

in reaching the correct conclusion. Though never filing written opinions, he reasoned out the law and facts orally so clearly and with such cogency that most litigants were convinced of the correctness of his judgment. His learning, his love of justice and right, his marvelous memory, his love of companionship, his fine sense of humor, his pointed stories and his apt quotations of poetry to meet every condition, endeared him to the bar and people of the entire district. After serving twenty-two years on the district bench he was elected a justice of the Supreme Court and served as such from January 1, 1913, until his death, seven years and nearly eight months later. He came to this office splendidly equipped by learning, temperament and experience for the discharge of its duties. The opinions of the court prepared by him bear indisputable evidence of this, and also of his mastery of pure English. Though the recitals sometimes seem long, nothing is wanting in the discussion following. Clean-cut thinking, forceful, logical reasoning, with a thorough mastery of the facts and the law applicable, lead inevitably to unavoidable conclusions. His opinions are distinct contributions to our jurisprudence and will endure the inevitable criticisms of the future. Judge Gaynor was of a pleasing personality, bespeaking refinement and culture. He loved books but read only the best. He delighted in philosophizing and championed the theory that property beyond immediate needs is a hindrance to intellectual achievement. He remembered poetry from reading it rarely more than once and had an exhaustless supply for apt quotation. He was a ripe scholar and a profound lawyer. He was of even temper, gentle and kind always, patient to listen and wise to counsel, approachable to all. His death brought profound sorrow to those who knew him and loved him. He is survived by Mrs. Gaynor, an only daughter, Mrs. B. R. Evans, and her sons, Gaynor and Byron Henry, in whom he delighted —S. M. LADD.

---

MAJOR ROBERT M. HANNA was born in Pike County, Ohio, December 23, 1884, and was killed in action at the head of his command near the Meuse, France, at 9:30 A. M., November 11, 1918. In 1891 his family removed to a farm in Clay County, Iowa, near Ruthven. He attended country school, the Ruthven High School, was graduated from the Spencer Business College, and then spent two years in the Law Department of the State University of Iowa. He then entered real estate business with headquarters at Waterloo and Cedar Rapids, remaining in that work until injured in a railroad wreck from which he did not recover for a year. In 1911 he took a trip through Mexico, was in company with Madero for several weeks, was as far south as Vera Cruz, received a bullet wound in the leg when in the saddle, and

was on a train when it was held up and quite a number killed. He then returned north and for a time worked for a packing company at San Antonio, Texas, and later engaged in the shoe business at Kansas City. On April 2, 1917, having volunteered, he went with the Third Regiment, U. S. Army, to Fort Leavenworth as a first sergeant. On April 24, 1917, he entered the officers' training camp at Fort Riley, Kansas, and received a commission as captain of infantry on August 16, 1917, and on September 5 was sent to Camp Funston, Kansas, as captain of Company B, Three hundred and fifty-sixth Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division. He left Camp Funston with his company May 23, 1918, and sailed for France, June 4. Immediately on arriving in France he was made an operations officer and sent to the front. During the battle of St. Mihiel he was incapacitated for a short time and on his recovery, which was in September, 1918, he received a commission as major. During the American offensive on the Meuse, the river having been at flood tide and all the bridges being destroyed, no effort was made to cross with troops. Patrols, however, spent much time on the east side of the river investigating the enemy's situation. Pouilly is on the east bank of the river and was not captured. On the fourth day of the drive Major Hanna, accompanied by an orderly, crawled across the girders of the wrecked bridge, a distance of one hundred yards. He stationed the orderly at the east end of the bridge and he walked boldly into Pouilly while French civilians and German soldiers passed in great numbers. By the audacity of his performance he was not suspected and made a safe return, bringing with him valuable information. For this he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. It was on the very last day of the fighting that he gave up his life when he was at the head of his command. He was a lover of nature, an athlete and a courageous and competent officer.

---

CAPTAIN WILLIAM WALTER FOX was born at West Union, Iowa, July 20, 1882, and died of septic pneumonia, at Semendra, Serbia, February 22, 1919. His body was taken to Suresnes Cemetery, Paris, in April, 1919. His boyhood was spent in West Union where he graduated from high school in 1899. For two years he then worked in the office of Dr. G. D. Darnall of West Union, after which he entered the Medical Department of the State University of Iowa and was graduated in June, 1905. He then taught anatomy in the University for two years and in 1907 purchased the medical practice of Dr. Dodd at Wacoma, Fayette County. He acquired an extensive practice and from time to time took postgraduate work in Harvard University and other eastern institutions. He made application to enter military service in June, 1917, and received his commission as captain in the

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.