

Iowa People and Events . . .

Scion of Senator Jones Dies

The colorful public career of Iowa's distinguished soldier-statesman, General and Senator George Wallace Jones, is recalled by the death April 4th last at Silver Springs, Maryland, of his granddaughter, Mrs. Katherine S. Dawson, 86, a resident of the Washington, D. C. area for 80 years, whose home was at 103 West Woodbine street, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Born at Dubuque, she was the daughter of Capt. Charles Wallace Jones, a former member of the Confederate President Jefferson Davis' staff, and son of Senator Jones, and the widow of Clarence E. Dawson, Sr., a Washington attorney who died in 1917.

The sympathies and avowed preferences of Senator Jones as a Southern sympathizer during the Civil war period, caused him to be charged with treasonable expressions regarding President Lincoln and the government. Johnson Brigham, the Iowa historian, in his work: *Iowa, Its History and Its Foremost Citizens*, credits Jones with writing to his friend Jefferson Davis on May 17, 1861:

expressing his sympathy with the Confederate cause and with slavery as an institution, and his antipathy to the administration of President Lincoln. He also related the story of his own wrongs, as a slaveholder who had been compelled by public opinion to emancipate nine slaves during his residence in the North.

It is interesting now to recall also that strong expressions of sympathy for the South, coupled with intercepted letters from Jones to Jefferson Davis, prompted Secretary of War Stanton to order the arrest of Jones. Cyrenus Cole, in *Iowa Through the Years*, states that "after an imprisonment of sixty-four days in Fort LaFayette, New York, Jones was released by order of President Lincoln."

The long and serviceable public life of General Jones

began as a sergeant in the bodyguard of General Jackson at the time of the latter being elected to the United States senate. He acted in the same capacity at the reception given General LaFayette in Lexington in the following May. His first political office was when he became clerk of the U. S. district court of Missouri in 1826. His military career was in the Blackhawk war in 1832, participating in most of the engagements. Afterwards he was appointed a colonel in the militia, but declined the honor and in 1833 was chosen judge of the vast district east of the Mississippi then known as Iowa county in Michigan territory. In 1835 he was elected as congressional delegate from that territory, and while serving in that capacity induced congress to divide the territory of Michigan, naming the western portion as Wisconsin territory, from which he was returned as its delegate in congress. He was equally successful in organizing the territory of Iowa, and leading Democrats supported him for its governorship, but President Jackson held that as a member of congress he was ineligible.

In 1840 President Van Buren appointed Jones surveyor-general of the territory, and it was thus he acquired the title of "General." Meanwhile Iowa had become a state, and, in 1848, Jones was elected United States senator and served until 1859, when he was succeeded by Governor Grimes. He became a noted figure in congress and his voluminous correspondence is preserved in the manuscript collection of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines.

A few of the older Iowans yet living remember the unique event in April 1894, when Senator Jones' ninetyeth birthday was celebrated by the Twenty-fifth General Assembly in joint session honoring this historical figure in Iow public life, who leaned lightly upon the arm of the young governor of Iowa, Frank D. Jackson, and walked down the center aisle of the house. The assemblage, with state officers and citizens from all over Iowa, saw a venerable man of medium size, slender

and erect as a man in his prime, his dark eyes flashing as of old, his small head covered with a waving mass of iron-gray hair, his patriarchal beard of snowy whiteness extending to his chest. Upon introduction he spoke with clearness and vigor and was roundly applauded. Notwithstanding his known friendship for Jefferson Davis, with whom he had been a classmate in college and intimate in Washington official life, and who as Secretary of War, had appointed his son, Charles Wallace Jones, to a lieutenantancy in the army, he was treated with respect and cordiality in this visit to the state of his early official activities. General Jones died at his home in Dubuque, July 22, 1896, having passed his ninety-second birthday, surviving his wife eight years.

Capable But Contentious

The passing of Iowa-born Seth W. Richardson a few months ago at Washington, whose biography appears upon another page, marks the close of another colorful career. Perhaps best known as a Federal official, he attained distinction as one of those able Republicans who was drafted for legal and administrative duties by national executives of both his own and the Democrat party. Following a long experience as an attorney in private practice and U.S. attorney in North Dakota, he was named by President Hoover as assistant attorney general of the United States, and rendered signal service.

