

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

GEORGE W. LANDERS, musician and bandmaster, died at the Veteran's hospital at Des Moines, Iowa, July 4, 1955; born at Mexico, Oswego county, New York, on the shores of Lake Ontario, January 12, 1860; attended local schools; as a boy sang in the church choir, his mother being a singer of merit; lost his father in early youth and meagre funds required that he enter employment, which was had in a factory to learn the trade of carriage painter and sign writer, where the village band held nightly rehearsals, to which he was attracted and ultimately was credited with playing any instrument, but finally favored the clarinet, which he played with proficiency for 50 years; remained in the factory seven years; first musical engagement as professional was with the John Robinson circus for three seasons in the '80's; next engaged in the band of the Second regiment, Iowa National Guard; in 1886, enlisted in the U.S. army at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, and during the Spanish-American war was in command of the 30-piece band of the 51st Iowa regiment, and during engagements laid down his baton and shouldered a musket; served 33 years in the regular army, the Iowa National Guard and the Federal service, and during the long period saw much of the world; appointed by the brigade commander as major bandmaster of the brigade; married Lillian Root of Cincinnati, Iowa, who died on February 7, 1943; was bandmaster of the 55th Regiment band at Centerville, later moved to Clarinda, and in 1917 when the National Guard troops came home from the Mexican border, Major Landers had reached the age limit and was retired, the band being removed to Council Bluffs; operated a musical shop in Clarinda for many years; was honorary life president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, a member of the American Bandmasters Association, and honored several times as guest conductor of famous bands; known as the father of the Iowa band law that made it possible for many small communities in the state to have bands through state aid, a law later adopted by most other states; strictly a musical classicist, Major Landers had little time for boogie woogie and jazz, his idol being John Philip Sousa, the march king; in 1951, made guest of honor at the Chicago-land Music festival, where he was crowned "Dean of American Bandmasters"; survived by three daughters, Mrs. Lucile Blanc of Cambridge, Mass., Mrs. Mary Perry of Iowa City and Mrs. Ruth Catrio of Boston, Mass., two grandsons and three great grandsons.

WILLIAM FRANK PERSONS, industrial relations specialist, lawyer and social worker, first director of the U.S. Employment service, died in Cranford, New Jersey, May 27, 1955; born in a log cabin on a farm near Brandon, Buchanan county, Iowa; son of William and Mary E. (Stainbrook) Persons; from a rural school worked his way through Cornell college at Mount Vernon, Iowa, receiving his Ph.B. degree in 1900; was graduated from Harvard university in 1905, receiving an LL.B. degree, after which he practiced law in 1905-06 in Sioux City, Iowa; married Eugenia M. Bray, October 6, 1909, who died August 2, 1941; in a career spanning 45 years was an administrator of private charity in New York City before World War I, and Federal job finder for millions out of work during the great depression; during World War I organized civilian relief for the Red Cross; remained with the Red Cross for four years after the war, as head of the department of administration for the League of Red Cross Societies at Geneva, Switzerland, and then as vice chairman of the American Red Cross; went into industrial relations work in 1922 with the North American Co., a utilities holding company, transferring later to the affiliated Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Co.; in 1922 became head of the newly formed USES, and was named to select the young men for Civilian Conservation Corps camps, keeping both positions until 1939; came out of semi-retirement in 1942 to be director of industrial relations for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp., later transferring to Ryan Aeronautical Co.; after the war headed the San Diego County civil service department for two years; was a member of the national council of Boy Scouts of America, the American Association of Social Workers, the National Conference of Social Workers, the Harvard Club of New York and the Cosmos Club of Washington; holder of the Citation of Merit from the International Association of Public Employment Services; surviving are two sons, W. Frank Persons, jr., of Cranford, N. J., and Edward B. Persons, 6318 Avalon Drive, Woodacres, Md.; a sister Gladys Persons, of South Norwalk, Conn.; and two brothers, Charles Persons of Arlington and Howard Persons of Renwick, Iowa.

