

NORMAN MORRIS WILCHINSKI was born in the Mississippi River town of Louisiana, Missouri, December 25, 1877, and died in his office in the Younker Brothers department store in Des Moines, June 26, 1937. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines. His parents were Morris and Agnes (Berkson) Wilchinski, natives of Poland and Germany. He came to Des Moines with his parents at the age of two, and attended the public schools and two years of high school. In 1892, one year after his father's death, he entered the employ of Younker Brothers as a messenger boy, commencing his business career at a salary of \$3.00 a week. Because of his business acumen and qualities of leadership, he rapidly rose to executive positions through the office division of the store. He was admitted to the firm as secretary in 1909, and in 1919 was elected president, succeeding Herman Younker. Under his leadership the Younker Brothers store grew from a mercantile establishment occupying a small four-story building to the largest department store in Iowa, occupying a block long building. He gave to all Iowa a store of which all citizens could be proud, a public institution founded and built on the ideal that the customer was always right. Although he shunned all personal publicity, his policies were a standard for the whole retail industry of the nation and the organization was recognized as one of the finest examples of its kind. In 1917 he was married to Grace Kendall of Des Moines. In 1920 a daughter, Elaine, was born to them. Both survive him. He was chairman of the Des Moines Water Board of which he had been a member since it was founded in 1919. He was a member of the Temple B'nai Jeshurun, the B'nai Brith, the Des Moines Club and the Hyperion Field Club. He was a keen and avid reader, not only of the leading periodicals of his day, but was also a student of the great writers of the world of literature. He believed there never was a better state than Iowa, and believed in Des Moines and its future as no one else. For twenty years he had been a member of the Greater Des Moines Committee. That body passed a memorial resolution of which the following is an excerpt: "Des Moines has never possessed a citizen of wider vision or greater value. His wise counsel and tireless energy suggested and carried to success unnumbered projects for our city's welfare and to all of them he gave unceasingly of his time and his funds. He had the admiration and the affection of us all and there was not a man on our Directory Board more loved and honored. All Des Moines loved him for his kind and understanding heart and unfailing generosity to every deserving cause and person. He leaves as a priceless heritage the deep esteem and affection of his fellow citizens."

RICHARD PHILIP BAKER was born at Conover, England, near Shrewsbury, February 3, 1866, and died at his home in Iowa City, Iowa, August 13, 1937. Burial was in Oakland Cemetery, Iowa City. He entered Clifton College at Bristol in 1877, holding scholarships continuously in science by open competition, and was school exhibitor on leaving in

1884. He passed the Oxford and Cambridge higher certificates examinations with distinctions in mathematics, physics and chemistry. He took honors in mathematics and science as a Brackenbury scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, from 1884-87. He received the degree of bachelor of science from London University in 1887. He came to the United States in 1888 where he has ever since made his home. He was admitted to the bar in Texas in 1891 and practiced law for a number of years. He was also a proficient musician and served as professor of music at the University of Oregon for several years. He received the degree of Ph. D from the University of Chicago in 1910. He served as president of Lamar College, Lamar, Missouri, from 1897 to 1901 and from 1902-04 was co-principal of the Union Academy at Anna, Illinois. In 1905 he came to the University of Iowa as an instructor in mathematics and served the university for thirty-two years in that capacity. Professor Baker was devoted to music and was associated with the university orchestra for many years. He organized the first chamber music orchestra in Iowa City. Professor Baker was a member of many distinguished groups, among them being the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Mathematical Society of America and the American Mathematical Association. He held memberships in many different scientific societies, including Sigma Xi and Gamma Alpha fraternities. His attainments in his own fields of science and mathematics were scholarly and brilliant.

ROBERT A. CRAWFORD, prominent Des Moines and Iowa banker, died at his home in Des Moines August 7, 1937. Burial was at Altoona, Iowa. Born in London, England, August 22, 1855, Mr. Crawford came to this country with his parents, Alexander and Mary Ann Crawford, in 1858 at the age of three. After receiving his education in the Plainfield Academy, Plainfield, New Jersey, Mr. Crawford early heeded Horace Greeley's advice, and went west—to Altoona, Iowa. Here he operated both a small general store, and acted as the town's postmaster, the post office also being his store. Soon after his arrival in Altoona, frugality and careful investments in Iowa farm land enabled him to establish, in 1875, the Iowa Exchange Bank of Altoona, and thus to begin his long and successful career in Iowa banking, a career that at his death made him the reputed dean of Iowa bankers. The year following the establishment of the bank witnessed his naturalization as an American citizen and also his marriage to Miss Melissa Beatty, who is his sole survivor. In 1893 Mr. Crawford bought an interest in the Valley National Bank of Des Moines and removed in that year to Des Moines to act as cashier of the bank. Two years later he helped to organize the Valley Savings Bank and became its first president, a position which he held until 1932 when he became chairman of the board. In January, 1937, he returned to active management of the bank in assuming once more the duties of president of the Savings Bank, which position he held at the time of his death. He also was executive vice

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