

## Necrology of Notable Iowans...

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GEORGE BALDWIN MCKIBBIN, lawyer and chairman for the Illinois Public Aid Commission, died September 14, 1960; born at Keosauqua, Iowa April 26, 1888, the son of George J. and Julia Baldwin McKibbin; graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1909; received his law degree in 1913 from the University of Chicago and was admitted to the bar the same year; married Helen Sunny November 11, 1916; started law practice in 1913 and was active since then in Republican politics; became head of the Illinois Public Aid Commission in 1953 and the State Director of Finance from 1941-1945; was president of the Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago 1932-1935 and chairman of its board of trustees at his death; was a governor of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and a member of the executive committee of World Brotherhood, Inc.; survived by his wife, three daughters, Mrs. Judith Kerr, Mrs. Susannah Stevens and Mrs. May Ellen Kelly, and two sons, John and James.

ESTHER MARY WRIGHT, executive secretary of the Iowa Board of Control, died at Des Moines, Iowa on January 12, 1961; born at Grimes, Iowa September 20, 1909, the daughter of John E. and Sena Love Swanson; attended school in Clive, Iowa and graduated from East High School, Des Moines in 1928; began working under the officer of the Department of Deportation and was appointed executive secretary in 1951, the first woman to serve in that capacity; married to Lawrence J. Wright July 3, 1936; was a member of Correctional Industries, Correctional Education, Iowa Welfare, and Iowa Hospital Associations, Women's Rotary, and the Business and Professional Women of America; was first chairman of Womens Affairs in the American Congress of Correction and member of the Board of Directors; was a Lutheran and member of the Order of the Eastern Star; survived by her husband, her mother, Mrs. Sena Swanson, and three sisters, Agnes and Mildred Swanson, and Mrs. Frank Waddell and a brother, Charles Swanson, all of Clive.

MRS. EMMA K. BLAISE, secretary to three Iowa governors and one of the most widely-known women in Iowa politics, died March 29, 1961 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; born April 6, 1868 at Sigourney, Iowa; studied law and became one of Iowa's first women lawyers; married Jay Phillip Blaise, an attorney, in 1889; moved to Des Moines in 1898 to help establish the State Board of Control; along with her husband opened an office in Des Moines for reporting political conventions and state and federal court proceedings; was secretary to Governors Clarke, Harding and Kendall; was Finance Commissioner in the Des Moines City Council for five years starting in 1927, and

served as mayor of Des Moines for one week in 1928; member of St. John's Lutheran Church; survived by her son, Karl P. Blaise of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, two grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

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DR. EDWIN DEWITT DICKINSON, professor of law, died at St. Helena, California, March 26, 1961; born May 19, 1887 at Bradford, Iowa, the son of William Elihu and Edna Jessie (Hickok) Dickinson; graduated from Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, Iowa in 1904; received his A.B. at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1909, his A.M. at Dartmouth in 1911, his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1918 and LL.D. at Carleton College in 1948; married May Luella Hall August 30, 1913; taught law at University of Michigan before joining the faculty of the University of California law school in 1933, also taught at the University of Pennsylvania from 1948-1956; was special assistant to Attorney General Francis Biddle and assistant diplomatic adviser to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administrations; was United States member of the permanent Court of Arbitration since 1951, president of American Society of International Law 1952-53; was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Sigma Rho and the Congregational Church; survived by his wife.

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BARTLETT JOSHUA PALMER, healer, teacher and world leader of the chiropractic profession, died May 27, 1961 at Sarasota, Florida; born at What Cheer, Iowa September 10, 1881, the son of David Daniel Palmer, a "healer" and later on the discoverer of chiropractic; moved to Davenport, Iowa in 1885; married to Mabel Heith in 1904; tutored by his father and became "Doctor of Chiropractic" in 1899 at the age of 18; practiced at Lake City, Iowa and then in Michigan before returning to Davenport in 1902; received his Palmer school diploma in 1902 and took over operation of the school the same year; established radio station WOC at Davenport, which was the second radio station licensed to broadcast in the United States; later acquired station WHO, Des Moines; gathered treasures from all over the world which he exhibited at "Little Bit O' Heaven" in Davenport; survived by his son, David Palmer.