He was a former chairman of the Loyalty Review board and in this position met with criticism on the board's handling of the William W. Remington case. In this case the board reversed a regional board's decision that Remington should be dismissed from the Federal government service for Communist connections. Remington afterward was convicted in court and sentenced to a term in prison.

Mr. Richardson was chairman of the Loyalty Board from 1947, until he headed the Subversive Activities board created in 1950, to determine whether organi-

zations should be made to register with the Department of Justice as subversives, disclosing their officers, finances and, in some cases, members. Although a life-long Republican, Mr. Richardson accepted this difficult post from former President Truman at the age of 70 because of his desire to see if the act creating the board could be administered in the public interest. When he was appointed to the subversives board, Mr. Richardson said: "If I wasn't 70, and curious to see whether the president or congress is right about the workability of the law, I wouldn't have touched this job with a ten-foot pole."

Mr. Richardson maintained he was a "contentious, life-long Republican, in disagreement with most policies of the administration" and he didn't know why President Truman picked him to head the board.

His criticism of government policies did not begin or end with the last Democrat administration. He was critical, more recently, when the Eisenhower administration made known plans to do away with the Loyalty Review board, revising the entire loyalty system of the government and concentrating it in the executive departments. Dismissed employes would be allowed to appeal to the courts, according to plans.

He felt that to give the courts the power to rule on the case of a dismissed employe would be to allow them to "revise, change or overrule" a president in an executive matter. Thus, he believed the courts and not the executive would be the "real power" in dismissal cases.

In 1947, Mr. Richardson and A. Burks Summers, Washington financier, a hunting companion for the last fifteen years, covered 5,000 miles of Africa during a two-month trip. They bagged an elephant, a buffalo, a cheetah, a rhinoceros and a lion.

He came home from Africa by way of Rome and stopped off to see Pope Pius XII. In the Vatican, he was guided by so many Monsignors named Kelly, Casey, O'Toole, etc., that he opened his conversation with the

Pope by saying: "I didn't know until today that the Irish had taken over the Vatican."

The Pope was delighted and kept him a long time, during which they discussed tribal customs and economic and racial difficulties in Africa, and Mr. Richardson's unwavering isolationism.

Another phase of an active life is indicated when Mr. Richardson was an athlete at the University of Wisconsin, where he played football and baseball and boxed. He played semi-pro baseball in the West and was amateur light-heavyweight champion in the time of Jim Jeffries, professional heavyweight champion.

Hiram Price Paid Iowa Soldiers

One of the interesting tales of recruiting men in Iowa to enter the Union forces in the War of the Rebellion, often personally told by Benj. F. Gue, former lieutenant governor, was how, when the great Rebellion suddenly came upon the country, the Northern States were entirely unprepared for war. They were generally destitute of efficient military laws to meet such an emergency, and no money was available to provide for the extraordinary expenses that must be incurred in furnishing troops in response to the calls of the National Government. While Governor Kirkwood was waiting for funds from the sale of State bonds authorized by an extra session of the Legislature, two Iowa regiments had hastened into the service. The young men composing these regiments had left their homes on short notice and generally with very little money to supply their wants. The State undertook to pay the soldiers, until they were mustered into the United States service but no money had yet been realized from the bonds. Hiram Price had learned of the destitution of the boys and wrote to Governor Kirkwood: "Governor: Cannot something be done immediately to furnish these men some money? If taken sick many of them have not money to buy an orange." To this the Governor replied: "You are right, Mr. Price, but

what can we do? We have no money." In reply Mr. Price wrote: "I can raise a few thousand dollars and I feel that something ought to be done at once, if it is ever so little, to show these men that they are not forgotten."

This correspondence brought about a conference which resulted in the speedy raising of \$33,000. Of this sum Hiram Price raised \$22,000 and Ezekiel Clark of Iowa City raised \$11,000, becoming personally responsible for these amounts.

