

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

KENNETH RICE COOK, well-known attorney and former district judge, died at St. Joseph hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, January 9, 1959; one of twin sons born at Malvern, Iowa October 10, 1890 to Amos Edgar and Florence Rice Cook, his father being a pioneer Mills county lawyer; became a prominent football and basketball player in high school, graduating at Malvern in 1908, worked on the farm to finance a year at the University of Nebraska, and as a bookkeeper in 1913, returning the next year to graduate with his law degree in 1916; married to Mona Mabel Berry of Litchfield, Illinois in Chicago April 18, 1917; began the practice of law at Malvern in association with his father and twin brother, Carleton Harris Cook; the two brothers continued the firm under the name of Cook and Cook after the death of their father in 1926, maintaining offices in both Malvern and Glenwood, and legally representing nearly all the important banks in the county; served as city attorney for Malvern from 1918 to 1926, and was appointed judge of the Fifteenth judicial district by Governor John Hammill in 1929, and retained in the 1930 election, one of the youngest judges in the state's history; resigned in 1933 to re-enter private practice with his brother at Glenwood; assumed much responsibility for the study, revision and final adoption of new rules of civil procedure as a permanent member of the Iowa Supreme Court advisory committee; ably held for many years the chairmanship of the judicial central committee of the Republican party, charged with the important duty of selecting and proposing candidates for judicial office; had been city attorney for Glenwood, and during World War II, was an appeal agent of the Selective Service Act; also was active in the American Bar Association, Mills County Bar Association, and a member of the board of governors of the Iowa State Bar Association for eight years; belonged to several other professional organizations, the Congregational church, and the Masonic order; survived by his wife, one son, Edgar Edwin of Glenwood, two daughters, Mrs. R. E. Owen, also of Glenwood, and Mrs. Frank Mackaman of Des Moines.

ERNEST EDWARD IRONS, physician, died at a hospital in Chicago, Illinois, January 18, 1959; born on a farm near Council Bluffs, Iowa February 17, 1877, the son of Edward and Mary J. Sharp Irons; graduated from the University of Chicago in 1900, took

two years of further study, as a fellow obtaining his medical degree from Rush Medical college in 1903, and began fifty-eight years of general medical practice in Chicago; married Gertrude Thompson in 1908; continued his studies as assistant in pathology and bacteriology at the University of Chicago from 1902 to 1904, receiving a Ph.D. degree in 1912; was dean of the Rush Medical college from 1923 to 1936, and clinical professor of medicine, emeritus, at the University of Illinois medical school; cited by the University of California school of medicine in 1946 as the outstanding physician of the year in the United States for service to his patients; was consulting physician to Presbyterian hospital, member of the National Advisory Health Council, Association of American Physicians, American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, American Board of Internal Medicine, and American Society of Bacteriology, as well as state and Chicago medical societies; also had served as president of the American College of Physicians, and was a trustee and president of the American Medical Association from 1949 to 1950; became president of the Institute of Medicine in Chicago in 1956, and was president of the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium board of directors at the time of his death; had two children, Edwin Newton Irons and Spencer E. Irons.

LEON WALTER POWERS, prominent attorney, former Iowa Supreme Court justice, and state legislator, died at his home in Denison, Iowa January 6, 1959; born on a farm in Webster county June 12, 1888, the son of Walter and Katherine McIntyre Powers; attended country school, Tobin preparatory college in Fort Dodge, graduated from the University of Iowa in 1912, and received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1914; joined the law firm of Feltensal, Beckwith, Spangler & Wilson in Chicago, but within six months, removed to Denison, Iowa to enter the law office of James P. Conner, becoming a partner in the firm of Conner & Powers in 1916; married Blandid Marie Lally of Denison June 28, 1916; elected to the state house of representatives as a Democrat from Crawford county in 1918, resuming his law practice in Denison after serving two terms; with the death of his law partner in 1924, formed the firm of Powers & Gilchrist with L. V. Gilchrist in 1930, building one of the largest law practices in the county; remained active in politics, was a member of the Democratic state central committee, and an Iowa delegate to the party's national conventions in 1924, 1932, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was first nominated, and again in 1944; served as assistant attorney general for six months in 1933, and then became a special assistant attorney general in charge of cases involving

