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Malaquias Martinez

Another member of the convention that formulated the constitution of the State of New Mexico, Malaquias Martinez, died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Santa Fe, on August 15, as the result of an automobile accident while on his way to the Republican State Convention at Albuquerque. He was the son of Santiago Valdez Martinez, prominent as legislator and political leader in the 70's of the last century, who resided in Mora from 1878 to 1884, and who died in Taos in 1888. Malaquias Martinez was born at Taos, on December 15, 1860, but his parents took him to Mora, where he resided until 1890, when he returned to Taos. In 1882 he was married to Miss Juanita Chaves, with whom he had one son, Juan F. Martinez. In 1889 he married Emily Blattman. Mr. Martinez was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. For twenty-five years he was chairman of the Territorial and State Republican Committee for Taos County. He served two terms as deputy assessor, and as superintendent of schools in 1894 and 1896. His legislative career began in 1897, when he was elected to the House of the Territorial Assembly, and from 1899 to 1907 he represented the counties of Taos, San Juan, and Rio Arriba, in the Territorial Senate. In the latter year he was elected senator from Mora and Taos Counties. In 1910 he served as a member of the Constitutional Convention. In 1915 he resumed legislative duties as a member from Taos County. Among the different offices he held was that of coal oil inspector for the Territory in 1907. He was candidate for lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket in the first state election. He also served as member of the Board of Penitentiary Commissioners and the Cattle Sanitary Board. He was secretary of the Commission for the Revision of Laws during Governor Otero's administration. Mr. Martinez was an eloquent speaker, was zealous in guarding the interests of the Spanish-American people, and yet broad minded and statesmanlike in his view of political questions and of legislative problems.