

Robert Emmett Watkins (1871-1944)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2006

The Kentucky Room, at the Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY on 14 June 2006 received a phone call from Leigh, of the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, requesting any biographical information on Robert E. Watkins, who served in the Kentucky Legislature from Daviess County.

E-mail , 15 June 2006, From: Jerry Long To:'leigh.troutman@ky.gov'

Subject: Robert Emmett Watkins (1871-1944)

Leigh (Kentucky Historical Society):

I found the following biographical information about Robert Emmett Watkins (1871-1944), who served in the Kentucky Legislature from Daviess County (sources: KY death certificate 1944 - #26366 & obituary in "Owensboro Messenger", 29 Dec 1944, p1A):

Robert Emmett Watkins was born 11 January 1871 near Habit in Daviess County, KY. He was the son of John Watkins, Jr. & Hannah James Burton. He married Emma Lancaster in Daviess County on 22 December 1898. He moved to Owensboro when a young man and resided there for more than 45 years. He died at his home, 415 West Thirteenth Street, in Owensboro on 28 December 1944 at the age of 73. He was survived by his wife, Emma, two daughters, Mrs. Roy Burlew of Owensboro & Mrs. Clark Deane of Sioux Falls, SD, and a grandson, Roy Burlew, Jr. He was buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Owensboro.

He graduated from the Southern Normal College in 1892. He taught in the common schools for several years until taking up the study of law. He was an attorney and a member of the Daviess County Bar Association admitted in June 1898. He served 8 years as judge of the Owensboro city court. Judge Watkins had been a Democrat all his life and in 1897 was elected county representative in the Kentucky State Legislature and served one term.

Best wishes,
Jerry Long

Kentucky Room
Daviess County Public Library

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