license fees on motor vehicle fuel; was elected to the Iowa Supreme Court in December 1934 to complete the unexpired term of Judge Edgar A. Morling, and resigned February 14, 1936 to become general agent and general counsel for the Omaha division of the Farm Credit Administration; was chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Omaha Bank of Cooperatives, and the Production Credit Association; returned to his private practice in Denison in 1943; the high point of his judicial career came after World War II when chosen as one of the judges to hear the Nuremberg war crimes trials in Germany; had been associated since the summer of 1949 with R. C. Reimer in the law firm of Powers and Reimer at Denison; owned a large farm in Crawford county devoted to grain and livestock; was on the state board of law examiners, a director of the Iowa State Bar Foundation, president of the Crawford County Bar Association, a member of the American and Iowa State Bar Associations; belonged to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic church, the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, was a Kiwanian of honorary standing; survived by a son, James Perry Powers, Phoenix, Arizona, two daughters, Mrs. Patricia Ann Keller, Plandome, New York, and Mrs. Mary Katherine Kimball, Manhasset, New York; his wife and another son, Walter, died in 1947.

J. LAWRENCE COCHRAN, physician and civic leader, died at St. Anthony hospital in Carroll, Iowa December 24, 1958; born June 1, 1906 in Jackson, Tennessee, received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee, and also graduated from the school of Obstetrics at Buffalo, New York; was a talented musician and played piano with Wayne King's band during his internship in Chicago; married Loretta Millenacker of Carroll at Pensacola, Florida March 2, 1940; began his medical practice at Carroll in September 1940, joined the U. S. Air Force in 1942, schooled as a flight surgeon, and saw active service as a medical corps captain in the South Pacific theater during World War II; re-opened his offices in Carroll following his discharge in 1946, moving into the new Cochran medical building in 1951; elected Carroll county coroner in 1948 serving until 1952, and had again held the office since his re-election in 1954; was secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Coroners Association, president of the Carroll County Medical Society, and on the staff of St. Anthony hospital; held a fellowship in the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, was a member of the Experimental Hypnotic Society, and elected to the New York Academy of Sciences in 1956 for his work in clinical psychology, the only Iowa member except for college and university

faculty members; directed several musical organizations, composed many band selections, and was president of the Midwest Iowa Civic Music Association; was a Democrat, a member of SS. Peter and Paul's church, the Knights of Columbus, the Lions club, American Legion, past president of the Toastmasters club, organist and charter member of the Elks lodge; survived by his wife, two daughters, Mary Ann, a student at Kuemper high school, Clara Louise, who attends SS. Peter and Paul's school, and a son, Joseph Paul, attending the same school.

LANT HOSSEY DORAN, attorney and former state legislator, died at the Iowa Methodist hospital in Des Moines, Iowa January 10, 1959; born near Beaver, Iowa May 4, 1893, one of thirteen children born to Justin R. and Olive F. Blanshan Doran; graduated from the Beaver high school in 1910 and farmed in Boone county with his father, a long-time state legislator, before entering Drake University law school; enlisted in Battery C, 339th Field Artillery in October 1917 and spent nine months in the army hospital after being injured at Camp Dodge; received his law degree from Drake University in 1920, and married DeElda Kinson, a former Red Cross nurse, at Minneapolis, Minnesota June 23, 1920; began the practice of law at Boone, Iowa, with the firm of Baker & Doran from 1922 to 1924, Baker, Doran & Baker from 1924 to 1931, Doran, Boone & Doran in 1933, Doran & Doran in 1933, which later became Doran, Doran & Doran when his son, William Kinson Doran, became a partner, and was the senior member of Doran, Doran, Doran, Erbe, & Doran at his death, Norman A. Erbe joining the firm in 1947; was a widely-known trial lawyer, counsel and director of the Boone State Bank & Trust Company, attorney for the Farmers Elevator Company and the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company; took an active part in Republican party politics, elected to the state senate from the Thirty-first district in 1928, retired after one term, and served again from 1936 to 1940; was chairman of the appropriations and interim committees, headed the Iowa State committee of retrenchment and reform, also served on the committee investigating the state university administration, authored the Iowa drivers license law, the school bus stop law, and was a memorable orator in proposing repeal of the state's Sunday blue laws and in opposing Iowa's fireworks ban; was a member of the Boone county, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations, the Episcopal church, the Masonic order, Elks club, past commander of Arthur D. Lantz Post of the American Legion, and a past president of the Boone Lions club; survived by his wife, two sons, Dr. John Robert of Ames, William Kinson of

