

NECROLOGY

RICHARD CLYDE ALLEN
1882-1958

Richard Clyde Allen was a man of many parts. Born and reared in a small town, he became a man of note by his own efforts: a good lawyer, an efficient public official, and a business executive in large enterprises. He was a pioneer in the real sense. Leaving his home in an old settled state early in life, he came west to the Indian Territory where the Indian laws still prevailed. At times he was a visionary and an idealist but his wealth of good sense aided him in keeping a balanced view and course in life. His courage, energy, willingness to work and belief in himself brought him success and reward.

Richard Clyde Allen was born in the town of Kelly, Bladen County, North Carolina, on September 14, 1882, the son of R. P. Allen and Katie Allen (nee Moore). As a boy he worked on some of the farms in the neighborhood, and did odd jobs that could be found in a small town to earn his own way. He attended the common schools of his community and high school at Lenoir, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest College, at Wake Forest, North Carolina, in 1902, and for a short time, practiced law at Elizabethtown and at Wilmington, North Carolina. He soon came to Coweta, Indian Territory, where he joined with James C. Pinson in the general practice of law.

At the age of twenty-eight in 1910, Richard C. Allen was elected judge of the District Court of the Third Judicial District, State of Oklahoma, comprising Wagoner and Muskogee counties. At that time, he was one of the youngest judges to hold such an office in the Nation. He resigned this office in 1913, and was appointed National Attorney for the Creek Nation by Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, under President Woodrow Wilson. Judge Allen is reputed to have written some of the principal laws relating to the protection of Indian rights. He always spoke in the highest terms of the Indian people, and they held him in high esteem.

He resigned as National Attorney for the Creek Nation in 1921, and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he formed a partnership with I. W. Underwood in the general practice of law. Here he enjoyed a good and lucrative practice, locally, nationally and internationally. Later, he became General Counsel and Executive Vice President of the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, one of the largest gas companies in the world. Ill health forced his resignation as General Counsel, in 1939, yet remained as a Director of the Gas Company. Subsequently, he made his home for a time in Capiscola, California, and in his native state of North Carolina, at Wilmington. He moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1950, where he resided until his death.

He married Lillian Lumpkin on February 24, 1906, at Coweta, Indian Territory. No children were born to this union. Mrs. Allen, a lady of fine personality, intelligence and charm, survives her husband after their happy married life.

Judge Allen was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Tulsa Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and was licensed to practice before the United States

Supreme Court and other Federal courts, as well as State courts. He was named a steward for life in the Park Temple Methodist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He died on February 12, 1958, after a long illness, and is buried in a mausoleum at Fort Lauderdale.

Richard Clyde Allen was a man of high intelligence and honor. In his private life, he was sober and clean, and his conduct was well ordered. He realized intensely the duty of service which the bar owes to the community and the duty the lawyer owes his profession. These were his prime convictions and motives. He was a good citizen, a good lawyer, an honest and efficient public officer, and a Christian gentleman. He is greatly missed by his many friends who knew and loved him in his lifetime.

William B. Moore
and
Fred P. Branson

Muskogee, Oklahoma