

= Samuel Lightfoot Flournoy =

Samuel Lightfoot Flournoy (November 25 , 1846 ? January 28 , 1904) was an American lawyer , politician , and businessperson in the U.S. state of West Virginia . Flournoy served as a state senator representing the 12th Senatorial District in the West Virginia Senate (1885 ? 1890) and served three terms as mayor of Romney , West Virginia . Flournoy unsuccessfully ran as a candidate for the West Virginia Democratic Party gubernatorial nomination in 1900 .

Flournoy was born in 1846 in Chesterfield County , Virginia . In 1863 , during the American Civil War , he enlisted as a private in the Confederate States Army and served until the war 's end in 1865 . After graduating from Hampden ? Sydney College in 1868 , Flournoy taught school for four years while studying law . In 1870 he relocated to Romney , West Virginia , where he served as principal of the Potomac Academy . He was admitted to the bar in 1873 , and afterward served on the Board of Regents for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind (1876 ? 1880) . During his second term in the West Virginia Senate , Flournoy relocated to Charleston to practice law . He also engaged in several business ventures and was an incorporator of the Bank of Romney , the Tug and Guyandotte Railroad Company , the Bradford Building Company , the White Oak Mining Company , and the West Construction Company . Flournoy served on the Board of Trustees of Hampden ? Sydney College from 1892 until his death in 1904 .

Through his marriage to Frances " Fannie " Ann Armstrong White , Flournoy was a brother @-@ in @-@ law of West Virginia Attorney General Robert White and West Virginia Fish Commission President Christian Streit White , and the son @-@ in @-@ law of Hampshire County Clerk of Court John Baker White . Through his father , Flournoy was a relative of Thomas Flournoy , United States Representative from Virginia . Flournoy was the father of prominent Charleston lawyer Samuel Lightfoot Flournoy .

= = Early life and military career = =

Samuel Lightfoot Flournoy was born on November 25 , 1846 , in Chesterfield County , Virginia , 7 miles (11 km) from Richmond , and was the son of Richard W. Flournoy and his wife , Sarah Parke Poindexter Flournoy . He had four siblings , two brothers and two sisters : Reverend Parke Poindexter Flournoy , Eliza Flournoy Ayler , Richard W. Flournoy , and Ellen Flournoy Thornton . Flournoy was of English and French ancestry . He was a relative of Thomas Flournoy , United States Representative from Virginia . The majority of Flournoy 's youth and early adulthood were spent in Richmond , where he attended the city 's public schools .

In 1863 , during the American Civil War , Flournoy enlisted as a private in the Confederate States Army at the age of 17 . He served the entirety of his enlistment in Company A , Otey Battery , 13th Battalion , Virginia Light Artillery in Richmond , throughout the course of the war until its end in 1865 .

= = Education and teaching career = =

Following the war , Flournoy entered Hampden ? Sydney College in Hampden Sydney , Virginia , to pursue an education in classical studies . His elder brother Parke Poindexter Flournoy had been an assistant professor at the college during the war . Flournoy graduated with honors and a Bachelor of Arts from Hampden ? Sydney College in 1868 and received the Speaker 's Medal from the institution 's Philanthropic Debating Society . While attending Hampden ? Sydney College , he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity . Following graduation , Flournoy taught school for four years while studying law . Around 1870 he relocated to Romney , West Virginia , where he took charge as principal and taught at the Potomac Academy with " considerable success " and continued his law studies . Flournoy was admitted to the bar in Romney in January 1873 .

= = Law and political careers = =

== = Romney law practice == =

Following his admission to the bar , Flourney immediately began practicing law in Romney and " won merited distinction " in his field . He became a prominent leader in the community and was elected as a member of the Romney Literary Society . Flourney served on the fourth Board of Regents of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind from 1876 to 1880 . He served three terms as mayor of Romney . As his law career prospered , Flourney was active in the establishment of The Society of the Ex @-@ Confederate Soldiers in Hampshire County . The society 's missions were to obtain an accurate roster of Confederate veterans and to collect and preserve materials to maintain a " truthful " history of the American Civil War . Flourney and a group of Confederate veterans met at the Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney on July 31 , 1883 , where he was appointed secretary of the society . The society 's constitution was presented at its first annual reunion on September 5 , 1883 , at which time Flourney was officially titled as the society 's corresponding secretary . Alexander W. Monroe was among the society 's three concurrently @-@ serving vice presidents .