Boone, and one daughter, Mrs. Jacqueline Erbe of Boone, wife of his law partner, Iowa Attorney General Norman A. Erbe.

ADOLPH L. BENSON, stock farm operator and former opera singer, died at Memorial hospital in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin January 4, 1959; born February 23, 1896 on a Highland township farm near Elkader, Iowa, the son of August and Sara Elizabeth Jacoby Benson; studied voice at Upper Iowa University, and served overseas as a sergeant in the 349th machine gun group during World War I; returned to Europe after the war to study two years in Sweden, and following additional study in New York City, joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company in Chicago as a baritone soloist; remained with this famous company for ten years before returning to Elkader to operate a service station until about 1945; has since been associated with his father and two brothers, Charles August Benson, former state senator, and Oscar A. Benson, in operating the stock farm of August Benson & Sons on the family homestead in Highland township; was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Masons; married in September of 1941 to Frances Finley who survives him.

FRANK KOCH, retired newspaper publisher and former legislator, died at the hospital in Spencer, Iowa December 28, 1958; born near Whittemore, Iowa November 15, 1885, the son of John and Josephine Kindle Koch, and the fourth child in a family of eight boys and four girls; learned the printing trade with the *Whittemore Champion* while attending high school, graduating in 1902; left that paper to become printer for the *Woodbine Twiner* in 1903, established a printing business in Loveland, Colorado in 1904, removed to Fort Lupton, Colorado that same year, worked as a printer at Garner, Iowa from 1905 to 1906, at Clarion the following year, and at Whittemore from 1907 to 1908; was shop foreman on the *Emmetsburg Democrat* for ten years under W. I. Branagan before beginning twenty-eight years as editor and publisher of the *West Bend Journal* in April of 1919; married May Schlichtemier in Nehawka, Nebraska June 29, 1927; was a former semi-pro baseball player, member of the West Bend school board from 1929 to 1944, eight years as president, and served five years on the board of the Methodist church; retired from his paper in January 1947, elected to the Iowa house of representatives as a Republican from Palo Alto county in 1946, and served three terms; was active in the Masonic order and the Order of the Eastern Star; survived by his wife, one son, Richard Dean, Lincoln, Nebraska, and two daughters, Mrs. Barbara Jean Stauch, Kimball, Nebraska, and Kathryn Ann, a student at Iowa State college.

EMELENE C. MAULSBY, clubwoman and former political leader, died at Iowa Methodist hospital in Des Moines, Iowa December 28, 1958; born August 26, 1877 at Palmyra, Illinois, the daughter of Sarah and John Costley, Disciples of Christ minister; taught school there before attending Drake University in Des Moines and after graduating, taught at Redfield, Iowa before returning to Des Moines to live about 1907; married William E. Maulsby, a state sales tax investigator, who died in 1944; served as worthy matron of the Eastern Star at Redfield and was active in war service organizations during World War I; became active in Democratic party affairs and was vice-chairman of the state central committee from 1924 to 1928; organized the Girl Volunteer Aid which later became the Jun'or Federation of Women's Clubs, the Delta Theta Chi sorority in Des Moines, was first president of the Greater Des Moines Council of Camp Fire Girls, a past president of the Des Moines Federation of Women's Clubs, a member of Today's club, and the University Christian church; founded to the memory of a daughter, which died in infancy, the Margaret Maulsby club, and continued as club mother to this service group that gave the cottage "Cantewica" to the Camp Fire Girls camp near Boone; worked as state juvenile agent in the child placement division of the state board of control from 1933 to 1944; survived by two sons, Colonel William E. Maulsby of Washington, D.C., and Navy Captain Robert J. C. Maulsby, stationed in Japan.

