

## **Judge Ralph B. Ralston**

### **1884 - 1954**



Judge Ralston was born on his father's farm near Towanda, Kansas on February 22, 1883 to Andrew J. and Mary Lavina (Stewart) Ralston. Judge Ralston graduated from El Dorado High School with the class of 1903 and then read law in the office of Hon. G. P. Aikman, of El Dorado, and with E. P. Brumback, and was admitted to the bar, June 22, 1905.

He immediately began the practice of his profession in El Dorado alone, until 1906, when he formed a partnership with K. M. Geddes, his fellow room-mate and student, the firm name being Ralston & Geddes. This association continued until January 11, 1909, when the partnership was dissolved after Mr. Ralston was elected to the office of probate judge of Butler County and Mr. Geddes was appointed county attorney.

Judge Ralston became judge of the probate court at the age of 25, the youngest incumbent ever to hold that post in the State of Kansas.

Judge Ralston served as a land and lease agent for the Empire Gas and Fuel Company. He joined in drilling ventures with Herb Mason, particularly in the

Garden pool operations southeast of El Dorado, Kansas. Judge Ralston was one of the chief stockholders in the Mohawk Oil Company, serving as Secretary-Treasurer for that corporation for 28 years.

Mr. Ralston was a Master Mason and a member of the State Bar Association. Previous to becoming a probate judge, he was an influential and active worker in church affairs. He served as president of the State Society of the Christian Endeavor of the Christian church in 1908, and for two terms, was president of the Presbyterian Christian Endeavor at El Dorado. He married Bertha Ann Wallingsford, daughter of John K. Wallingsford, on June 29, 1910.

SOURCE: Pages 510-511 from volume III, part 1 of ***Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc. ...*** / with a supplementary volume devoted to selected personal history and reminiscence. Standard Pub. Co. Chicago : 1912. 3 v. in 4. : front., ill., ports.; 28 cm. Vols. I-II edited by Frank W. Blackmar. Transcribed December 2002 by Carolyn Ward. This volume is identified at the Kansas State Historical Society as microfilm LM195. It is a two-part volume 3.

[http://www.ksgenweb.org/archives/1912/r3/ralston\\_ralph\\_bruce.html](http://www.ksgenweb.org/archives/1912/r3/ralston_ralph_bruce.html)