Governor Kirkwood gratefully accepted the money tendered by these two patriotic citizens and promptly commissioned them to proceed to Missouri where the regiments were engaged in active service and make the first payment to the soldiers. It was a hazardous mission that Price and Clark undertook, as the portions of the state where the Iowa regiments were stationed were infested with Confederate recruits hastening to join Gen. Sterling Price's rebel army.

The Second Iowa regiment was found guarding bridges on the Hannibal & St. Jo. railroad, and \$11,000 was paid to them. Soon after Mr. Clark, who was acting quartermaster general, was called away on urgent business, and Mr. Price proceeded alone to find the First Iowa regiment, which was in Central Missouri, in General Lyon's command. It was just before the battle of Wilson's creek. The whole state was at this time in a condition of anarchy. Many of its public officials and leading citizens were actively engaged in enlisting soldiers for the Confederate service, obstructing railroads and organizing guerilla bands to destroy government property, and cut off recruits and supplies for the Union armies.

Hiram Price now began his journey to find the regiment. When he approached Jefferson City a section of the railroad was found to be in the hands of rebels, and a portion of his journey was made on foot through the enemy's country. But he succeeded in reaching Booneville in safety and there found and paid \$11,000

to the First Iowa Infantry, a few days before the battle of Wilson's Creek. Returning to Keokuk he paid the Third Infantry \$11,000 before it left for the South.

When the first arms were sent to Burlington by the general government to aid the governor of Iowa in expelling the rebel bands from Missouri who were plundering the people of the border counties, the express company held them for \$900 charges which the governor had no money to pay. When the first bales of blankets for Iowa soldiers were sent to Davenport, they were held for \$500 charges for transportation. In these and other financial emergencies Hiram Price came promptly forward and raised the money upon his own personal credit, and loyally stood by Governor Kirkwood in those perilous and critical times. He never hesitated from prudential considerations, as so many thousands of monied men did, but freely risked his fortune as well as his life whenever emergencies required it.

Few citizens of Iowa, of the present generation, will ever know how loyally such men as Hiram Price, Ezekiel Clark, J. K. Graves, W. T. Smith, W. F. Coolbaugh, and a few other able financiers came to the aid of our state government in those trying times. Young men were plenty in those days who were willing to risk their lives for their country, but capitalists who were willing to risk their fortunes in behalf of the same good cause were not numerous.

Dedicate Mormon Memorial Bridge

Dignified exercises dedicating the new Mormon Memorial bridge at Omaha, Nebraska, were held Sunday, May 31, and Monday, June 1, by high dignitaries of the Utah Mormon church, and participated in also by the governors of Iowa and Nebraska. Members of churches of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, likewise attended the event, recalling that Kanessville, Iowa, now Council Bluffs, was the place

of over-winter domicile of the west-bound Mormons before starting upon their long trek for Utah under the leadership of Brigham Young.

There were those of the faith that set out from Navoo, Illinois, but who did not go on west, preferring to remain in the middle west, and since have been known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and now have their headquarters at Independence, Missouri, with Rev. Israel A. Smith as their leader.

The bridge now dedicated spans the Missouri river at the site of the old Mormon ferry, used by thousands of the church followers of Young on their beginning of the second lap of their trip to the west.

The ceremonies of the occasion included a pageant Sunday evening, and a parade and formal dedication of the structure on Monday, the anniversary of the birthday of Brigham Young.

Iowa Not Crime-ridden

The annual survey of crime in the United States by the FBI, as reported by Director J. Edgar Hoover, shows that last year major crimes increased 8.2 percent over 1951. The report also reveals that crimes of violence and auto thefts led other brands in acceleration, crimes of violence increasing 10.2 percent and auto thefts—on the rise for three years—up 9.3 percent.

While various other states show slightly less crime percentages than Iowa in separate classes, this state ranks near the top as regards safety in all classes. Thus it is seen that Iowa cities outrank the cities of most all of the states as the safest place to live, both as respect to property and lives.

Iowa cities had but 1.70 murders per 100,000 persons as contrasted with 20.67 per 100,000 in Georgia.

