

## Statesmen of Delta County<sup>1</sup>

### Colorado State Representatives

• Samuel Wade	Paonia	1887-88	GA 6	Republican	
• John B. Hart	Eckert	1895-96	GA 10	Populist	
• C. Mead Hammond	Paonia	1899-1902	GA 12, 13	Democrat, Populist	Chair: Corp
• David Vinton Meiklejohn <sup>2</sup>	Hotchkiss	1903-04	GA 14	Republican	
• N. M. Heistand	Hotchkiss	1905-06	GA 15	Democrat	
• Merle D. Vincent	Paonia	1907-08	GA 16	Republican	
• J. A. Whiting	Eckert	1909-10	GA 17	?	
• Carroll C. Hawkins	Delta	1911-14	GA 18, 19	Republican	
• George W. Bruce	Delta	1915-16	GA 20	Democrat	
• Robert Fay Rockwell <sup>3</sup>	Paonia	1917-20	GA 21, 22	Republican	
• Thomas L. Blackwell	Hotchkiss	1921-22	GA 23	Republican	
• Adair Hotchkiss <sup>4</sup>	Delta	1923-24	GA 24	Democrat	
• John E. Hillman	Delta	1925-28	GA 25, 26	Republican	Chair: Agriculture
• Henry B. Fetz	Hotchkiss	1929-30	GA 27	Republican	
• E. Clair Hotchkiss	Hotchkiss	1931-32	GA 28	Democrat	Chair: Forrest Reserve
• A. C. Tinsley	Eckert	1933-36	GA 29, 30	Democrat	
• Harry Sanburg	Austin	1937-44	GA 31-34	Republican	Chair: Permanent Patronage
• Mark <sup>5</sup> R. Clay	Hotchkiss	1945-54	GA 35-39	Republican	Chair: Education; P.Bldg.s

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by Matthew Soper, BA, LL.M., LL.M. Soper was an elected member of the Orchard City Board of Trustees. Soper served 7 years on the Delta County Historical Society's Board of Directors and was Chairman of the City of Delta's Historic Preservation Board. Soper also served two-terms on the Mesa State College Board of Trustees.

<sup>2</sup> Physician.

<sup>3</sup> Appointed Government positions held by Rockwell: State Board of the Home and Training School: 1925 – 30; State Board of Land Commissioners: 1932 - 1938; State Board of Agriculture: 1933 – 41. Robert Rockwell was the father of Wilson Rockwell.

<sup>4</sup> Previously was a judge.

<sup>5</sup> Some issues of the DCI spell "Mark" as "Marc".

• Charles R. Conklin <sup>6</sup>	Delta	1955-60	GA 40-42	Democrat	Speaker: 1957-1960 <sup>7</sup>
• Samuel Boyden	Delta (Ash Mesa)	1961 <sup>8</sup> -64	GA 43, 44	Republican	
• Charles R. Conklin	Delta	1965-66	GA 45	Democrat	Chair: Rules; Procedure
• Margy Masson <sup>9</sup>	Crawford	1987-90	GA 56, 57	Republican	
• Steve Acquafresca <sup>10</sup>	Cedaredge	1991-96	GA 58-60	Republican	

## Colorado State Senators<sup>11</sup>

• George Stephan <sup>12</sup>	Delta	1911-14	GA 18, 19	Republican	Pres. of Sen.: 1919-20
• Robert Fay Rockwell	Paonia	1921-24	GA 23, 24	Republican	Pres. of Sen.: 1923-24
• Joseph E. Moore	Delta	1925-28	GA 25, 26	Republican	Chair: Horticulture
• John E. Hillman	Delta	1929-32	GA 27, 28	Republican	Chair: Banking
• E. Clair Hotchkiss	Hotchkiss	1933-38	GA 29-32	Democrat	Chair: Stock; Ag.
• Robert Fay Rockwell	Paonia	1939 <sup>13</sup> -41 <sup>14</sup>	GA 32-33	Republican	

<sup>6</sup> Conklin was Paonia's Attn'y from 1952-54, but resided in Delta. Conklin was a graduate of Harvard law school and became Staff Director of the US House Interior & Insular Affairs Committee – 1975-83, under the appointment Congressman Wayne Aspinall (who defeated Delta County's only US Congressman).

<sup>7</sup> Charles Conklin was born on June 23, 1920, in Delta, Colorado. After graduating from Delta High School in 1937, Conklin moved to Los Angeles, California. He attended Woodbury Business College and Los Angeles City College, and was also a member of the Screen Actors Guild. From 1942 to 1945, Conklin served in the United States Naval Reserve on active duty in the Pacific theater. In 1946, Conklin entered Harvard College where he graduated magna cum laude in 1948. Conklin was admitted to Harvard Law School in 1948, and graduated with a LL.B. degree in 1951. That same year, he became a member of the law firm of Sparks and Conklin in Delta, Colorado.

