

suffered in an automobile accident when he sought to avoid striking bicyclists on the highway. Descendent of an Indiana family of railroad blacksmiths, Mr. Keller first followed that vocation. In 1908 he was called to the State University of Iowa to teach forging, while so engaged he began the studies of engineering sciences, graduating from the university with a degree in 1913. At the time he commenced administering the various federal work projects in 1933 and was granted a leave of absence from the State University, he was a professor of mechanical engineering.

In 1933 Senator Herring appointed him chief engineer of the state CWA program, which position he held from November, 1933, to May, 1934. Subsequently he was chief engineer of the Iowa Emergency Relief Administration, May, 1934, to January, 1935; Director of State Rural Rehabilitation Administration, September, 1934, to August, 1935; Deputy WPA administrator, February to December, 1936. Succeeding the late L. S. Hill as Iowa WPA Administrator in December, 1936, he held that position until the time of his death.

A member of the Iowa State Planning Board during its existence, he was also a member of the Conference of Social Workers, the State Board of Engineering Examiners, as well as national professional engineering societies.

---

CHARLES NORTON MARVIN, journalist, died July 8, 1941, in Shenandoah, Iowa. Born September 24, 1857, in East Orange, Ohio, the son of William P. and Harriet H. Marvin, he was educated in the schools of Page County and in Marshalltown, Iowa. He began his long journalistic career by serving two years on the MARSHALLTOWN TIMES-REPUBLICAN, also a period of two years as editor of the UNION STAR. In 1887 as editor and publisher he began the SHENANDOAH EVENING SENTINEL, with which he was associated ever since to the time of his death. Since his retirement in 1935 he continued to write as a columnist for the paper.

Strongly interested in community affairs, he was postmaster of Shenandoah for eight and one-half years under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. He was a member of the first library board, and president of the board 1907-09. Also interested in education, he was a director of that board as well, in addition he was actively interested in the Shenandoah fairs. A Republican in politics he was prominent in the councils of his party in the southwest.

---

ERNEST M. MILLER, attorney and former member of the State Supreme Court, died in Harlan, Iowa, June 13, 1941. Born November 26, 1890, in Telluride, Colorado, the son of Jerry and Mary P. Miller, he was educated in the Elk Horn high school and Drake University, from the latter institution he received his law degree in 1914. Since 1914 he practiced law in Harlan, Iowa. From 1917 to 1921 he was

County Attorney for Shelby County, from 1928-30 he was mayor of his town, in 1932 he was elected judge of the 15th Judicial District, the first Democrat ever to be elected in that district. Re-elected in 1935, he was appointed in 1937 to the Iowa State Supreme Court by Governor N. G. Kraschel to fill the unexpired term of the late Justice James M. Parsons, a position he held until 1939 when he returned to Harlan.

In the aviation service during the World War I, he was a member of the American Legion, and of numerous fraternal orders.

---

JESSE A. MILLER, attorney and former public official, died August 25, 1941, from injuries received in an automobile accident the preceding day. Born August 8, 1866, on a farm near North Liberty in Johnson County, Iowa, he was the son of Alexander James Miller and Mary Louise McCollin Miller. He attended public schools at Oxford, Iowa, and was graduated from the State University of Iowa College of Law in 1891. Admitted to the bar, he immediately entered the practice of his profession in Des Moines, Iowa. He served as assistant attorney general of Iowa, 1895-1899, and was County Attorney of Polk County, 1903-1907, and was a district court judge of the Polk County District Court, 1907-1910. He re-entered the practice of law January 1, 1910, and continued in the active practice until his death.

He was president of the Polk County Bar Association, 1930, and of the Iowa State Bar Association, 1921. An active member of the American Bar Association, he served on its General Council, Executive Committee, and in its House of Delegates. A member of the conference of commissioners on uniform state laws, he served on its executive committee and was president of the conference, 1927-1930.

He was a staunch Republican and very active in party affairs, serving as delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1912 and again in 1936.

Married to Emily Williston Magoun, May 15, 1895, he is survived by three sons, Frederic M., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa; Alexander M., a partner in his law firm; and J. Earle, of the Employers Mutual Casualty Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

---

WILLIAM F. MOUNTAIN, engineer and city official, died July 29, 1941, in Estherville, Iowa. He was born July 30, 1860, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Coming to Des Moines in 1895 as a building contractor he was elected to his first political office in 1914, as Superintendent of Public Safety. After returning to private business, he once more resumed public office in 1922 as Commissioner of Streets, a post he held eight years, being defeated in 1930 in a race for the mayoralty.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.