CHARLES EDWARD HATHORN, aeronautical engineer, died at La Crescenta, California, May 28, 1955; born on a farm near Clear Lake, Iowa, December 6, 1879; son of Henry W. and Emma L. Hathorn, the father operating a country blacksmith and wagon shop, which was sold later and a foundry and machine shop established in Mason City nearby in which Charles and his brother, Will, spent many of their early days, learning to make patterns, mold castings, operate lathes, planers, drill presses and other types of machinery; learned

to repair steam threshing engines, early models of steam and electric automobiles and finally the gasoline driven car; educated in the Mason City schools, and became an employee of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad as a fireman to familiarize himself with other means of locomotion; employed in 1903 in Davenport by the Mason Carriage Works, then dealers for the single cylinder Oldsmobile automobile; returned to Mason City in 1906, with his brother, Will Hathorn, established the Hathorn Automobile Company, the first car agency there for the single cylinder Cadillac; became interested in aeronautics and built his first plane, using the drawings of a Curtiss type biplane in which he succeeded in flying a little; sold his interest in the garage and returned to Davenport and employed there by the Pierce-Arrow car and truck agency; with the coming of World War I took charge of their convoys between Buffalo and New York; seeking to get into aviation he secured a job with Curtiss Airplane and Engine Company in the Garden City, New York plant; as holder of 17 patents of his own which were adopted for use, he became a project engineer, perfecting the inventions of others, eventually advanced until he was patent engineer for all of the Curtiss-Wright plants, a position held until his retirement in 1947, making his home since in La Crescenta, California; a member of the "Early Birds," an organization of the old timers in aviation, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Masonic lodge and the First Baptist church of Mason City; survived by his wife, the former Hazel Jones of Clear Lake, two brothers, Will H. Hathorn and Frank O. Hathorn of Mason City, and a sister, Mrs. P. O. (Rose) Peterson, of Des Moines.

EDWARD ALBERT KRECER, lawyer and former judge advocate general of the U.S. army, died at Brooks Army Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, May 24, 1955; born near Keota, Iowa, May 31, 1868; son of William and Johanna Kreger; was graduated from the Keota high school, and received his B.S. degree at Iowa State college in 1890; studied law at the State University of Iowa and Drake University; graduated from the U.S. Infantry and Cavalry school in 1905 and the U.S. Army Staff school in 1906; served as high school principal 1891-93 and superintendent of schools 1894-96 at Cherokee, Iowa; admitted to the Iowa bar 1907, District of Columbia 1930, Hawaii 1932, and the U.S. supreme court 1912; began practice of law at Cherokee, Iowa; served through grades to major cadet corps Iowa State college, 1887-90, captain and major Iowa national guard 1893-98, captain 52nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry April-October 1898, first lieutenant and captain 39th U.S. Volunteer Infantry 1899-1901; promoted through grades to

colonel, June 4, 1920, brigadier general (temp.) February 1918-June 1920; appointed major general, judge advocate general U.S. army November 16, 1928; retired from active military service February 28, 1931; drafted electoral law of Cuba 1908; compiled cases on martial law 1910 and military laws of the United States 1921; supervised preparation of manual for courts-martial U.S. army 1920; decorated D.S.C. "for extraordinary heroism" in action near Bay Laguna, P.I., March 10, 1900; D.S.M. "for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service" as acting judge advocate general A.E.F., World War I; member American Bar association, Federal Bar association, American Military Institute, American Society of International law, Presbyterian church, Army and Navy club and Congressional country club Washington; married Laura Mae Reddis (deceased) in 1891, and they had one daughter Vera Mae, wife of Col. J. Huntington Hills, U.S. army, residing at San Antonio, Texas.

OLE J. HENDERSON, attorney and former district judge, died at Webster City, May 23, 1955; born in Scott township, Hamilton county, Iowa, March 8, 1878; son of Lars and Sarah (Mikelson) Henryson, the father born in Norway and came to this country in 1847, first settling in Illinois and in 1858 removed to Hamilton county; supplemented a rural school education by a course at Iowa State college, receiving his B.S. degree there in 1898; entered the law school at the University of Minnesota and was graduated in 1902; located at Webster City and formed a partnership with the late A. N. Boeye; served several terms as county attorney; appointed to fill a vacancy upon the district court bench in 1928, serving as district judge for 15 years, returning to his law practice in January, 1943, which he since has continued; married at Boulder, Colorado, to Miss Mary Brown of Vinton, Iowa, October 18, 1906, who survives him; elected to the Kendall Young library board of trustees in 1930, upon which he continued until his death, becoming its chairman in 1942; a member of the Kiwanis club, the Chamber of Commerce, state and county bar associations and the Congregational church; at one time a director of the First National Bank of Story City, and active in community banking and financial circles.

