

Clency St. Clair

Born 24 May 1871, Vinton, Iowa. Died 24 May 1957, age 86, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Parents: Robert St. Clair, Willa Alcorn. Spouse: Adeline Wright, Sept. 1906 Idaho Falls

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Death Claims Law Pioneer

Clency St. Clair, well known retired Idaho Falls attorney who has served Idaho law and Idaho for 55 years, died quietly early Friday morning at a local hospital.

Mr. St. Clair had been hospitalized for the past five weeks. Death was attributed to causes incident to old age. He died on his 86th birthday.

The pioneer Idaho Falls attorney began a distinguished law career when he came to Idaho Falls from Omaha, Neb., to set up his own law practice in 1902. In the years that that followed, he came a recognized legal authority over Idaho on land titles and irrigation law. A tenacious researcher, his thoroughgoing mind made for him an unusual presentation in law circles on title law particularly.

Prominent Republican

Active in Republican party politics, Mr. St. Clair at one time served as State Senator from Bonneville County and was preeminent in the division of the then sprawling Bingham County to create the new Bonneville County early in the century.

A charter member and second president of the Idaho Falls Rotary Club, he is also a "50 year Mason" and was honored by the local Masonic Lodge with a 50 year certificate several years ago. A Shriner, he is also past commander of the Idaho Falls Commandery of Knights Templar.

One of the most significant tributes to his long, active career was his appointment to the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho. He served 15 years in that capacity. The University of Idaho extended one of its highest honors by conferring on him an honorary doctorate of law.

Life Membership

Another milestone in his career was presentation in 1963 of a lifetime membership in the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce in ceremonies at the chamber's annual meeting. It is the most signal honor for community service bestowed by the chamber.

He was a member of the Idaho Bar Association, the Ninth Judicial Bar Assn., and the Elks Lodge. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Born May 24, 1871, at Vinton, IA, he spent his boyhood at Minden and Holdrege, Neb. and Sedan, Kansas. While visiting his sister, the late Mrs. H. J. Hasbrouck, in Idaho Falls in 1893, he became attracted to the opportunities in East Idaho and decided to open up his own law firm here.

Shortly after his brother-in-law H.J. Hasbrouck, left his law practice here, Mr. St. Clair interested a younger brother, Charles C. St. Clair, to come west and form a law partnership with him.

In 1906 he became associated with Paul P. Peterson, well-known local attorney, and his son Robert W. St. Clair, to form a new partnership. This continued until another son, Gilbert S. Clair, entered the law firm.

The father became associated with both of his sons then in the new law firm under title of St. Clair and St. Clair. He retired shortly after this arrangement.

Married to the former Adaline Wright in Idaho Falls in 1906, he reared a family of five. Besides his two well-known attorney sons here, other members of his immediate family who survive are Mrs. John Robinson, Phoenix, Ariz.; Mrs. L. R. Cannon, Boise; and Mrs. Joseph Clayton, Boise. Mrs. St. Clair also survives.

. . . The body has been taken to Buck Funeral Home.