. After waiting three days for the ~~storm~~ storm to subside, they drove to Cooperstown, where Mr. Carleton took a home - stead 5 miles N.W. of Cooperstown.

The first year that Mr. Carleton lived in Griggs County, mail had to be hauled from Sanborn, a distance of 40 miles. The first ^{three} winters he hauled his ~~mail~~ mail to Sanborn; on the return trip he hauled lumber.

Neither the town of Cooperstown or the county of Griggs was organized when Mr. Cooper came to Dakota Territory. The winter between 1882-83 when the community numbered between 300 and 400 people, Cooperstown was organized into a village.

In 1884 Will Carleton hauled from Sanborn the stones which were used to erect the Griggs County Court House in 1884.

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WILL H. CARLETON

In 1886 Mr. Carleton moved to the village of Cooperstown, where he worked ^{four} years for the Gull River Lumber Co. In 1891 he was elected county attorney for a two year term (1891-1893). In 1893 he again worked for the Gull River Lumber Co. and practiced law in his leisure moments.

In 1899, Will Carleton was appointed Griggs county judge to succeed Judge Johnson Johnson who died while an incumbent.

In 1879, W.H. Carleton was united in marriage to Elisa J. Davis who passed away in 1904. 6 years later he married Daisy E. Smithers.

W.H. Carleton was the first clerk of the township of Cooperstown; first clerk of Village of Cooperstown and first city auditor of the city of Cooperstown.

Judge Carleton can trace his family history back to 1066 (the Norman Invasion)) in England. Mr. Carleton ^{father} made a complete family tree of the first Carleton (then called ^{de} Carleton) family from 1066 to the date of his death Jan. 7, 1905. There were 2,000 names that his father was unable to connect with the tree. The family was traced back to Baldwin de Carleton, who lived near ~~Penri~~ Cumberland co. England. in 1066. Thirteen generations later Thomas Carleton Carleton established Carleton Hall, where his descendants have lived for 600 years. The Carleton's came to Rawleigh, Mass. in 1638; later moved to Maine; from there to New Hampshire. Judge Carleton's grandfather, William H. Carleton walked from the state of Vermont to the state of Mich. when that state was a wilderness and inhabited by Indians.

Moses Carleton, Mr. Carleton's father served in The Civil War as lieutenant in the 4th Mich. Infantry, Company II. Judge Carleton has in his possession the sword that his father carried in the Civil War; also the photo graph containing pictures of his comrades belonging to Company II.

Mary E. Carleton Dickonson of St. Claire, Mich.

Judge Will H. Carleton is the last member bearing the Carleton name in his branch of the family tree.

WILL H. CARLETON

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He is a member of the Masonic and Woodmen Lodges. His ability as a judge can be measured by the fact that in only ^{two} cases of all the verdicts he has passed ~~have~~ been carried to higher courts. One of the cases that were appealed, had three different decisions passed on it.

Judge Carleton has served as judge of Griggs County for _____ years. In the first ^{three} elections since Will H. Carleton served as Griggs county Judge, he had no opposition; since then he has had no opponents for the office.