

## Iowa's Notable Dead

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GEORGE EVANS ROBERTS, journalist, economist, director of U. S. mint, died after a long illness at his home at Larchmont, New York, June 6, 1948; born at Colesburg, Delaware county, Iowa, August 19, 1857; eldest son of David and Mary Harvey Roberts; grandson of Evans Roberts who emigrated from Wales and located at Utica, New York; his mother's father, Robert Harvey, born in Maine, and mother's mother born in Georgetown, Massachusetts, a member of the Spofford family; moved with family to Dubuque county, Iowa, then to Manchester, Delaware county, and in 1873, when 16 years of age, located in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where after leaving high school without graduating, he entered the office of the *Fort Dodge Times* to learn the printer's trade, afterwards transferring his activities to the *Fort Dodge Messenger*; became a reporter and at age of nineteen purchased the paper at Jesup, Iowa, selling it two years later to go to the *Sioux City Journal* as city editor; then, financially backed by an uncle in the east, he purchased the *Fort Dodge Messenger* in 1878 and became its editor; acquired an enviable reputation as a writer and was active in Republican political circles in the state, becoming chairman of the Webster county Republican committee in 1880, and an alternate delegate from Iowa to the national Republican convention the same year; elected as state printer of Iowa in 1882 by the general assembly and served until 1889; married Georgia Kirkup of Fort Dodge, November 10, 1885; the same year became secretary of the state Republican committee upon which he served for many years; for fourteen years he was chairman of the Republican congressional committee in the Tenth district; early became interested in the money question, and in the campaigns of 1878, 1879 and 1880 contributed extensively and effectively to the clarification of the public mind on the relation of currency to wages and the cost of living, and was accorded generous recognition throughout and beyond the borders of the state; in 1895 when Harvey's "Coin's Financial School" began to make a stir, Roberts quickly sensed that its misleading statements, alluring claims and shallow conclusions were gaining favorable consideration on behalf of the campaign for the free coinage of silver, and wrote a powerful exposé of Harvey's fallacies in a pamphlet entitled "Coin at School in Finance," circulated widely; also other writings which assisted in the sound money campaign of 1896, which resulted in the election of President McKinley; appointed director of the mint in February, 1898, and remained in that position at Washington until August, 1907, when he became presi-

dent of the Commercial National bank at Chicago, and upon its consolidation with the Continental National in 1910 was reappointed director of the bank; purchased and consolidated the *Iowa State Register* and the *Des Moines Leader* in 1902, which he disposed of a year later to Harvey Ingham and Gardner Cowles of Algona; and likewise sold his interest in the *Fort Dodge Messenger* to his brother C. A. Roberts; became advisor to the president of the National City Bank of New York in 1914 and later elected its vice president and economist. His fame as a financier and economist was international and he served as a member of the financial committee of the League of Nations from 1930 to 1932, constituting his last public contribution of time and effort before his retirement in 1941, and throughout his long and distinguished career occupied position of trust and responsibility. Those surviving are his wife and three children, Mrs. Leslie Springet, and sons George B. and Henry A. Roberts, the former being editor of the National City bank publication long edited by his father, and the latter a branch bank manager.

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GRANT L. CASWELL, publisher and legislator, died at his home in Clarinda, Iowa, May 12, 1948; born in Boone county, Iowa, July 18, 1869, where he spent the first thirteen years of his life; attended school at Moingona, Ogden and Boone, and high school at Coon Rapids, where he became a printer in the office of the *Coon Rapids Enterprise*; became proprietor of the *Ashton Argus* in 1899; purchased a one-half interest in the *Sibley Tribune* two years later, where he was married in 1891 to Eva L. Clark of Ashton; owned an interest in the *Rock Rapids Review*, and removed to Denison, Iowa, in 1897, purchasing the *Denison Bulletin*, which he published until the close of World War I; was a candidate for state treasurer on the Democratic ticket in 1912; elected and served as state senator from the Crawford, Harrison and Monona county district from 1915 to 1918; assumed duties as secretary and managing director of the Iowa Press association in 1915, later selling his newspaper at Denison, and removed to Des Moines, continuing in that capacity for twenty-two years; resided at Ames conducting a newspaper brokerage business there from 1937 to 1943, when he removed to Clarinda, Iowa, where he became one of the owners of the *Clarinda Herald-Journal*, with his son, Carl C. Caswell and P. B. Woolson; a Mason, a Democrat and a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity; survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Flo Guthrie, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and three sons, Carl, business manager of the *Clarinda Herald-Journal*; Paul H., editor of the *Salinas, California, Californian*, and Dr. Donald L. Caswell, veterinarian of Royal Oaks, Michigan.

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