

# Robert Burns



## Birth and Death Year

1874-1950

## Induction Year

1946

## Profession

Public Servant

## Oklahoma Connection

Burns came to Washita County, Oklahoma in December of 1902 to practice law.

## Fun Fact

Robert Burns could not read or write until he was 17.

## Quote

*"I was 17 years old before I learned to read and write. When my education had reached that stage, I found my mind was starved and I realized the importance of education...I read newspapers and anything I could pick up."*

- Robert Burns

## Bio

Oklahoma's lieutenant governor (1931-1935) and state senator Robert Burns was born on a tenant farm in Arkansas and worked his way through Nashville Law School in Tennessee. He came to Oklahoma briefly in 1900 but returned to his hometown to teach school before settling in Washita County, Oklahoma in 1902. After a short stint in politics in Oregon, he came to Chickasha, Oklahoma in 1905 and later moved to Comanche, where he was elected as the first Stephens County attorney in 1907. He moved to Oklahoma City in 1913 and was elected to the senate from Oklahoma County in 1916. He was nominated for governor but lost in the election of 1922. He also served as state senator in 1940, was reelected in 1944 and served four more years before retiring to his private law practice.