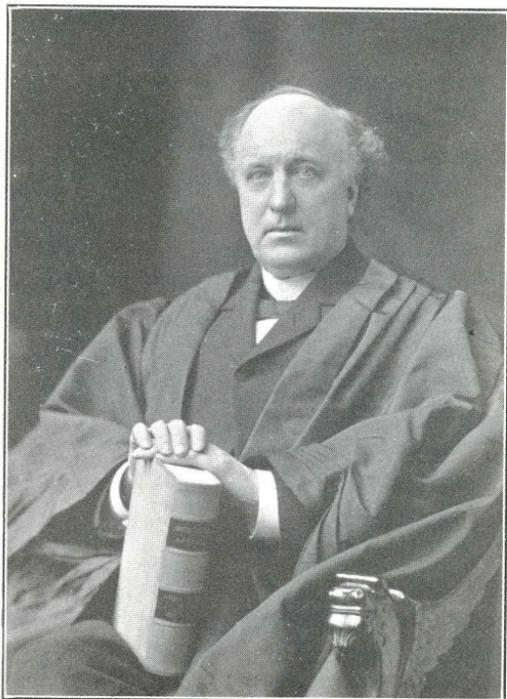


James Graham Jenkins

A Biographical Sketch



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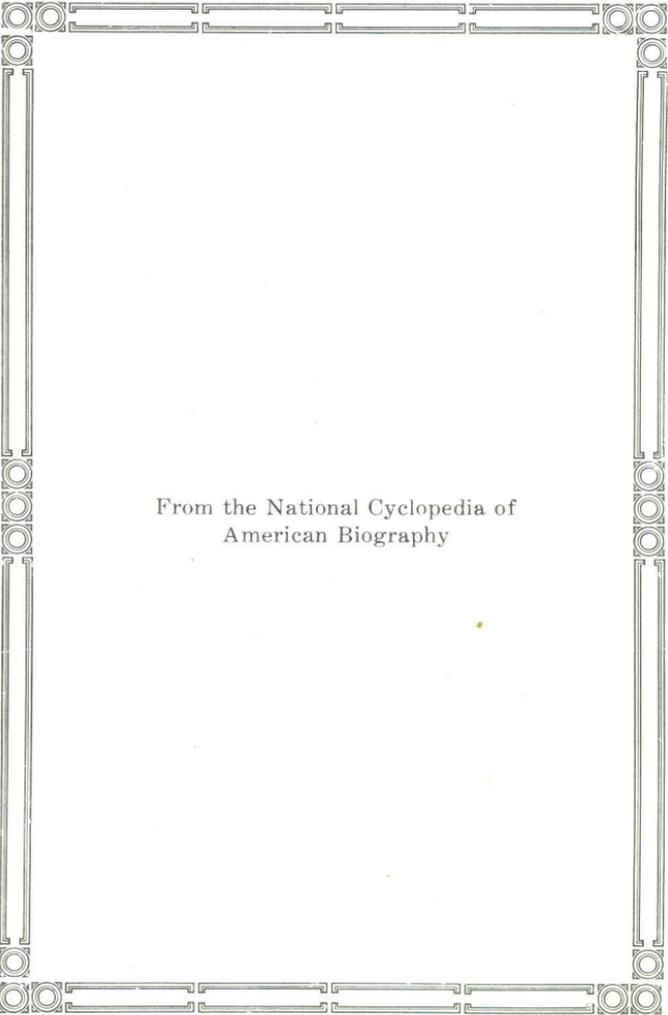