SHERMAN W. NEEDHAM, former newspaperman and long-time state official, died at his desk in the state house January 16, 1959; born into a pioneer Iowa newspaper family at Sigourney May 31, 1881, the son of William H. and Olive Ann Knowlton Needham; began helping his father on the *News* at Sigourney as a boy of eleven, graduated from the high school there in 1898, attended Iowa State college, and received his bachelor of science degree from Iowa Wesleyan college at Mt. Pleasant in 1903; married June 19, 1907 at Iowa City to Grace Darland who was an active partner with him in newspaper work for many years; associated with his father in editing and publishing the *Keokuk County News* at Sigourney from 1905 to 1917, was editor and owner of the *Hardin County Ledger* at Eldora for four years, removed to Ames in 1931 upon purchasing the *Milepost* there, appointed state Superintendent of Printing in September 1942, and ably supervised this important operation of the state government for over eighteen years, longer than any other occupant of the office; was one of three brothers who for several years all published their own Iowa newspapers, the late Charles K. at Grinnell, the late John R. at Cen-

terville, and Will, Jr., at Sigourney and New Sharon; won the Iowa American Legion editorial contest in 1940; presented with the Iowa Press Association's Master Editor-Publisher award in 1943; served as a chairman of the American Red Cross; was a member of the Methodist church, Masonic order, Shrine and Elks club; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Alice Williams, Honolulu, Hawaii, and a son, Maurice W. Needham, on the faculty of the University of Chicago.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SWISHER, prominent attorney and civic leader, died at Schoitz Memorial hospital in Waterloo, Iowa January 22, 1959; born at Iowa City January 21, 1878, the son of the pioneer family of Lovell and Elizabeth Leonard Swisher; graduated from Iowa City high school in 1895, received a bachelor of philosophy degree from the University of Iowa in 1899, and his law degree the following year; married Helen Field Moulton at Glenwood, Iowa November 26, 1902; was associated with the law firm of Mullan and Pickett in Waterloo for three years before establishing his own practice there in 1903; served as Waterloo city attorney from 1905 to 1910 helping to bring about the city's acquisition of Byrnes park; appointed national draft inspector for a six state area during World War I, a lieutenant colonel in the specialist reserve, and undertook a special mission to Canada for the state department; organized a law partnership with Charles Pickett in 1913 with which Frank E. Farwell also became associated in 1915, Benjamin Franklin Swisher, Jr., his son, and Leo J. Cohrt joined the firm following the death of Farwell in 1929 and Pickett in 1930, Whitney Gilliland became a partner after the death of the younger Swisher in 1944 and he in turn was succeeded by the younger son, Charles Franklin Swisher, Charles A. Finch became associated with the firm in 1957; had been general counsel of the Rath Packing Company since 1943, a member of the board of directors from 1943 until December 1958, and as senior member of Swisher, Cohrt, Swisher and Finch, provided legal counsel to many other large Waterloo companies; served on the Waterloo board of education from 1915 to 1924, the last six years as president during which West high school, now West junior high, was built, also was a member of the water works board of trustees for many years, being instrumental in the purchase of the water works; was a member of the American Bar Association, president of the Iowa State Bar Association in 1926-27, and a past president of the Black Hawk County Bar Association, also belonged to the American Law Institute, was president of the University of Iowa Alumni association from 1927 to 1930, and headed the Memorial Union board

of trustees for the past several years; was Chamber of Commerce national councilor from 1937 to 1939, a member of Rotary, Knights of Pythias, Elks, board of trustees of the YMCA and Congregational church; long active in Republican party affairs; wrote poetry as a hobby and had four volumes privately printed; survived by his wife, a son, Charles Franklin of Waterloo, two daughters, Mrs. Helen Moulton Plock of Burlington, and Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Horner of Waterloo.

