

WALTER I. SMITH

U.S. CIRCUIT COURTS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

1911

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

1911 - 1922



Data

- Born July 10, 1862, in Council Bluffs, IA
- Died January 27, 1922, in Council Bluffs, IA

Federal Judicial Service

- Judge, U.S. Circuit Courts for the Eighth Circuit
Nominated by William H. Taft on January 17, 1911, to a seat vacated by Willis Van Devanter. Confirmed by the Senate on January 31, 1911, and received commission on January 31, 1911. Service terminated on December 31, 1911, due to abolition of the court.
- Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
Nominated by William H. Taft on January 17, 1911, to a seat vacated by Willis Van Devanter. Confirmed by the Senate on January 31, 1911, and received commission on January 31, 1911. Service terminated on January 27, 1922, due to death.

Education

- Read law, 1882

Professional Career

- Private practice, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1882-1890
- Judge, Iowa District Court, Fifteenth Judicial District, 1890-1900
- U.S. representative from Iowa, 1900-1911

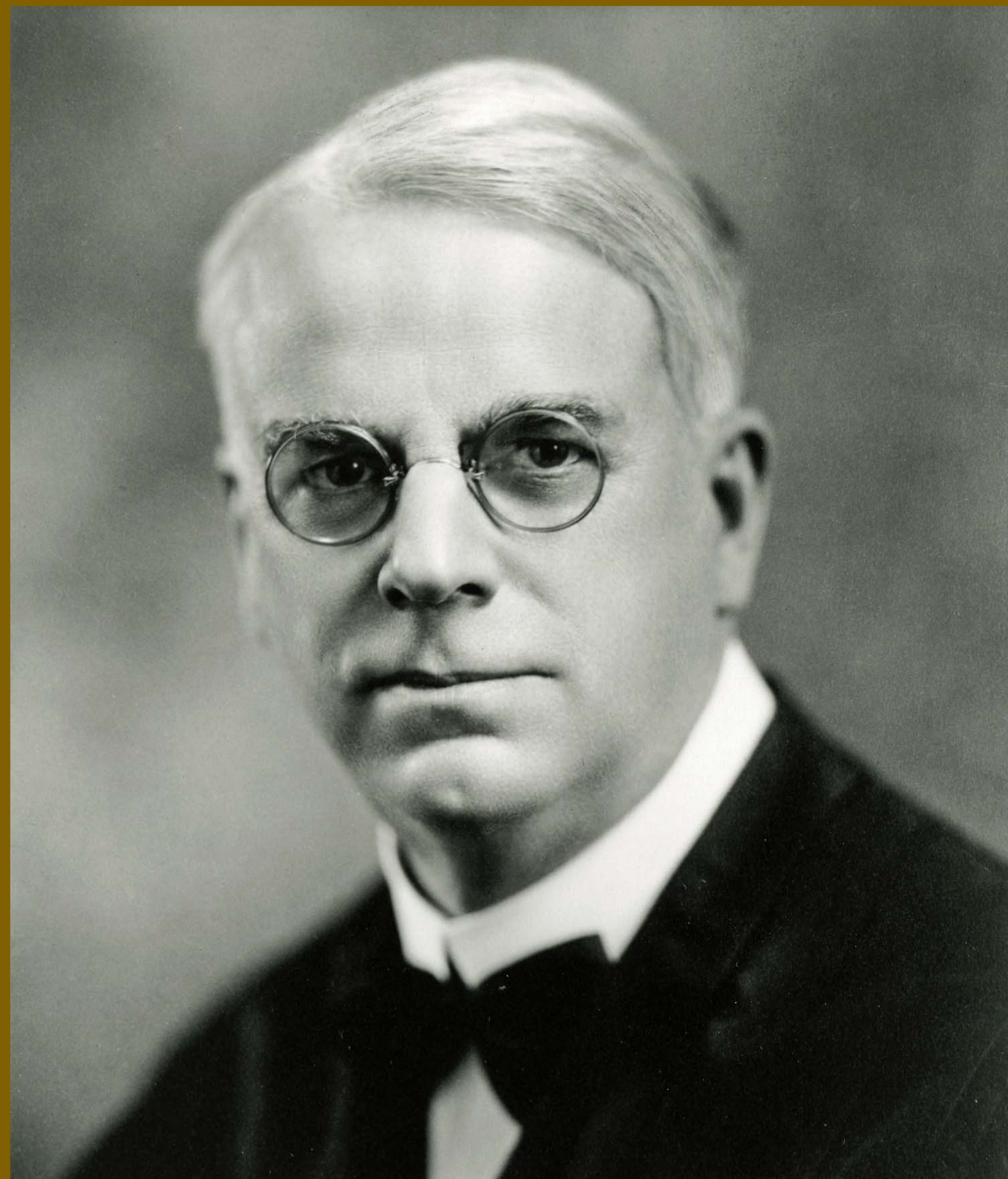
Legacy

Walter I. Smith of Council Bluffs, Iowa, served as a judge in Iowa's Fifteenth Judicial District and was elected as U.S. Representative from Iowa's Ninth District before his appointment by President Taft to the federal bench in 1911. Succeeding Willis Van Devanter of Wyoming, he was the first Iowan to sit in the seat that would become traditionally allotted to Iowa. He was also the first native born Iowan on the Eighth Circuit's appellate court and the only Iowan in the circuit's history appointed to both the U.S. Circuit Courts for the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

WILLIAM S. KENYON

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

1922 - 1933



Data

- Born June 10, 1869, in Elyria, OH
- Died September 9, 1933, in Sebasco Estates, ME

Federal Judicial Service

- Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
Nominated by Warren G. Harding on January 31, 1922, to a seat vacated by Walter Inglewood Smith. Confirmed by the Senate on January 31, 1922, and received commission on January 31, 1922. Service terminated on September 9, 1933, due to death.

Education

- Grinnell College
- University of Iowa
- Read law, 1891

Professional Career

- Private practice, Fort Dodge, Iowa, 1891-1911
- Prosecutor, Webster County, Iowa, 1892-1896
- Private practice, Webster County, Iowa, 1897-1900, 1902-1904
- Judge, Iowa District Court, Eleventh Judicial District, 1900-1902
- General counsel, Illinois Central Railroad, 1904-1907
- Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, 1910-1911
- U.S. senator from Iowa, 1911-1922

Legacy

William S. Kenyon of Fort Dodge, Iowa, was an influential politician known for his independent views, moral rectitude, and support of the common people. As Iowa's U.S. Senator, he strengthened antitrust and prohibition laws and led the bipartisan Farm Bloc, which produced landmark legislation aiding farmers. In 1922, President Harding appointed him to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Kenyon authored *U.S. v. Mammoth Oil*, one of the Eighth Circuit's most significant decisions, involving the Harding administration's Teapot Dome scandal. While a federal judge, Kenyon declined a Cabinet position under President Coolidge, but accepted membership on the Wickersham Commission under President Hoover.