James Graham Jenkins

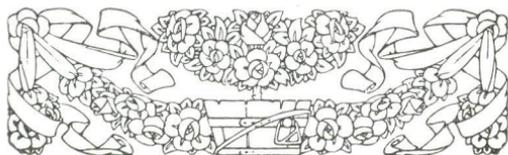
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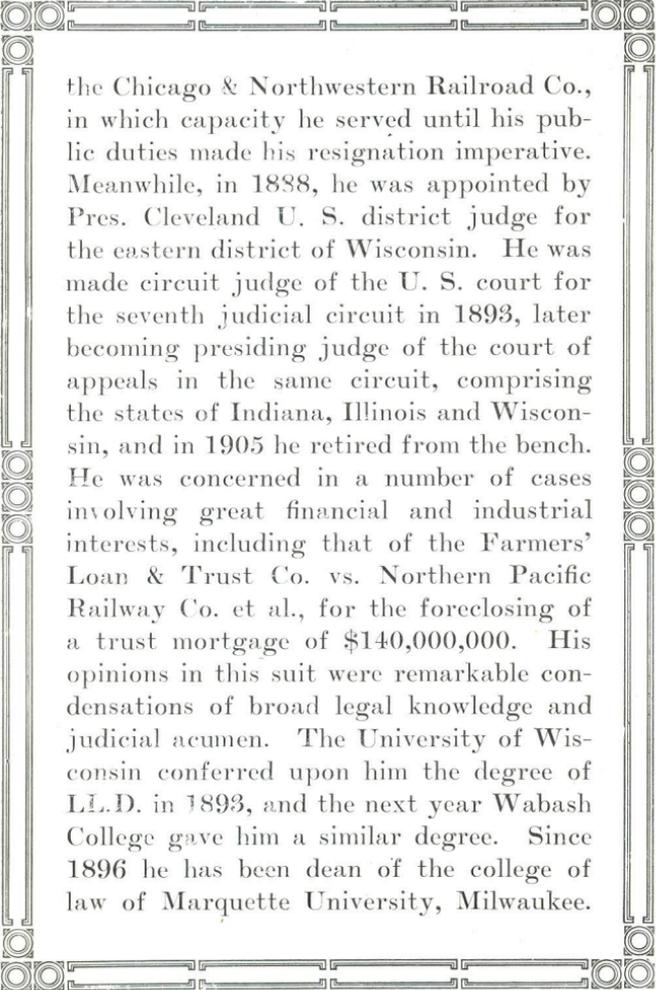


From the National Cyclopedia of
American Biography



JAMES GRAHAM JENKINS, jurist, was born at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 18, 1834, son of Edgar and Mary Elizabeth (Walworth) Jenkins, and a descendant of Marshall Jenkins, one of the founders of Hudson, N. Y., who originated the proprietary system of settlement in that locality. His maternal grandfather, Reuben Hyde Walworth, was a judge of the supreme court of New York and chancellor of that state; he also served as adjutant on the staff of Gen. Moore at the battle of Plattsburg, during the war of 1812. Edgar Jenkins, father of the subject, was a merchant of New York city. The son was educated in private schools and began the study of law in the office of Ellis, Burrill & Davison, New York city. He was admitted to the New York bar in 1855 and entered at once upon the practice of his profession,

removing, in 1857, to Milwaukee, Wis., where he quickly gained recognition. During the many years of his practice his name was connected with some of the best known law firms of the city, the principal partnerships having been Downer, La Due & Jenkins; Ryan, Carpenter & Jenkins; Jenkins & Hickox; Jenkins, Elliott & Winkler; Jenkins, Winkler, Fish & Smith; and Jenkins, Winkler, Smith & Vilas. In 1863 he was elected city attorney, continuing in office four terms, and besides other important litigations, he successfully defended the constitutionality of the law authorizing taxation to pay soldiers' bounty (Brodhead vs. Milwaukee, 19 Wis. 624). In 1879 he was Democratic candidate for governor of Wisconsin; received the Democratic vote of the legislature for U. S. senator in 1881, and in 1885 declined the tender of an appointment by President Cleveland as associate justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. When William F. Vilas was elected U. S. senator he succeeded him as counsel for



the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Co., in which capacity he served until his public duties made his resignation imperative. Meanwhile, in 1888, he was appointed by Pres. Cleveland U. S. district judge for the eastern district of Wisconsin. He was made circuit judge of the U. S. court for the seventh judicial circuit in 1893, later becoming presiding judge of the court of appeals in the same circuit, comprising the states of Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, and in 1905 he retired from the bench. He was concerned in a number of cases involving great financial and industrial interests, including that of the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. vs. Northern Pacific Railway Co. et al., for the foreclosing of a trust mortgage of \$140,000,000. His opinions in this suit were remarkable condensations of broad legal knowledge and judicial acumen. The University of Wisconsin conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. in 1893, and the next year Wabash College gave him a similar degree. Since 1896 he has been dean of the college of law of Marquette University, Milwaukee.

He was a delegate to the Democratic national conventions of 1880 and 1884. Judge Jenkins is president of the board of trustees of Milwaukee Hospital, a trustee of the Layton Art Gallery, director of the Northwestern National Insurance Co., and a member of the State Historical Society, the Society of American Wars, and the National and State Archæological societies. He was married in Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 16, 1870, to Alice Mary, daughter of Judge Andrew G. Miller, who was the first judge of the U. S. district court of Wisconsin.