JACOB R. (JAKE) PERKINS, retired minister, internationally known author, and a former state penal officer, died at his home in Council Bluffs, Iowa January 19, 1959; born at Renwick, Missouri July 16, 1879, the son of Jacob, who died before his birth, and Nancy Miles Perkins; orphaned while still in grade school but graduated from high school at Macon, Missouri, and saved his money working as a theater stage hand, an exercise boy at St. Louis race tracks, playing semi-pro baseball, and as an apprentice in a wagon factory to attend Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa; married Stella Beeman Wonder at Onawa, Iowa July 17, 1901; ordained to the Disciples of Christ ministry at Hedrick, Iowa, and held pastorates at Packwood, Onawa and Sioux City, Iowa, also in Glasgow, Huntsville and Paris, Missouri, and in California at Fresno and San Francisco; was warden of the state penitentiary at Fort Madison from 1917 to 1920, and then accepted the pastorate of the First Congregational church in Council Bluffs; lectured extensively in colleges and high schools; became a noted writer, authoring a study of General Grenville M. Dodge, *Trails, Rails & War*, *A Thin Volume* of poetry, a play, "The Money Changers," and was probably best known as co-author of the Rotary International Code of Ethics, wrote two successful biblical novels, *The Emperor's Physician* and *Antioch Actress*, and had a third nearly ready for publication; his poems appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* "Line o' Type or Two" for many years under the pseudonym 'Aborigine,' and his contributions were frequently read in magazines; his widely read column, "Accent on Life," has been carried in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* since 1950; was respected and revered for his wisdom and humility by all who came into contact with him; in 1941 a close friend, the famed war correspondent, Ernie Pyle, wrote of him: "He is a human endowed with Biblical patience . . . a philosopher, a gentleman and a scholar—and a good story teller besides . . . Perkins always says something worth listening to and people feel better for having listened"; retired as an active minister in 1947; served as vice president of the Council Bluffs library board, member of the Pottawattamie county American Red Cross board, Masons, was a life member and chaplain of the Elks lodge for

many years, and also held a life membership in the Rotary International, serving as executive secretary in 1921; survived by his wife, and two sons, Proctor R. of Council Bluffs, and William H. of Sunnyvale, California.

WILLIAM S. RUPE, well-known newspaper publisher, died at Mary Greeley hospital in Ames, Iowa January 13, 1959; born in Dickinson county, Kansas October 7, 1886, the son of Samuel and Anna Holcomb Rupe; graduated from high school at Robinson, Kansas, attended Lane University, Campbell college and received his B.S. and B.A. degrees from the University of Kansas in 1904; married Minta Warner at Sabetha, Kansas September 28, 1911; was a superintendent of schools in Kansas for over fifteen years before moving to Des Moines, Iowa in 1920 to become owner and manager of Acme, Midland, Mutual and Redpath Chautauqua systems; entered the newspaper field in 1928 by purchasing the *Marysville (Missouri) Daily Forum*, sold it to buy the *News Advertiser* at Creston, Iowa in October 1932, and named "A-1 Citizen" there that year and in 1935; became owner and publisher of the *Ames Daily Tribune* in 1935, purchasing it from the J. L. Powers family; also was part owner of the *Cedar Falls Daily Record*, *Charles City Press*, *Manchester Press*, *Oelwein Register*, *Marysville (Missouri) Tribune*, and president of radio station KASI in Ames from 1949 to 1958; was a member of the state emergency relief board during the 1930's; appointed to the state board of education in July 1941, and reappointed in 1947; actively served the Republican party for several years, as campaign manager for Governor George A. Wilson during his re-election in 1940, as public relations chairman in charge of publicity for the national western headquarters in Chicago during the national campaigns in 1944 and 1948, as the leader of Harold Stassen's campaign in Iowa in 1948, as finance chairman for William G. Murray in the 1958 campaign for governor, and as head of the speaker's bureau of the state Republican headquarters six times; was vice president of the USO in Iowa during World War II, and chairman of the state scrap iron drive; chosen president of the Iowa Daily Press in 1941, and later vice president; honored by the Iowa Press Association with its Master Editor-Publisher award in 1945; presented with Ames' "Key to the City" citizenship award in 1957; was a member of the Methodist church, the Rotary club, Elks lodge, and the Masons; preceded in death by his wife in 1951, survived by his widow, Mabel, and a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Ann Carey, Saranac Lake, New York.

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