

## Attorney Thomas Keogh

Researched and written by Elon University School of Law student Matthew Kraus, Summer 2011

Thomas Bernard Keogh, a Republican, was born November 26, 1840 in Utica, New York.<sup>1</sup> His parents were Bernard and Mary Keogh. Keogh received his education and studied law in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1861.<sup>2</sup> On October 25, 1865 he married Harriette A. James of Holly, New York.<sup>3</sup> Keogh eventually moved south to Greensboro, North Carolina. In Greensboro he was a law partner of John A. Barringer and was editor of the *North State*, which did very well in the late 1870s. Their law practice was located off of Elm Street.<sup>4</sup> Because of his Republican roots, and living in the South, Keogh was labeled a Carpet Bagger by his rivals.<sup>5</sup> However, his involvement in the Republican Party proved to be fruitful. He was appointed Register in Bankruptcy by Chief Justice Samuel P. Chase in 1867.<sup>6</sup> He also was appointed as a U.S. Marshal by President Chester A. Arthur in 1882.<sup>7</sup> Keogh was a Delegate at numerous Republican National Conventions, including 1868, 72, 76, 80, 84, 88, and 92. He was Chairman of the Republican State Committee of N.C. from 1874-1880 and was Secretary of the Republican National Committee in 1880. In 1880 Keogh was one of the “306” who voted continuously for Grant at the National Convention.<sup>8</sup> Also in 1880, Keogh represented the Republican Party in the Fifth District of North Carolina.<sup>9</sup> He was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison as National Commissioner of the World’s Columbian Exposition (also known as the Chicago World’s Fair), and served on committees of organization, classification and ceremonies.<sup>10</sup> Keogh was a Trustee for the University of North Carolina for 6 years and was also was President of the Board of Trustees for the Agricultural and Mechanical College of North Carolina for 6 years.<sup>11</sup> In 1887, Keogh was one of the founding directors for the Guilford Battleground Company, which purchased 100 acres at the time to beautify the grounds of the Guilford Battle Ground Park.<sup>12</sup> Keogh eventually moved back to New York later on in his life in January of 1899. There, he was a manager of real estate and the tax department for the Long Island Railroad in New York. His address in New York was 204 W. 79<sup>th</sup> St. New York.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Albert Nelson Marquis, ed., *Who’s Who In America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women of the United States: 1916-1917* (Chicago: A.N. Marquis & Company, 1917), 1365.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Gail Williams O’Brien, *The Legal Fraternity and the Making of a New South Community: 1848-1882* (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), 127.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, at 116.

<sup>6</sup> Marquis, *Who’s Who In America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women of the United States: 1916-1917*, 1365.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> O’Brien, *The Legal Fraternity and the Making of a New South Community: 1848-1882*, 112.

<sup>10</sup> Marquis, *Who’s Who In America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women of the United States: 1916-1917*, 1365.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Ethel Stephens Arnett and Walter Clinton Jackson, *Greensboro North Carolina: The County Seat of Guilford* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1955), 381.

<sup>13</sup> Marquis, *Who’s Who In America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women of the United States: 1916-1917*, 1365.