

## Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

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ORA WILLIAMS, newspaperman, public official, writer and historian, died in Decatur, Georgia, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. B. (Marguerite) Lee, on February 25, 1955; born on a farm in Dallas county, Iowa, January 16, 1862; son of Ephraim and Elizabeth Parker Williams, Iowa pioneers; attended rural school and high school at Adel, Iowa, graduating in 1880; learned the printer's trade in the office of an Adel newspaper; taught country school awhile, as well as in the high school; became editor of the *Dallas County Democrat*, which he made an independent paper and which afterward became the *Dallas County Record*; married Nettie Diddy, of Perry, Iowa, October 13, 1886; became city editor of the *Iowa State Register* in 1885, filling that position until 1890, when he went to Sioux City, Iowa, and became managing editor of the *Sioux City Journal*, where he remained eight years; then came a year as editorial writer upon the staff of the *Omaha Bee* in 1898, and another in 1899 as editor of the *Sioux Falls Press*; in 1905 became editor of the *National Daily Review*, established and conducted for a period in Chicago; with its lapse, came a unique experience for a versatile writer, being in charge of the oils Manuals publications and editor of Campbell's *Soil Culture*, first published in Sioux City and later at Lincoln, Nebraska, extolling and explaining beneficial methods of "dry farming" for arid regions; during period from 1900 to 1915 carried on syndicate writings for various newspapers in the middle west on news and political topics; to marked extent illuminating the Iowa happenings relating to the progressive Republican movement that ultimately made Albert B. Cummins governor of Iowa and which sent him to the United States senate for a long term of service; active in political circles and served Gov. Warren Garst as executive secretary in 1909; was state document editor (now superintendent of state printing) 1915-1921, division chief of the U.S. Internal Revenue bureau at Des Moines 1921-27, secretary of the Iowa Industrial commission 1927-37, curator and historian of Iowa state department of history and archives 1939-46; secretary of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers association 1939-43; editor ANNALS OF IOWA, 1938-46; historian Iowa department of Sons of the American Revolution; vice president Association of State and local historical societies at various times; a speaker in demand at state and county historical meetings and conventions; a Republican and member of the Des Moines Pioneer club; survived by two daughters, Mrs. A. B. Lee and Mrs.

Jeannette Simpson, both of Decatur, Georgia, a son Roger Williams of St. Paul, Minnesota, and a large group of nephews and nieces.

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CHARLES FRANCIS CLARK, lawyer and state legislator, died at St. Petersburg, Florida, February 6, 1955; born at Belle Plaine, Iowa, August 13, 1871; removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1876; was graduated from the Cedar Rapids high school, received a B.A. degree from Coe college, where he was graduated in 1891, and a Bachelor of Law degree from the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1894; and has since practiced law in Cedar Rapids, the firm continuously being Clark & Clark, his father Frank G. Clark, being a partner from 1894 to 1921, and Herbert Francis Clark a partner later, but now residing at Nashville, Tennessee; married Elizabeth A. Besler in Cedar Rapids on November 29, 1900, who died in 1952; a member of the Coe college board of trustees, a director of the Morris Plan company, formerly a director of the American Trust and Savings bank, and had also served as secretary of the Coe college board of trustees; was an original member of the Cedar Rapids Y.M.C.A. board of directors and once president of the association; helped organize a student Y.M.C.A. on the University of Iowa campus; also served as president of the Linn county bar association, director of the Chamber of Commerce, trustee of the First Congregational church and secretary and chairman of the Linn county Republican committee; elected state representative from Linn county in 1918, 1920 and 1922 and state senator in 1928; a past president of the association of Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa, and a member of the Congregational church, Sons of American Revolution, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Knights of Pythias, the Masonic bodies, American Bar association, also member of the executive committee of Iowa State Bar association, and chairman of a committee to search war records for names of Iowa lawyers who lost their lives in war; active in Cedar Rapids civic and fraternal life; a thorough student of municipal, state and national affairs, and at one time chairman of a joint legislative committee on taxation; a defeated Republican state candidate for lieutenant governor of Iowa in 1932 when Franklin D. Roosevelt carried the state.

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FRANK JACOB LOWRY, retired vice admiral, died at his home near Napa, California, March 26, 1955; born at Cresco, Iowa, February 15, 1888; son of John J. and Jennie Mullen Lowry; was graduated from the Cresco high school and attended St. Johns Military academy, Delafield, Wisconsin in 1905 and 1906, receiving a B.S. degree; appointed to the U.S. Naval academy

