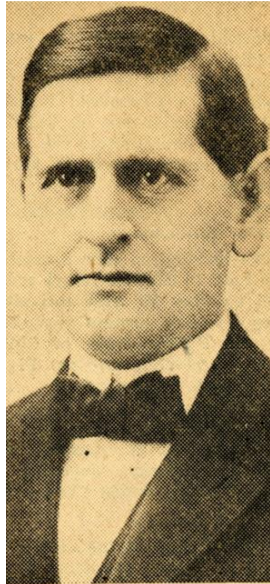


Coke L. Doster

Coke Leigh Doster was born in 1871 at New Martinsburg, the son of Robert and Catherine (Leasure) Doster. His grandparents, John and Catherine (Mooney) Doster came from Virginia. Coke was the second in a family of six.

He attended a school near New Martinsburg and went on to The Ohio State University and was admitted to the bar in 1896. He set up his practice in Greenfield in 1897. He married Gertrude Myrtle Priddy in 1894, she being from the Washington C.H. area. The couple had three children: Harry Audleigh born April 16, 1895, Kathleen Marine born 1897, and Dorothy Priddy, born 1899. Mr. Doster was very supportive of his children and of their accomplishments. Harry Audleigh was a brilliant student graduating in 1914 from Greenfield High School. He represented the class of 1914 during the laying of the cornerstone for the new McClain High School. He went on to attend The Ohio State University but left after two years to volunteer for service in the army during World War I. He was found to be "physically unfit for service overseas" and was stationed in San Antonio, Texas, and later Vancouver, Washington. He never recovered from his illness and spent much of his life in Warm Springs, Georgia, and Florida. He married Garnet Daily in 1924 who owned the Garnet Shop, a women's dress shop in Greenfield. They had no children. Audleigh died in 1979. Kathleen Marine graduated from McClain High School in 1916 and completed a course in Home Economics at Battle Creek, Michigan. She taught at McClain High School and North Carolina before returning to Battle Creek for post graduate work. Dorothy Priddy graduated from McClain High School in 1917 and attended Greenfield Business College. During World War I she worked as a clerk at McCook Aviation Field in Dayton, Ohio. She married Hugh Weimer in 1920. Mr. Doster's law practice covered Highland, Fayette and Ross Counties. His obituary describes him as being "an excellent lawyer, a keen student, and a splendid judge of human nature." He was active in the Highland County bar through the years. He was a member of the Republican Party and took an active part in the civic affairs of Greenfield being elected to the office of Mayor twice, 1901-1903 and again in 1910. As mayor he ruled that slot machines, "one-armed bandits", were nothing more than gambling and had them removed from the town. He resigned from the mayor's position in December 1910 due to his election as senator in the Ohio General Assembly. He served in that position for two years, earning a reputation for his leadership. The newspapers quoted him as saying in a heated debate "to hell with public opinion." The papers left off the rest of his words, "when you know you are right." Mr. Doster was also solicitor for Greenfield for sixteen years, having been appointed to that position several times by both the Republicans and Democrats. Both parties recognized his abilities as a lawyer. During World War I Mr. Doster aided the county selective service board, served on many committees, and helped raise funds for the war effort. He was the lawyer for the local B&O Railroad, The Peoples National Bank, and the J. A. Harps Manufacturing Company. He was a stockholder and director of the Peoples National Bank. Doster was a member of the Methodist Church, a member of the board, and an active member of the Ergonian Sunday school class. He was a member of the Elks, Eagles, Rotary Club, Country Club, Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and Improved Order of Redmen. Coke Doster had a nervous breakdown in 1926 and stepped back from his duties as a lawyer, spending time resting and visiting with friends for several weeks. While on a trip to Cleveland to visit family, he died at Kent, in Portage County, Ohio, on June 13, 1926, at the age of 55. He was buried in the Greenfield Cemetery. His obituary shows how the townspeople felt about him. It lists six men as active pall bearers for the residence, six active pall

bearers for the church service, and twenty-eight honorary pall bearers. All forty men were the movers and shakers of the town, including such names as McClain, Heidingsfeld, Mains, Waddell, Iseman, Wilkin, Norton, Styerwalt, Dunlap, among others.



COKE L. DOSTER

1900-01-02-03

1910-(Resigned)



The Doster house at 804 Jefferson Street.