

Bethinking of.

Old Orleans

12-18-85

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Judge Edwin B. Simonds  
1860-1905

Vol. VII

No. 50

"Be willing to listen to every godly discourse;  
and let not the parables of understanding  
escape thee. And if thou seest a man of  
understanding, get thee betimes unto him, and  
let thy foot wear the steps of his door.  
Accept no man against thine own soul, and  
let not reverence for any man cause they to  
fall." — Ecclesiasticus

Edwin B. Simonds was born in the Town of Shelby on Dec. 20, 1860 to Egbert B. and Arvilla L. Simonds. He received his primary and secondary education in the common schools. From here he attended the State Normal School at Brockport and upon completion of his work there taught school for five years. During this time he began his study of law, first for two years under Henry Childs and Edmunds Pitts in their law office in Medina. He also spent a year studying under Judge Hulett of Rochester. Upon completing a basic understanding of the law he took a course at the Albany Law School from which he graduated in 1884. At that time he received the degree of LLB from the Union University of which the Albany Law School was a part. Edwin Simonds immediately began his law practice in Medina. In 1888 he formed a partnership with Irving L'Hommedieu.

In the fall of 1891 and again in 1894 Edwin Simonds was elected District Attorney of Orleans County, serving from 1892 through 1897. In the year 1901 he was elected County Judge and Surrogate on the Republican ticket.

Judge Simonds was very active in the Masonic Fraternity and served as Master of the Masonic Lodge in Medina during 1890. He too was Assistant Grand Lecturer in 1893 and was District Deputy Grand Master in 1894. He also was a member of the Odd Fellows, Alerts and City Club and served as president of the Shakespeare Club which was a leading literary society in Medina during the late 19th century and early part of this century.

Judge Simonds was only 44 years old when he died of appendicitis in April 1905. Upon his death, Governor Higgins appointed Hon. Issac S. Signor County Judge and Surrogate to fill the unexpired term held by Judge Simonds. This was the second time for Issac Signor to be County Judge as he had served in that capacity from 1883 to 1894.

"Old men go to death,  
and death comes to young men."

--Bacon