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CLYDE SPRY, secretary of agriculture of Iowa, died June 14, 1961 in Des Moines, Iowa; born at Mount Pleasant, Iowa March 26, 1889; graduated from Ottumwa high school, Ottumwa Commercial College and Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant; farmed for 30 years in Henry, Monona and Woodbury counties; served as president of the Woodbury County Farm Bureau and as a fieldman for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation; was assistant secretary of agriculture from June, 1943 until June, 1950, when he was appointed secretary of agriculture; served as secretary to the state soil conservation committee and as a member of the flood control committee under Governors Bourke B. Hickenlooper and Robert Blue; was a life long Republican, serving as

precinct committeeman and county and state convention delegate before entering state office; survived by his wife, Luella, and two sons, Ben of Omaha, Nebraska, Glenn of New Orleans, Louisiana, also three brothers, Leslie of Des Moines, Leo of Oakland, California and Frank of Sioux City, Iowa.

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DR. WALTER L. BIERRING, physician, died June 24, 1961; born in Davenport, Iowa, July 15, 1868; entered State University of Iowa Medical School in 1889 receiving his medical degree in 1893 and studied at the University of Vienna, Austria, the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and the Pasteur Institute in Paris; studied under Louis Pasteur, the founder of bacteriology and afterward produced and used successfully the first diphtheria antitoxin west of New York City; taught medicine at State University of Iowa from 1893 to 1910 and at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, 1910-1913; was president of the Johnson County Medical Society in 1904, of the Iowa State Medical Society in 1908, and of the Polk County Medical Society in 1913; in private practice from 1913 to 1933; was elected president of the American Medical Association in 1934; served as State Health Commissioner of Iowa, 1933-1953; member of Central Presbyterian Church; married Sadie Byrnes of Wolcott, Iowa, in 1896; survived by two daughters, Mrs. Elza B. Radoff and Mrs. Florence Hutchinson, both of Des Moines.

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DR. LEE DEFORD, the "father of radio," died June 30, 1961 at his home in Hollywood, California; born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, August 26, 1873, the son of Henry Swift and Anna Margaret (Robbins) DeForest; inventor of the three-element vacuum tube which paved the way for the age of electronics and made possible the development of radio, television, radar, transcontinental and transoceanic telephone, sound movies and numerous other electronic devices; married in 1930 to Marie Mosquini; Fellow and founder of the Institute of Radio Engineers, author of *Television Today and Tomorrow*; survived by his wife.

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RANSOM DRIPS BERNARD, physician, died July 7, 1961 at Ames, Iowa; born August 8, 1882 at Elkader, Iowa, the only child of Henry Harrison and Madge Drips Bernard; educated in the Elkader public schools and Wisconsin Preparatory Academy; graduated at University of Wisconsin in 1904, attended Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, interned at Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago; was married to Bernice Corlette of Ames, January 6, 1909; started general practice of medicine at Clarion, Iowa in 1909 and continued for more than 40 years, interrupted only by World War I for which he volunteered in 1917; served in the American Medical Corps from September 15, 1917 to June 26, 1919; served in all offices of the Wright County Medical Society; one of founders of Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in Iowa; member of the legislative committee of the Iowa State Medical Society

for eight years and president in 1946; received the Iowa state Medical Society merit Award in 1954 for work in the fields of legislation, public relations and medical service; member of the Masonic order and the Congregational Church; preceded in death by his wife in March 1958 and a daughter, Bernice (Mrs. Henry M.) Black in May 1961 and survived by two grandchildren, Bruce Black and Bernice Black.

