OUR NEW HISTORIAN

EFFIE R. KEEN

Judge Dan R. Williamson, appointed November 20 to succeed Major George H. Kelly as Arizona State Historian, has been a resident of Arizona for forty-five years, having come to the state as Southern Pacific agent at Bowie Station in 1885.

Judge Williamson was born at Fairfield, California, on March 4, 1863, and is one of nine children, all living, born to Angus and Katherine Williamson. He was educated in the public schools, and when but thirteen years of age entered the service of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company at Fairfield. He served successively as assistant agent, telegrapher and agent. During the year 1883, 5000 Chinese were moved by the Southern Pacific from Arizona, following completion of work on their lines in this state, to Redding, where Judge Williamson had been agent since 1881. These men were to be used on construction work for the Southern Pacific, from Redding to Portland. When the forty miles of track between Redding and Delta was finished, and the station at the latter place opened, Judge Williamson was sent there as agent, therefore having the distinction of being the first person appointed as agent for the railroad company north of Redding, on the Oregon Division. This was in 1884. He was transferred from there to Bowie. He worked continuously for the railroad company until 1888, leaving the company in that year to enter the employ of the military department of the United States Government on the San Carlos Reservation, remaining there until the abandonment of the post in November, 1894. He went to Globe from San Carlos where he gave his attention to mining, in partnership with Al Sieber, famous Indian scout, and the Anderson Brothers, discoverers of the Old Dominion Mine. He was associated with these men until their deaths.

Judge Williamson was elected sheriff of Gila County in 1896, serving until 1899, during which time he was also Deputy United States Marshal under Marshal William Griffith for the counties of Pinal, Gila and Graham. After leaving the office of sheriff, he again took up railroading as agent for the Southern Pacific and Wells Fargo Express companies at Globe, continuing as such until 1906, when he was elected county treasurer of Gila County. This office he held until statehood in 1912. From that time until 1925 his entire time was devoted to mining. In that year he was elected as justice of the peace at Globe, serving two terms, being re-elected in 1927.
In 1905 Judge Williamson was married to Miss Josephine Hamm, of Globe, a sister of Mrs. George J. Stoneman, of Los Angeles, widow of Judge Stoneman, former Globe pioneer. The Williamsons have three children, Katheryn and Josephine, teachers in the Globe schools, and Dan. Jr., a student in the Globe High School.

Judge Williamson’s long residence in the State of Arizona, his wide knowledge of its history, gained through a deep, personal interest and contact, and the fact that most of the years he has spent here have been in public life, eminently fits him for the position to which he has been appointed.
JUDGE DAN R. WILLIAMSON