

A Strong and Brilliant Bar.

Leading Legal Firms and Practitioners of Salt Lake City.

THEIR BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

An Interesting Feature of Utah's Social Fabric: How Lawyers, Who They Are, Where They Come, Their Traits and Qualifications—The Men Who Have Made the Territory Good for the Ability of Its Bar—The Utah Bench.



NAT. UTAH. In the days of its poverty, isolation, sparse population and educational disadvantages, should have a distinguished bar for its defense and ability, could hardly have been expected. But now, however, that the bar of this territory has compared favorably with that of most of the Western states and territories, and that it has not, during the last quarter of a century, been without members who would have been considered brilliant men in any state in the Union.

From the days when statesman Frank Tillam, published Major Thompson and silver-tongued Tom Fitch labored with the jury that were drawn from among the pioneer settlers of this region, down to the present, there have not been lacking in the local bar men whose clear brain, learning, clarity and ability were of an order so high as to reflect great credit upon the Territory.

There are logical reasons for this condition. In the legal arena of this Territory there long threatened, and finally were fought, some of the most important legal battles that have taken place in any country in modern times. The general questions of criminal law, human rights and constitutional theory that have ever been considered by the American judiciary, have originated and have been considered in the courts of Utah. The mining and railroad litigation, of which our courts have seen so much, has furnished lucrative practice to attorneys, while demanding a high order of ability, and there have been many suits of this sort, involving enormous sums of money.

Some of such a character as have been frequent in the courts of Utah have involved men almost strong men to engage in them, and have drawn out and brought into play the highest local talent; and the Utah bar naturally became characterized by ability and brilliancy commensurate with the vastness of the communities of the Territory.

Of the Utah bench it is impossible to truthfully speak in terms of either praise or censure without taking care to note exceptions. Men representing two extremes, and various grades between, have sat upon our bench. The history of the Utah bench has no parallel in the Union, and consideration of it inevitably recalls conditions that were deplorable, the disappearance of which must give intimation of wisdom to every patriotic citizen.

In looking and ability the general tenor of the Utah bench, all things considered, has been good; and in one particular it has always stood high. It has not been corrupted with money. In all the state and territories in which has necessarily taken on active a part, and in connection with the many suits involving vast interests which have been tried there, it has seldom or never been brought down to the shadow of a suspicion of bribery.

Not that all conditions have passed away, and all classes of citizens can take with memories unclouded by unkindness, the period characteristics of the men who have sat upon the Utah bench. It will be admitted that the great majority of them were good men at heart, and that the end of the present time the Territory has no reason to regret its loss, or to regret its loss of its judiciary. It is characterized by learning, probity, patriotism, and a high order of intellectual confidence of all the people.

Following are sketches of prominent legal men and members of the bar:

Reuben Marshall & Bradley.

One of the prominent law firms in this city and one of the individual members of it who have sat upon the Utah bench, is the firm of Marshall & Bradley. It was formed in 1871, and has since been recognized as one of the representative firms practicing at the local bar. The personnel of the firm is as follows: Judge C. W. Bennett was first admitted to the bar at Albany, N. Y., in 1857, after which he resided at Kansas, Wis., and practiced there until 1868. He then came to Salt Lake City where he was identified with the legal profession until October, 1871. He remained in Salt Lake City until the year 1871, when he returned to Albany, N. Y., where he has since resided. He has been one of the most able and talented attorneys of the Territory, and has been a member of the bar of this territory since 1871. He is an attorney at law and has been a member of the bar of this territory since 1871. He is an attorney at law and has been a member of the bar of this territory since 1871.

Richards & Richards.

A firm of lawyers that has done much for the welfare of the Territory is that of Richards & Richards. The firm is composed of Messrs. Richards & Richards, who have been practicing law in Salt Lake City for many years. They are a prominent firm in the legal profession of this territory, and have been a member of the bar of this territory since 1871. They are a prominent firm in the legal profession of this territory, and have been a member of the bar of this territory since 1871.

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SALT LAKE CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING.

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