DR. FRANK W. DEAN, eye specialist, died July 3, 1955, at the home of his son, Dr. Abbott M. Dean, Council Bluffs, Iowa; born in Satara, East India, in 1863, the fourth child of Congregational missionary parents; in 1867, traveled by freighter to Liverpool, England, with his parents, around the lower tip of Africa, because the Suez canal was not yet constructed; thence to the United States and located in New Hampshire,

later in Nebraska and came to Council Bluffs in 1895; attended Doane college at Crete, Nebraska and received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota; did special studies on eye diseases in Vienna and London before permanently locating at Council Bluffs; married in 1897 to Sarah Meston of Hastings, Nebraska, who died in 1939; long on the staff of the Jennie Edmundson hospital and a trustee of the Christian home; a member of the Masonic bodies, the Elks club and the Rotary club, also the American Medical society, Sioux Valley Eye and Ear society, Iowa state and Pottawattamie county medical societies, American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology; wrote a book upon the growth of Council Bluffs, which had not yet been published; besides his son, Dr. Abbott M. Dean, is survived by a grandson, Lt. (j.g.) Abbott W. Dean, of Norfolk, Nebraska.

ROBERT R. O'BRIEN, newspaperman, died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, May 23, 1955; born in Denver, Colorado, September 9, 1888; was graduated with a law degree from the University of Colorado, at Boulder, in 1912, though did not practice law, but joined the staff of the *Chicago Daily News*; went to the *Cedar Rapids Republican* in 1915 and became advertising manager; went to the *Omaha Bee* in the same capacity in 1918, and two years later to the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, remaining with that publication in an executive capacity for 35 years; headed a group of employees in 1939 who purchased that newspaper from the D. W. Norris interests and became president of the corporation and publisher; also a director of the Nonpareil Broadcasting Company and a past director of the Inland Daily Press association; a member of the Presbyterian church, the Elks club, Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Alpha Delta fraternities, a former Mardi Gras King, as well as a member of many newspaper organizations; survivors include the widow, Linda, three sons, Robert H. and Jack, both of Council Bluffs, and Dick of Idaho Falls, Idaho; a daughter, Kay, college student at Gulfport, Miss.; a brother, John, of Council Bluffs; also three sisters; the eldest son succeeds the father as publisher of the *Nonpareil*.

WALDO EMERSON LESSENGER, educator, died May 14, 1955, at Detroit, Michigan; born at Irwin, Iowa, July 6, 1898; son of William Arthur and Margaret Roberts Lessenger; was graduated by the State University of Iowa in 1919, receiving his A.B. degree; his M.A. degree in 1922 and his Ph.D. degree in 1925; married Edna Louise Houser, July 27, 1923; to this union were born two daughters, Nancy Lee and Susan; served as superintendent of public schools at Radcliffe, Iowa, 1920-24,

instructor in education of Detroit Teachers college 1925-26, assistant professor 1926-28, associate professor 1928-30, professor of educational administration and research 1930-31, dean of institution, now College of Education of Wayne University, Detroit, since 1931; in Fourth officers training camp U.S. army, World War II; member of National Educational association, Michigan Educational association, National Association of College Teachers of Education, American Association for Teachers Education and its president in 1951, Mu Sigma Pi and Phi Delta Kappa; resided at 2300 Edison avenue, Detroit.

