

Matthews, John Telford "J.T." (1861-1928)

J. T. Matthews (1861-1928) was a successful business man and elected official at the turn of the century. He became a partner in the real-estate firm of B. F. Dixon & Company in January 1898 (Burrell). He served as the Clerk of Courts for Washington County from 1901-1904, and as Washington County Auditor from 1927-1928 (Iowa Official Register).

John Telford Matthews was born September 2, 1860 in Indiana County, Pennsylvania to Samuel and Eliza (Oram) Matthews. In 1865 the Matthews family moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa. John attended country school and graduated from the Washington Academy in 1885. He graduated from Monmouth College in 1887. He became an instructor at the Washington Academy and was principal there for 7 years. In 1898 he entered the farm real estate firm of B.F. Dixon and Company. In 1901 he was elected to the office of the clerk of the district court and held the office for 2 terms. John again associated with Mr. Dixon and later became secretary of the Washington Canadian Land Company. He served several years on the Washington County Hospital board. He was an active alumni of Monmouth College. He facilitated the compilation and publication of a history of Washington County in the world war. Mr. Matthews was a life-long member of the United Presbyterian Church. On August 26, 1890 John married Alfaretta Fisher. He died November 2, 1928 and is buried in Elm Grove Cemetery.

