

## CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF JUDGE JOHN KIRKHAM

Since 2011, thanks to the ideas created by USCF NM Derek Meredith, the club has held a double quads event in November to immortalize a person who has been instrumental in promoting and enriching chess throughout our community. This year, we memorialize the tournament after Judge John Kirkham, our club's first president. The judge was instrumental in organizing and officially founding the club in 1901 and growing it by hosting various intra-club matches with local chess clubs like Hartford. He was also a Connecticut chess champion and was a key advocate for the promotion of Connecticut chess, serving as a leader in the also very historic Hartford Chess Club. 10 Mr. Kirkham was incidentally considered one of the strongest chess players in Connecticut during the early part of the twentieth century and beat a strong chess player in the Boylston Chess Club in 1905. Mr. Kirkham also entertained Jose Raul Capablanca, a candidate for the world chess championship, at the Hartford Chess Club in 1909 for a simultaneous chess exhibition. Without the leadership exhibited by this legendary man, the NBCC and Connecticut chess might not be as strong as it is today. Please note that this year's memorial event format was not a double round quad but instead a double round Swiss.