<sup>8</sup> Defeated incumbent Speaker of the House Charles Conklin in Nov. 1960; Boyden later lost to Conklin in Nov. 1964.

<sup>9</sup> HD 58; prior to 1964 House seats did not have district numbers.

<sup>10</sup> Steve Acquafresca was a fruit grower, non-Delta County native, who moved to Cedaredge at age 26 from Fullerton, CA. Acquafresca was 39 when first elected, had just turned 40 by the time he took office representing HD 58. Kay Alexander of Montrose was elected to succeed Acquafresca in 1996. Alexander served from 1997-2002, when she lost her bid for the State Senate. In 2002 Ray Rose of Montrose was elected to HD 58 and served from 2003-08. Scott Tipton of Cortez was elected in 2008 and served as HD 58 Rep from 2009-10. In 2010 Tipton defeated incumbent Democrat John Salazar of Alamosa. Tipton had previously lost to Salazar in 2006 when he tried defeat the freshman Congressman. Don Coram of Montrose was elected in 2010 to succeed Rep. Tipton as the legislator representing HD 58. Acquafresca was elected to the Mesa County Commission in 2006 and served from 2007-2015. Acquafresca was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives again in 2014, this time representing HD 55.

<sup>11</sup> The first State Senator to represent Delta County was Archibald McNichol Stevenson of Gunnison. Sen. Stevenson was born in Rothsay, Isle of Bute, Scotland in 1858 and was elected in Nov. 1882 and represented the region from 1883-86. Delta County was carved out of Gunnison County and was established in 1883.

<sup>12</sup> Lt. Gov. 1919-20; Reg. State Bd. of Lands Comm. 1921-23; US Dist. Attn'y. for Colo. 1924-29.

- Charles E. Blaine<sup>15</sup> Delta 1943<sup>16</sup>-48 GA 34-36 Republican Chair: Const Amend; Corps
- John Davis Delta 1951<sup>17</sup>-52 GA 38 Republican Chair: Bus. Comm.
- James W. Mowbray<sup>18</sup> Delta 1953-62<sup>19</sup> GA 39-44 Democrat Maj. Leader: 1959-61
- Wilson Rockwell Paonia & Maher 1963-69<sup>20</sup> GA 44-47 Republican Chair: Ag.&Livestock

## Lieutenant Governors

- George Stephan<sup>21</sup> Delta 1919-20 GA 22 Republican
- Robert Fay Rockwell<sup>22</sup> Paonia 1923-24 GA 24 Republican

## United States Congress<sup>23</sup>

- Robert Fay Rockwell<sup>24</sup> Paonia 1941-49 Congresses 77-80 Republican

<sup>13</sup> 1938 - Robert Rockwell was elected to complete E. Clair Hotchkiss' term.

<sup>14</sup> 1941- Robert Rockwell was elected as a Republican to the Seventy-seventh Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Edward T. Taylor.

<sup>15</sup> 1950- Charles Blaine was appointed 7th Judicial District Judge.

<sup>16</sup> 1942- Charles Blaine was elected to fill vacancy.

<sup>17</sup> 1951- John Davis was appointed to fill the vacancy created when State Sen. Daniel Isaac J. Thornton of Gunnison defeated incumbent Democratic Governor Walter Walford Johnson in November 1950.

<sup>18</sup> Mowbray was mentioned in a 1958 issue of Sports Illustrated: <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1002294/7/index.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> 1963- Western State College Professor Robert W. McCulloch was appointed to fill the vacancy of James Mobrai.

<sup>20</sup> Resigned on 1 Jan. 1970 and moved to Canada in protest of the Vietnam Conflict and to protect his son (Rockwell's son had been drafted into military service in late 1969). Dan Noble of Norwood was appointed on 1 Jan. 1970 to fill the vacancy; elected to SD 34 in Nov. 1970.

<sup>21</sup> After retiring in California, Stephan remained politically active and served two terms as a member of the San Diego Planning Commission. He died in La Jolla, California, on 9 September 1944.

<sup>22</sup> Rockwell unsuccessfully ran for Colorado Governor in 1930.

<sup>23</sup> 2008- Delta County Commissioner Wayne Wolf unsuccessfully challenged Democrat incumbent John Salazar for Colorado's 3rd CD. Wolf raised around \$20,000 and posted better numbers than Greg Walcher had in 2004 or Scott Tipton in 2006. Wolf's race illustrated that Salazar was vulnerable to defeat if the Republicans put up a well-funded candidate. In 2010 Scott Tipton with a million dollar campaign successfully defeated Salazar.

<sup>24</sup> Colorado's 4th Congressional Dist. 1941-49; lost re-election bid to Wayne Aspinall of Grand Junction in Nov. 1948.