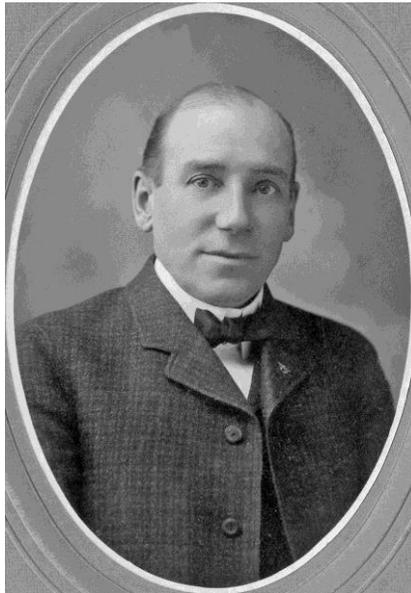


John Langdon Rand, 1861-1942

by
Gary Dielman

Attorney John Langdon Rand capped off a distinguished thirty-five-year legal career in Baker City with twenty-one years on the Oregon Supreme Court. He died in office November 19, 1942, and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

Rand was born October 28, 1861, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. His parents, John Sullivan Rand and Elvira Wallace Odiorne Rand, could trace their ancestors back to the first settlers of New Hampshire in the early 1600's. The Odiorne family owned land at Odiorne's Point that juts out into Portsmouth Harbor and was the site of the first cabin built in New Hampshire in 1623. The Rand side of the family arrived in 1633. John and Elvira raised six children on their farm: Jasper Charles (1860-1925), John Langdon (1861-1942), Luella Elvira (1863-1934), Irving Wallace (1866-?), Charles Benjamin (1869-1954), and Henry (1873-?).



John Langdon Rand

John Langdon Rand was named for New Hampshire Governor John Langdon (1741-1819), who was a ship's captain in his early 20's and soon had his own small fleet of ships. He was a member of the First Continental Congress and actively resisted the British during the American Revolution. Langdon served two separate terms as governor before being elected in 1789 to the U.S. Senate as the Granite state's first senator. After retiring from the Senate in 1801, he served two more terms as governor.

Rand attended Smith Preparatory School in Portsmouth followed by four years at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, the ninth oldest college in the U.S. With such deep roots in New Hampshire, it's surprising that after graduation in 1883, Rand took a teaching job 3,000 miles away at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington.

During his two years at Whitman College, Rand read law under attorney Nathan T. Caton, who was a former '49er gold miner, postmaster in Salem, Oregon, Marion County, Oregon, clerk, and three-term Washington State legislator. Rand was admitted to the Washington bar in 1885.



Edith Rand and son Irving

Following admission to the Oregon bar 1886, Rand promptly moved to Baker City, at that time the biggest city in the Inland Empire, where he set up a law practice and soon earned a reputation as one of the best attorneys in Eastern Oregon.

In 1888, Rand successfully ran for the office of district attorney of the 6th Judicial District, which encompassed Baker, Grant, Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties, replacing his future brother-in-law by marriage, attorney Charles F. Hyde (1858-1926). Thus began a period of inter-family musical chairs between Rand and Hyde.



Edith Ganzaga Packwood Rand

Hyde was the son of Henry Hyde and Susan Kimzey Hyde of Prairie City. Baker City had two Hyde attorneys to choose from. Hyde's elder brother, T. Calvin Hyde (1847-1896), was an attorney in Baker City from 1869 until his death in 1896. He lived with his wife, Mary, and several children in a large, two-story house on the southwest corner of First and Broadway, location of the former Pioneer Federal Saving & Loan

building. Their son George Hyde had an undertaking business on Broadway across the alley west of his parents' house.

On July 23, 1895, during his second two-year term as district attorney, Rand married Edith Ganzaga Packwood (1871-1954), daughter of William H. Packwood (1832-1917) and Johanna O'Brien Packwood (1842-1926). Rand could not have married anyone with deeper roots in Baker County than Edith Packwood. Not only was she born in Baker City soon after its settlement, but in the summer of 1862 her parents were among the first residents of the infant mining camp Auburn, Baker County's first town and county seat. William established the town's first general store and was the county's first school superintendent. And Johanna was the county's first teacher. William and Johanna married that fall. Their first child, Mary (1863-1908), was one of the first white children born in Baker County.

Johanna, who was born in Ireland, came west from Iowa with her pregnant sister, Ellen, and Ellen's husband, Dan McLaughlin. William, before coming to Baker County, had already made his mark in Oregon history while living in southwestern Oregon. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1857 that drafted and adopted Oregon's first constitution. Shortly before William died in 1917, he was honored on the floor of the Oregon legislature as the sole surviving signer of the Constitution of 1857.



*John and Edith Rand house
at NW corner of Main and A streets
is no longer there.*

Charles F. Hyde was married to Mary Packwood, sister of Rand's wife, Edith. In the early 1900's, the Rand and Hyde families lived on opposite ends of the same block at 2603 and 2615 Main Street. Neither house exists today.

