



George Morehouse (1859 – 1941)

George P. Morehouse was born July 28, 1859, in Decatur, Illinois, to Horace and Lavinia F. (Strong) Morehouse. In 1871 the elder Morehouse drove overland in covered wagons from Assumption, Illinois, to Diamond Springs, Morris County, Kansas, and opened a stock ranch, where his family settled. George became an expert hunter and horseman, driving herds to other ranches. At a young age he was active in politics and early railroad matters, and was a frequent speaker and debater. He attended Albion (New York) Academy, and graduated in 1884. He also graduated from the University of New York, where he was elected president and orator of his class. There he studied law, but returned to Council Grove to manage the cattle ranch. He finished his legal education in Kansas and was admitted to the bar in 1889. He was appointed city attorney of Council Grove, serving about six years. Morehouse was also

elected county attorney of Morris County. In 1900 Morehouse was elected state senator from Morris, Marion, and Chase counties. He authored legislation to regulate automobiles, and to designate the sunflower as state flower of Kansas. In 1906 Morehouse married Louise Thorne Hull. Morehouse led a movement to mark the Santa Fe Trail, and delivered addresses for the dedication of historical monuments on the overland trail. George Morehouse was involved in the 1907 celebration of the Kaw Treaty Site near Elyria, Kansas and he wrote an article on his experiences of stumbling across the actual treaty in the KSHS files of the Sibley survey, and then giving his interpretation of the location of the Treaty site.

He was a president and life member of the Kansas State Historical Society and a contributor to its publications. He became involved in an effort to preserve the language and history of the Kaw Indians. He belonged to the International Society of Archaeologists and studied the Spanish and French occupation of Kansas. He found 150 spellings for Kansas. Morehouse became a genealogist and historian for his family. Morehouse died in 1941 in Topeka. He is buried in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas. <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/george-pierson-morehouse/18207>