Thirteen out of every 100,000 Iowa urban residents were robbed, but the rate goes much higher in many

states, reaching a peak of 121.4 per 100,000 persons in Nevada.

Only 8.7 out of every 100,000 Iowa urban inhabitants were assaulted as contrasted with North Carolina, the worst state for assault, where 384.4 city people out of every 100,000 get roughed up.

Two hundred five of every 100,000 city homes in Iowa were burglarized last year, but the rate was much higher in most states, topped by Arizona, where 917.7 homes out of 100,000 were burglarized.

City residents of Iowa suffered 803 thefts per 100,000 population, but in the worst state, Arizona, the rate was 2,585.5.

In Iowa cities, 104.9 cars were stolen for every 100,000 residents. In Arizona, the worst state, the rate was 538.7 cars per 100,000 population.

Iowa cities have less murder than the cities of 41 other states, less robbery than the cities of 41 other states, less assault than the cities of 41 other states, less burglary than the cities of 41 other states, less theft than the cities of 31 other states, and fewer stolen cars than the cities of 40 other states.

Eightieth State Bar Meeting

The eightieth annual meeting of the Iowa State Bar Association was held in Sioux City the first week in June, convening on the 5th this year, with a distinguished array of speakers upon their program.

Queries were received by association officers as to why the 1953 session was referred to as the eightieth annual meeting, whereas the 1952 meeting was referred to as the fifty-eighth annual meeting of the association. The *News Bulletin* of the organization states that the association was organized exactly eighty years ago, in 1874, but complete records do not exist for a period of approximately twenty-two years between 1874 and 1896.

However, in view of research done by members of the association, it has been determined that a meeting of some kind was held each year during that twenty-

two year period. Therefore, in order to set the record straight once and for all, the annual meeting committee of the association designated the 1953 meeting as the eightieth annual meeting, it in fact being such.

90 Tons of Books

Books collected by the Iowa-born Thomas Jefferson Fitzpatrick, scientist and professor emeritus of botany at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, were sold at auction in February this year by the administrator of his estate for \$53,000, it has been disclosed.

Professor Fitzpatrick was born at Centerville, and had a long and notable career as a botanist, his biography appearing in the January, 1953, number of the ANNALS.

The books went to Frank Glenn, Kansas City collector, who is to turn over 20,000 of the regional Americana items to the Kansas City public library for \$35,000. The collection contained books from the library of Thomas Jefferson, from whom Fitzpatrick traced kinship.

When Fitzpatrick died of a heart attack last year, he was living in one room of his 13-room house. The rest of this house and a smaller house next door were found to be filled with the books. Lincoln city authorities estimated the books weighed 90 tons.

The "Loyalty Oath"

Anent the disinclination of so many people to the taking of an oath of loyalty to the United States, and the furore raised in many quarters regarding such action being required of individuals, it is interesting to read the similar oath required taken in the post Civil war period by those entering government service even in subordinate and seemingly unimportant service. It read:

"And I do further solemnly swear that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since

I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, council or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded to voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or constitution within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto."

Public Service Unattractive

We must realize that public office has been made much less attractive than it should be to young men of ambition and older men of experience. We are exacting a terrible toll from our governors. We have a right to require of them a maximum of honesty and more than a minimum of wisdom. But there is no justice in wasting their energies, fouling their reputations, and destroying their usefulness by continuing guerilla warfare to which in these bad times every holder of high public office has been exposed.

Much has been said about the possible destruction of our democratic way of life by enemies without and within. Much has been charged to past administration of the corruption of power. After all is said and done, the power both to make and to destroy is in the hands of the people of the United States. If we have been passing through bad times, much of the fault, possibly the greater fault, is our own. If our governors owe much to us, we owe at least as much to our governors. There is grave danger that the American people will make it impossible for their elected officers to govern. . . .

Surely we must believe that by our democratic processes we are capable of choosing great leaders. It is a moral obligation upon us that we do not disenable them to lead greatly. —Thomas H. English, in *Emory University Quarterly*, Atlanta.

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