Rand and Hyde swapped elective office again in 1890, when Hyde replaced Rand as district attorney. Then in November 1892, the *Weekly Bedrock Democrat* reported that, "Mayor C. A. Johns and District Attorney Charles F. Hyde are dissolving their partnership. Hyde is of the opinion that his DA job conflicts at times with the business of the firm. In the firm's place, Johns has formed a partnership with John Rand." The

new partnership of Johns and Rand lasted no longer than a few years. The 1900 Baker City Directory shows Rand and Johns working in separate offices.



John and Edith Rand built the Rand Building in 1906 on the NW corner of 1st and Washington streets.

In 1894, Rand again replaced Hyde as district attorney. At the end of that two-year term, Rand retired from elective office and devoted himself full time to his private law practice. His reputation as a lawyer continued to grow, as did his standing as a leader in the Republican Party in Eastern Oregon. Years later, Rand was one of four delegates Oregon sent to the Republican National Convention of 1920.



The Rand Building burned in 1985. Today the corner is the site of the Banner Bank parking lot.

Encouraged to run for election again in 1902, Rand won a four-year term in the Oregon State Senate representing Baker, Harney, and Malheur counties. A major achievement during his time in the Senate was sponsorship and successful passage of a bill in 1905, which split Baker County from the 6th Judicial District and placed

Baker County in the 8th Judicial District, thus giving Baker County its own circuit court judge and district attorney.



Irving Rand, son of John and Edith Rand.

At the end of his four-year term in the Oregon Senate, Rand did not run for a second term. In the 1906 primary elections, Baker City politicians had big ambitions. Rand and Baker City attorney William J. Lachner—later that year appointed Baker City Postmaster—ran for the Republican nomination for Representative of the 2nd Congressional District. His former law partner, Mayor Charles A. Johns, and Baker County Sheriff Harvey K. Brown both ran for the Republican nomination for Governor of Oregon. None of the Baker County aspirants were successful.



Helen Biggs Rand, wife of Irving Rand

Besides working in his law practice, Rand dabbled in mining, as did many professional men in those days. Rand was partners with his father-in-law, William Packwood, and miner Richard Eakman in mining in the Clarks Creek area. And Rand, Baker City attorney William F. Butcher, and others owned a gypsum mine on Snake River several miles below Huntington. Hyde was partners with Jeff Packwood, brother of Mary and Edith, in some Goose Creek copper claims.

In the spring of 1907, Rand returned to New Hampshire to visit his parents.

Rand did not run for elective office again for sixteen years. On October 18, 1921, Oregon Governor Ben W. Olcott appointed Rand to the Oregon Supreme Court to replace Justice Henry L. Benson, who had recently died in office. Subsequently Rand ran successfully for six-year terms in 1922, 1928, 1934, and 1940. During his years on the Supreme Court bench, Rand served as Chief Justice three times (1927-1929; 1933-1935; and 1939-1941). Rand died in office November 19, 1942.



A warm and friendly word of cheer

for Christmas and the coming year

Mr. and Mrs John. Langdon Rand

John and Edith Rand house in Salem.

John and Edith had two children. Irving Rand (1896-1978), named for his father's brother, followed in his father's footsteps and became a lawyer. John Langdon Rand Jr. (1901-1962), who was called Langdon, studied and practiced photography in Detroit, Michigan, eventually returning to Baker City, where he conducted a photography studio in the Rand Building, which he managed for his parents. (The Rand Building, which was constructed by Langdon's parents in 1906, burned to the ground in 1985.) Langdon married Leona Reinhardt (1905-1965) of Detroit. Their children are John Langdon Rand III (b. 1927) of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Catherine Rand Mack (b. 1929) of La Grande, Oregon.

Irving, like his father, also married into a pioneer family. His wife, the former Helen Biggs of Burns, was the granddaughter of famous photographer and 1862 pioneer of Canyon City, Oregon, George Irving Hazeltine. And her great uncle was George's equally famous brother and Baker City photographer, Martin M. Hazeltine.

Helen Biggs Rand wrote two excellent local history books: *Gold, Jade and Elegance* (1974), which is a short history of Baker City from 1862 to 1914; and *Whiskey Gulch* (1981), which contains George's 1862-1863 correspondence with his wife, Emeline, while he was gold mining in Canyon City and she was still in northern California. In 1863, Emeline joined George in Canyon City, where they lived the rest of their lives. Helen also authored a 100-year history of Baker City's St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Irving and Helen Rand moved to Portland, where Irving practiced law and Helen worked at the Multnomah County Library. They moved back to Baker City in 1967. Their only child, Mary Rand Ballantyne (b. 1930), lives in Boise.

Many of the members of the Packwood, Rand, Hyde, and Hazeltine families mentioned above are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

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