

C.W. Lattin, County Historian

## County Officials: 1909

2-15-01

It was very obviously a man's world when this picture was taken of our county officials in 1909: 11 years would elapse before women had the right to vote.

There are 22 men in this picture, with all their names written on the back of the photo.

The problem is, they are jumbled and not placed in any kind of order or rows. So, we really do not know who is who.

One man is George W. Posson, county superintendent of the poor, who served in this capacity from 1907 to 1911 when it was an elected job.

The others include: Herbert T. Reed, surrogate clerk; Patrick McEntee, Gaines supervisor from 1906 to 1909; W. Reed Curtis, Carlton supervisor from 1908 to 1909; Isaac G. Signor, county judge from 1883 to 1894 and 1905 to

1911; W. Crawford Ramsdale, district attorney from 1907 to 1909; Leigh S. Hill, Yates supervisor from 1906 to 1909; and Mortimer Blake, Kendall supervisor from 1906 to 1909.

Also included are: C. Royce Sawyer, county treasurer from 1906 to 1911; Coley P. Wright, Albion supervisor from 1908 to 1909 and state assemblyman in 1910; Frank A. Waters, Ridgeway supervisor from 1908 to 1911, George S. Callahan, Orleans County sheriff from 1907 to 1909;

David C. Ryan, Shelby supervisor from 1906 to 1909, 1912-1913 and 1918 to 1921; Frederick M. Thompson, clerk of the Board of Supervisors; and Harry D. Waldo, county superintendent of highways, who was appointed in 1909.

And others are: Harry D. Bartlett, Orleans County clerk from 1908 to 1919; William F. Schrader, Barre supervisor in

1909; James F. O'Brien, Orleans County undersheriff; B. Frank Boots, Clarendon supervisor from 1906 to 1909; W. Bennett, deputy county treasurer; Neville L. Cole, Murray supervisor from 1894 to 1898 and 1906 to 1909; and Harry S. Spencer, deputy county clerk.

A few of these men, I can identify without mistake. Coley P. Wright is second from the left in the front row. By his right shoulder is Frederick M. Thompson, and Herbert T. Reed is the man to the far right end of the second row.

Harry Spencer is in the left end of the top row, in front of the column. Next to him is Neville Cole, the only man in the picture with eye glasses.

Also in the top row to the right, by the other column, is W. Crawford Ramsdale. To his right is C. Royce Sawyer,



the man with the derby hat. In front of Ramsdale is Isaac G. Signor.

The front steps of the county courthouse always have been a popular place for people to gather for a group picture. Surely, image was important to all these men at the time and they are well-dressed, which exudes a pres-

ence of professionalism.

Although, I might point out that many of the men here — who made up the board of supervisors back then — were farmers.

They all seem to have hats on, which tells us no man's professional attire was complete without one. Most are wearing derby hats. However,

this was obviously a period of transition, as a few men are wearing more "Modern" styles.

Back at this time, there were fewer county departments and less need for so many servers as we expect today. Surely, life had to be more simple, when these men gathered for this image.