== = West Virginia Senate == =

Flourney was elected to represent the 12th Senatorial District , consisting of Grant , Hampshire , Hardy , Mineral , and Pendleton counties , in the West Virginia Senate in 1885 and was re @-@ elected to the seat in 1889 . In the West Virginia state senatorial election on November 6 , 1888 , Flourney defeated his Republican challenger S. G. Pownall with 5 @,@ 578 votes to Pownall 's 4 @,@ 028 votes . Following his election , Flourney was selected as part of West Virginia 's attending delegation to the inauguration of President Benjamin Harrison . In his first term in the West Virginia Senate , Flourney served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee , and in his second term he served as chairman of the Committee on Counties and Municipal Corporations . Throughout his two terms , Flourney served on the committees of Privileges and Elections , Federal Relations , Immigration and Agriculture , and Public Printing . In 1890 , during his second term in the West Virginia Senate , Flourney relocated from Romney to Charleston and continued practicing law there . He resigned from his senate seat in 1890 .

== = Charleston law practice == =

In Charleston , in 1891 , Flourney founded the law firm Couch , Flourney and Price with former West Virginia Senate President , George Edmund Price . The firm would later become Flourney , Price , and Smith with the addition of Harrison Brooks Smith in 1894 . On March 7 , 1892 , Flourney and his partner Price were admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States . Flourney and Price continued to expand their law practice into Southern West Virginia when they were admitted to the bar of Summers County in 1894 .

In April 1897 , while practicing law in Charleston , Flourney became qualified to practice law at the bar of Tazewell County , Virginia . As a Charleston lawyer , Flourney represented both plaintiffs and defendants involved in suits over coalfield land titles in Southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia . From 1900 to 1901 , Flourney represented the defendant Henry C. King in a widely publicized case involving claim to a land title of 500 @,@ 000 acres (2 @,@ 000 km2) spanning counties in Southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals . In 1901 , Flourney represented S. J. Ritchie of Akron , Ohio , in the Tazewell County Court , where his client claimed a large land tract of valuable coalfields spanning Tazewell County and McDowell County , West Virginia .

== = Gubernatorial candidacy == =

In early April 1900 , a movement among prominent West Virginia Democratic Party members in

Charleston began to coalesce around Flournoy in support of his candidacy for West Virginia governor . Flournoy was considered a William Jennings Bryan Democrat with conservative positions , and Charleston Democrats felt he would receive wide support and would not antagonize corporations . Flournoy took the matter under advisement and on April 25 , 1900 , he announced his candidacy for West Virginia governor . In his announcement , Flournoy stated that he was unwilling to engage in a heated contest for the nomination and that he would be content with the outcome of the Democratic Party state convention , no matter the decision . He further stated that he trusted the state convention would craft a ticket that would command the support of the people of West Virginia . Following his announcement , the Spirit of Jefferson newspaper in Charles Town stated of Flournoy on May 1 , 1900 : " Mr. Flournoy is a most estimable gentleman , well and favorably known here , would doubtless make an excellent governor , and as the nominee of the Democratic party would receive a hearty support in the Eastern panhandle . " Flournoy also received the support of the Democratic Party in Mineral County in May 1900 .

At the West Virginia Democratic Party State Convention held in Parkersburg on June 6 , 1900 , Flournoy competed for the party 's nomination for gubernatorial candidacy against Lewis N. Tavenner of Parkersburg , John H. Holt of Huntington , and Virgil G. Lewis of Mason City . Prior to the convention , Daniel B. Lucas of Jefferson County had been a candidate for nomination . Holt won the Democratic Party 's nomination on the first ballot , but lost in the general election to Republican candidate Albert B. White . Flournoy and Lewis each received just one vote while Holt received 483 and Tavenner received 450 votes .

= = = West Virginia Bar Association = = =

Flournoy was present at the first meeting of the West Virginia Bar Association held on the date of its organization on July 8 , 1886 , in Grafton . As a member , Flournoy was appointed to draft the association 's constitution and by @-@ laws and served on its executive committee . In addition to serving as a vice president of the association , Flournoy also represented the 12th Judicial Circuit on the association 's Committee on Judicial Administration and Legal Reform and later served on the Committee of Admissions . On January 7 , 1892 , Flournoy was elected as the association 's vice president for West Virginia 's 3rd congressional district .