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CRAIG R. SHEAFFER died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Fort Madison, Iowa on July 9, 1961; born at Bloomfield on December 25, 1897, the son of Walter A. and Nellie Sheaffer; married to Virginia Dunlap of Keokuk on February 1, 1921; became treasurer of the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Company at Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1920, vice-president in 1935 and president in 1938 succeeding his father; resigned as president of the company in 1953 to become United States assistant secretary of commerce, leaving this post to return to the Sheaffer Pen Company as chairman of the board of directors, which position he held until his death; was elected to the board of directors of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1949 and was president of the board of trustees of Iowa Wesleyan College, being elected honorary trustee in 1956; survived by his wife, two sons, W. A. Sheaffer II, president of Sheaffer Pen Company and John D., vice-president of the firm, two daughters, Mrs. Robert J. (Harriet) Taylor of Littleton, Colorado and Mrs. Charles R. (Susan) Taylor of Tremonton, Utah and fourteen grandchildren.

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PAUL HARVEY CUNNINGHAM, former Fifth District Republican Congressman, died July 16, 1961 at Gull Lake near Brainerd, Minnesota; born June 15, 1890 on a farm in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, the son of Robert Harvey and Sarah Jane (McQuaide) Cunningham; graduated from State Teachers College at Indiana, Pennsylvania in 1914 and received his law degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1915; began practicing law in Des Moines in 1919; was first elected to Congress in 1940 after two terms as Polk County representative in the Iowa legislature; was co-author of the G.I. Bill and sponsor of the automatic guarantee provision in its loan section; his first wife and mother of his three children died in 1922; married Gail Fry December 26, 1926; survived by his wife, a son, Paul jr. of Des Moines, and a daughter, Harriet Sarah Cunningham of McCook, Nebraska.

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HARRY SAMUEL LOVE, former state legislator and Chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare, died at Greenfield, Iowa, July 23, 1961; born at Bridgewater, Iowa, August 9, 1888 the son of D. A. and Cora Bayman Love; educated in rural and Bridgewater schools; married to Ethel E. McDermott August 23, 1913; served as state representative from 1935 to 1941 and elected in 1940 as state senator from Adair and Madison Counties for the first of two consecutive terms; resigned from the senate in 1944 to accept an appointment to the State Board of Welfare, on which he served 6 years as member, vice-chairman and chair-

man; had been active on the Bridgewater school board for 20 years and served several years on the town council; was a Methodist and member of the Masonic Order; survived by his wife, three daughters, Mrs. Hildreth Firch of Aspen, Colorado, Mrs. Betty Moser of San Diego, California, and Mrs. Jean Dewey of Miami, Florida, one son, Larry of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a sister, Mrs. Grace Burgamyer of Regent, North Dakota, a brother, Ernest of Corning, Iowa, and eight grandchildren.

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JOHN HENRY KELLEY, former legislator, newspaper publisher and peace officer, died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 25, 1961; born at Reho-beth, Ohio on January 7, 1872, the son of Henry and Sophia Kelley; moved with his parents to Altoona, Iowa at the age of ten years; gradu-ated from Altoona High School and then taught school for one year; married in 1892 to Kate Simpkins of Altoona who died in 1905 shortly after the birth of their third son; married in 1910 to Bessie Snyder of Altoona; owner and publisher of the *Altoona Herald* from 1894-1900; was Chief Deputy Sheriff of Polk County, 1900-1906; elected in 1906 State Representative of Polk County, serving in the Thirty-second and Thirty-second Extra General Assemblies; Superintendent of the State Archives in the Historical Building in Des Moines, 1908-1910; returned to sheriff's office as Chief Deputy in 1913, remaining in that post until 1931; for many years was assistant superintendent of the exposition building at the Iowa State Fair; was Justice of the Peace in Altoona from 1937 until 1958; was a 50 year member of the Masonic Lodge in Altoona, member of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association, and of the Methodist church; survived by his wife and two sons, Karl E. Kelley of Des Moines and Neil E. Kelley of Winterset, Iowa, (the third son, John Cecil Kelley having preceded his father in death), also three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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## Iowa Pioneers

Because there's placed on printed page the records of the passing age,  
 The history of the pioneers that settled here in bygone years  
 Can now be read by other men who'll wonder of that period when  
 The State was formed by sturdy bands that settled on the Indian lands.  
 Thus we are rich in every way, though not by money laid away  
 But by these facts now given all, about these settlers, great and small,  
 Who made a land of towering corn, a state wherein great men were born.

Willis G. Corbitt

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