

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
<b>Thurston, John Mellon</b>	b. 1847 – d. 9 Aug 1916	68 yrs.	<b>R59/83</b>

**See the on-line "Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress"**

*The City of Washington, Its Men & Institutions*

Hon. John Mellon Thurston, former United States Senator from Nebraska, is one of the many who came to Washington in an official capacity, and becoming enamored of the manifold attractions and possibilities of the national capital elected to make it his home. Mr. Thurston upon his retirement from the Senate, opened a handsome suite of law offices here in the Bond Building, corner of Fourteenth street and New York avenue, northwest, with a branch office at Omaha, Nebraska, and also an office as general counsel of the Yacqui Copper Company, at 170 Broadway, New York. He numbers among his clients business firms from all sections of the country of the highest standing in the commercial and financial world, as well as public men of influence and power. He is regarded as occupying a position in the front rank of the legal fraternity in the United States.

Senator Thurston was born at Montpelier, Vermont, on August 21, 1847. His ancestors were Puritans, and their settlement in this country dates back to 1636. His grandfather, Mellen, and great grandfather, Thurston, were both soldiers in the revolutionary war. His parents, Daniel S. and Ruth (Mellen) Thurston, moved to Wisconsin in 1854. His father was a private soldier in the First Wisconsin Cavalry, and died in the service in the spring of 1863. Senator Thurston was educated in the public schools and at Wayland University, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, supporting himself by farm work, driving teams and other manual labor. He was admitted to the bar May 21, 1869, and in October of the same year located in Omaha, where he has since resided. In that city he was elected a member of the city council in 1872; city attorney of Omaha in 1874, and a member of the Nebraska legislature in 1875. He was a member of the Republican National Convention in 1884, and temporary chairman of the Republican National Convention in 1888; was president of the Republican League of the United States from 1889 to 1891, and was selected as permanent chairman of the Republican National Convention held in St. Louis June 16, 17 and 18, 1896, which nominated Major William McKinley of Ohio, for President. In 1877 he became assistant attorney for the Union Pacific Railway Company, and in February, 1888, was appointed general solicitor of the Union Pacific system.