= = Business pursuits = =

In addition to his law practice and political pursuits , Flournoy also engaged in several business ventures . On August 4 , 1888 , he purchased five shares priced at \$ 100 each in order to invest in and provide capital stock for the incorporation of the Bank of Romney . Along with Harrison B. Smith and fellow state senator George E. Price , Flournoy again served as an incorporator on April 25 , 1901 , when the Tug and Guyandotte Railroad Company was granted its charter with \$ 100 @,@ 000 in capital . The Tug and Guyandotte Railroad was constructed between the Norfolk and Western Railway at Davy and Baileysville to facilitate the transportation of coal . Flournoy , Price , and Flournoy 's son Richard Parke Flournoy were incorporators of the Bradford Building Company which was chartered with capital of \$ 20 @,@ 000 on September 25 , 1901 , with the purpose of engaging in general building and construction projects .

The following year , on December 20 , 1902 , Flournoy , Price , and their law partner Smith were also incorporators of the White Oak Mining Company and of the West Construction Company . With an authorized capital stock of \$ 100 @,@ 000 , the White Oak Mining Company , that was engaged in the mining , shipment , and sale of coal , the cutting and sawing of timber , and the operations and sales of railway , telephone , and telegraph lines and networks . The West Construction Company , based in Chattanooga , Tennessee , was a general contracting and construction firm also involved in the operation and maintenance of railway , telephone , and telegraph lines .

= = Personal life = =

== Marriage and children ==

On April 10 , 1875 , in Hampshire County , Flounoy married Frances " Fannie " Ann Armstrong White (April 10 , 1844 ? February 25 , 1922) , the daughter of Hampshire County Clerk of Court John Baker White and his wife Frances Ann Streit White . Frances White 's brother , Robert White , served as West Virginia Attorney General , and her brother Christian Streit White served as President of the West Virginia Fish Commission . Flounoy and his wife Frances had six children (five sons and one daughter) :

Richard Parke Flounoy (December 29 , 1875 ? May 5 , 1959)

Harry Lightfoot Flounoy (March 4 , 1878 ? December 31 , 1954)

Frances T. Flounoy Preston , married James M. Preston of Lewisburg , West Virginia

Robert Baker Flounoy (October 10 , 1882 ? July 25 , 1883)

Samuel Lightfoot Flounoy (January 7 , 1886 ? May 17 , 1961) , married Sarah Katharine Cotton

Alexander White Flounoy (March 15 , 1887 ? March 16 , 1958) , married Anne Cary Gravatt

== Religious activities ==

Flounoy was active in the Presbyterian Church in Hampshire County and served as a trustee for the Presbytery of Winchester , along with Henry Bell Gilkeson . In 1881 , Flounoy and his fellow trustees were instrumental in securing from Amos L. and Allie G. Pugh a house and a large partially wooded lot in Capon Bridge for use by the Presbytery as a centrally located manse in Hampshire County . Flounoy was elected as a deacon in the Presbyterian Church in 1879 and remained a trustee of the Presbytery of Winchester until 1891 when he relocated to Charleston . Following his move to Charleston , Flounoy became a member of the First Presbyterian Church and served as one of seven church elders there .

== Later life and death ==

Flounoy died as a result of throat and pulmonary illnesses on January 28 , 1904 , at 2 : 40 a.m. in Orlando , Florida , where he had traveled to restore his failing health . His wife and his physician Dr. Henry were at his side at the time of his death . Flounoy was survived by his wife , and five of his children .

He served on the Board of Trustees of Hampden ? Sydney College from 1892 until his death . A tribute to Flounoy was rendered by college president Richard McIlwaine at a meeting of the Hampden ? Sydney College trustees on June 13 , 1904 .

Following his death , The Weekly Register newspaper in Point Pleasant remarked that Flounoy " was one of the prominent [Democratic] leaders of the state , and occupied a high place in the estimation [of] the party followers " . The Times @-@ Dispatch of Richmond stated that Flounoy " was one of the best known members of the bar " of Charleston and described his service during the American Civil War as gallant .