ROBERT B. CRICHTON, retired commander, USN, died in Bethesda naval hospital at Washington, D.C., June 23, 1955; born at Odebolt, Iowa, in 1896; was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1919; first assigned in 1934 at Washington to the Bureau of Engraving, later the Bureau of Ships for two years; later served as commander of the destroyer Tracy, and taught engineering for two years at the Naval Academy; again was with the Bureau of Ships from 1941 until August 1, 1945, when he was retired; later taught engineering at the University of Pittsburg and at Maryland University; a member of the Sojourner's Club, the Armed Forces division of Masons, the St. Andrews Society and Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church; surviving are his widow, Mrs. Maud Warner Crichton, of the Brandywine street address; three sons, Robert B., jr., of Kensington, Md.; Charles F. of Adelphi, Md., and Neil Andrew, a senior at Ohio Wesleyan University; two sisters, Mrs. Jane Dewey of Riverside, Calif., and Miss Mary Crichton of Wall Lake, Iowa, and five grandchildren.

ROBERT HALSEY PATCHIN, newspaperman and air line executive, died in New York, New York, July 1, 1955; born in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1881, son of Dr. Robert A. and Calista Halsey Patchin, the father chief surgeon of several railroads centering in Des Moines, and a prominent local practitioner, and the mother an author and newspaperwoman, formerly on the staff of the *Washington Post*; educated in the Des Moines schools and began his career as a reporter on the *Des Moines Leader*; worked on the *Washington Times* and for that paper and the *New York Herald* as a Washington and foreign correspondent; became connected with the Grace Steamship Line, of which he was vice-president; helped organize the Panagra Airline between Panama and Argentina in 1927, and was its vice-president until he retired from the Grace Line in 1948.

RONALD GLENN CALLVELT, newspaper editor and Pulitzer prize winner, died at LaJolla, California, February 14, 1955; born at Adel, Iowa, September 24, 1873; son of Stephen Alexander

and Rachel Barnes (Berger) Callvelt; received his education in Des Moines and Sheldon, Iowa; married Kathryn Shotwell Andrews, May 10, 1909; began newspaper career as a printer on the *Bellingham Reville*, at Bellingham, Washington, and later was reporter and editor, 1900-1901; served as secretary of board of state land commissioners, Olympia, Washington, 1901-1905; was reporter and later editor of *Los Angeles Record*, 1906-1907; a newspaper correspondent at Olympia, 1907-1909, and managing editor of *Portland Oregonian*, 1909-1928, editorial writer 1928-1931, and assistant editor since August 1, 1931; awarded Pulitzer prize for distinguished editorial writing in 1938; removed to LaJolla, California, when he retired in 1951; was a Republican and a Protestant; survived by his widow and a son, Ronald Shotwell Callvelt, in New York.

LORENZO DOW TETER, teacher, lawyer and legislator, died at Des Moines, Iowa, June 16, 1955; born on a farm north of Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa, June 9, 1870; educated in the rural schools, Iowa Business college, Des Moines, Rochester Business university, Rochester, New York, Des Moines (Baptist) college, Drake University law school, law department of the State University of Iowa and Harvard college; became a teacher in the Iowa Business college, also in Davenport Business college, and was considered one of the three best pen artists in the United States; owned and operated a farm in Marion county, practiced law many years at Knoxville and served as city attorney at that place; served in seven sessions of the Iowa general assembly beginning in 1904; author of the original law requiring candidates for public office to file a detailed statement of campaign expenses and the originator and author of the homestead tax exemption bill; married Clella Grace Andrews, November 16, 1918, who survives him; a Republican and a Mason.

FRANK P. JOHNSON, newspaperman and legislator, died at Kewanee, Illinois, March 19, 1955; born at Cherokee, Iowa, July 21, 1889; spent his youth there; was graduated from Morning-side college at Sioux City and attended University of Chicago; was a newspaper reporter on the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, also on papers in North Dakota and Pennsylvania; became an editorial writer upon the *Kewanee Star-Courier*; was serving a second term as state senator in the Illinois legislature; widely known as a public speaker, being upon the lecture staff of the Redpath Lyceum bureau; survived by his wife, Irene Taylor Johnson, two sisters, Mrs. J. W. Wilkinson of Alta, Iowa, and Mrs. H. N. Seely of Centralia, Illinois, a brother, Dr. C. H. Johnson, of Cherokee, an aunt, Mrs. Margaret Garner of Rockwell City, Iowa, and several nieces and nephews.

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