

came to him he generously contributed to many philanthropies and remembered his town with benefactions in the way of public improvements, and by his will he shared extensively with relatives, employes, associates and friends the proceeds of his success. His estate was said to total many millions.

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JOHN BURKE, better known as "Honest" John Burke, was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, February 25, 1859, and died May 14, 1937. Burial was at Bismarck, North Dakota. His parents were John and Mary (Ryan) Burke. He was educated in the public schools of Keokuk County, Iowa. He attended the State University of Iowa and received his degree of LL.B. From 1886-88 he practiced law in Des Moines with his brother, Judge Thomas C. Burke. In 1888 he removed to North Dakota and soon attained fame as a trial lawyer. He was elected county judge, serving from 1889-91 and from 1896-98. He was a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives from 1891-93 and of the Senate from 1893-95. He had the distinction of being the first Democratic governor to serve in North Dakota, being elected in 1907 and re-elected in 1909 and 1911, serving until 1913. In 1912 he was runner-up to the late Thomas R. Marshall for the nomination of vice president. He was appointed treasurer of the United States in 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson and served until 1921 during the trying period of the World War. After his retirement as United States treasurer he entered into partnership with Louis M. Kardos, Jr., in a Wall Street brokerage firm which soon failed and was subjected to a grand jury investigation. Mr. Burke was absolved of any wrongdoing, but so keenly did he feel the losses of the people who had invested their money that he turned over his entire personal fortune including a paid up insurance policy in order to help make up some of their losses. This together with his personal record in public office earned for him the appellation of "Honest" John Burke. From New York he returned to North Dakota and was elected a member of the Supreme Court of that state, and was serving as a Supreme Court justice at the time of his death. Governor William Langer of North Dakota commenting on the death of Mr. Burke said: "North Dakota has lost its leading citizen, the outstanding man of the state."

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WILL BURNETT, chief of the Des Moines fire department, was born October 9, 1859, in Newark, New Jersey, and died in the Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, March 27, 1937. Burial was in Glendale Masonic Cemetery. His death was the result of burns suffered in an explosion in the Sheurman Woolen Mills warehouse fire March 26. His parents were Charles and Ellen (Stagg) Burnett. In 1870 when only eleven years old, he came with his parents to Des Moines where he has continuously made his home since. He obtained most of his schooling in the East Des Moines public schools. From 1881 to 1895 he and his brother Lew operated a grocery store at East Sixth and Locust

streets which their father had established. He did not care for the grocery business and in 1895 entered the Des Moines fire department as assistant chief. His promotion was rapid as he was appointed chief in less than a year from the date of entering the service. He had served continuously ever since his appointment. He entered the service when the department used horse drawn equipment and answered about 200 fire alarms annually. He directed the organization into its present efficient setup using high powered machinery instead of horses. He was a man of tremendous energy, with a great capacity for absorbing details. This combined with his methodical habits made of him an unusually efficient executive. A man of great personal courage, he never sent his men into any danger where he would not himself go, and they always knew that at a major fire day or night the chief would be there to personally direct. His whole life was absorbed in his work; he loved his job and lived it and was always to be found either at the Central Station or his home. Chief Burnett had been working for months over plans for the new Central Station to be erected at Ninth and Mulberry streets, perfecting every detail. This building will stand as a fitting memorial to the memory of Chief Will Burnett, and the long and unselfish service he rendered to the citizens of Des Moines.

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HOSFORD EDWIN VALENTINE was born in Edinburgh, Indiana, November 26, 1865, and died in Centerville, Iowa, April 2, 1937. Burial was at Oakland Cemetery, Centerville. His parents were John C. and Elmira Ann (Cole) Valentine. He grew to young manhood in Edinburgh, Indiana, and obtained his elementary education there. He entered DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, and was graduated from that institution in 1894. While attending DePauw he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He became a close friend of Charles W. Vermillion, later a justice in the Supreme Court of Iowa who was also a Sigma Chi. It was because of this friendship that Mr. Valentine came to Centerville, Iowa, just after his graduation. He engaged in the practice of law in the firm of Vermillion & Vermillion, composed of Captain W. F. Vermillion and his son Charles W. Shortly after this Captain Vermillion died and the firm was changed to Vermillion & Valentine. It remained so until 1901 when Charles Vermillion was appointed district judge and Mr. Valentine began to practice alone. He continued alone until 1929 when his son John K. entered the practice with him under the firm name of Valentine & Valentine. In 1935 his son Charles also became a member of the firm. H. E. Valentine was conceded to be one of the best informed trial lawyers in the state and was greatly respected and admired for his ability not only by the public but by the members of his own profession. Always interested in civic affairs he served his community in many ways. He was mayor of Centerville when the Spanish-American War broke out and resigned to join Company E., Fiftieth Iowa Infantry. He served on the school board many different times. He was deeply interested in a new build-

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