

## JOSEPH BRADFIELD THOBURN

## MEMORIAL PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY

Bellaire, Ohio  
August 8, 1866

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
March 2, 1941

In 1870 Dr. J. B. Thoburn came west to Kansas where he was educated in the public schools. He received his B. S. degree in 1893 from the Kansas State Agricultural College, and the degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon him in 1931 by the Oklahoma City University. He is survived by two daughters, Mary Eleanor and Jeanne Isabel (Mrs. A. V. Wyss).

Dr. Thoburn learned the printer's trade, came to Oklahoma in 1899, and served as a newspaper writer for eight years. He taught for four years in the Department of History, University of Oklahoma. He was broadly trained and had a deep interest in public affairs. He strongly advocated the building of dams and the impounding of water near the source of all streams of the State and at the head of ravines on all farms to conserve the rainfall and prevent floods.

His hobbies were the cross-breeding of fruits and of chickens. He attempted to develop a new fruit that would do well in this plains area. Also he was a poultry fancier, and he developed a new strain of prize-winning chickens.

His chief interests were history and archaeology. He became an authority on the history of the Great Plains and on the archaeology of Oklahoma and adjacent states. One result of his extended research was to show that many of the so-called natural mounds were really built by Indians.

He served the Oklahoma Historical Society for many years as director, secretary, research editor, and curator. He believed in military preparedness and served in the Oklahoma National Guard as a private, captain and major. He was a fellow of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, and its president for the year 1921-22.

Dr. Thoburn's writings include: *A History of Oklahoma; Oklahoma, A History of the State and Its People; Oklahoma, Its Resources and Attractions; Standard History of Oklahoma; Art of Oklahoma; Prehistoric Cultures of Oklahoma;* and the *Story of Oklahoma* (with Muriel H. Wright).

CHARLES E. DECKER.