at Annapolis, Maryland, in 1907, from which he was graduated in June, 1911, and following Atlantic patrol duty in World War I, first served in command when he assumed charge of the receiving ship and training station on Mare island; promoted to the Naval War college at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1925 and completed the course in 1926; assignments between the two world wars included duty on the battleships California and New York, at the University of California as professor of naval science and tactics, command of the U.S.S. Hale, training work and a Washington tour in the bureau of investigation; married Julia Kessel Shackleton December 18, 1940; promoted through naval officer grades and in 1940 took command of the heavy cruiser Minneapolis at Pearl Harbor, off the entrance at the time, standing by to escort the convoy to Manilla when the Japanese attacked; operated the vessel in the south Pacific during the first year of the war, and rescued 850 of the crew of the Lexington, which was sunk in the battle of the Coral sea, resulting in his being decorated with the Navy Cross; also participated in the battle of the Midway, the first landing at Guadalcanal, and the battle of the eastern Solomons; served briefly on stateside duty late in 1942 and then was named commander of the Moroccan sea frontier with headquarters at Casablanca, Africa, and then as rear admiral took command of the landing craft and bases at Salerno, Italy; became commander of the Eighth Amphibian force in November, 1943; commanded the combined United States and British naval forces and planned and directed assault of the beaches at Anzio in January, 1944; commanded the landing in southern France in August, 1944, and then returned to the United States to organize an amphibious group for the last invasion of Japan, following which he was ordered to Germany to serve with General Patton, later in October, 1947, being named area commander of Mare Island-Vallejo base; retired with a special ceremony at Mare island February 28, 1950, learning of his promotion from rear admiral to vice admiral, when instead of receiving the usual thirteen gun salute which rear admirals receive, to which he had been entitled since 1943, he heard the fourteenth and fifteenth guns, evidence of his promotion; during period of his brilliant navy career received decorations: Navy Cross, Distinguished Service medal, Legion of Merit and Gold Star, Companion Order of the Bath, Oak Leaf (British), Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with Palms (French), Grand Officer Ouissam Alaouite Cherifien (Morocco), Grand Officer Nichan-Iftokar (Tunisia), Campaign medals, Nicaraguan (1912), Mexican, Victory, American Defense, Asiatic-Pacific, European-African, and American; a member of the Masonic order and the following clubs: Army and Navy, and Columbia Country; sur-

vived by the widow, a brother, Lellis Lowry, Cresco, a step son, Allan Shackleton of Fort Wayne, Indiana, two nephews and two nieces.

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JOHN R. MOTT, lay evangelist, humanitarian, Christian leader, author and 1946 Nobel Peace prize-winner, died at his winter home at Orlando, Florida, January 31, 1955; born at Livingstone Manor, Sullivan county, New York, May 25, 1865; son of John Still Mott and Elmira Dodge Mott; removed with parents when two years old to Postville, Iowa, where the father engaged in business as a lumber merchant; resided there until 1888, when he entered upon his life's career; did his preparatory work for college in three years at Upper Iowa university at Fayette, Iowa, going to Cornell university, at Ithaca, New York, where he helped organize the first college Y.M.C.A. and received his Ph.B. degree in 1888, an honorary A.M. at Yale, 1899, LL.D. University of Edinburgh 1910; Princeton university 1911, Brown 1931, Toronto university 1944; married Leila Ada White November 26, 1891; student secretary International Com. Y.M.C.A.'s 1888-1915 and general secretary of same 1915-1931, also foreign secretary of same 1898-1915, and general secretary National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s U.S.A. in 1928; honorary life president World's committee and World's Alliance of Y.M.C.A.'s since 1926, and served various other and numerous organizations and related committees; member of the Methodist Episcopal church, Phi Beta Kappa and fellow of the Royal Geographical society; because of world-wide work for the "Y" in his long service and having acquired a statesman's grasp of world relations, was more consulted on international relations than any other man; was one of five honored presidents of the World Council of Churches and the only layman so honored; author of 21 books on religious and social subjects; was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for his humanitarian work, and other medals by 16 foreign governments; was an ambassador to China, appointed by President Woodrow Wilson, and worked during both World Wars with world-wide welfare groups; Congressman James I. Dooliver inserted in the Congressional Record an address delivered by Dr. Ralph Sockman, noted New York, N. Y., minister, at the memorial services hailing Dr. Mott as "a great Christian statesman of our time"; survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters.

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WILLIAM SEBASTIAN JACOBSEN, former congressman, physical director, merchant and broadcasting station executive, died at Dubuque, Iowa, in attendance at the funeral of a relative, April 10, 1955; born in Clinton, Iowa, January 15, 1887, a son of B. M. Jacobsen, member of congress from 1931 to 1936, dying

that year, and Lena Trager Jacobsen, who died at Clinton on April 1 last; married on Thanksgiving eve in 1916 to Mae Madison of Clinton, who died four years later; in 1949 married Helen Sullivan, of Fort Dodge; attended Clinton schools and the normal college of American Gymnastic Union, Indianapolis, Indiana; became physical director of the Turner society and the Y.M.C.A.; manager of Jacobsen's department store and part owner with his father from 1915 to 1927; served as secretary, treasurer and manager of the Clinton Thrift company; a Democrat and succeeded his father as U. S. representative from the Second Iowa district in 1937, serving three terms; in 1941 organized the Clinton Broadcasting Corp., operators of Station KROS, and was president of the corporation; served as acting postmaster of Clinton from August 1, 1951 until January 1954; served as president of the Rotary club, of which he was a charter member and was past president and active member of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce; served as chairman in charge of the historic Clinton Boy Scout tour to Yellowstone park in 1921 and took active part in the reunions of that group in later years; was a member of DeMolay Consistory and Kaaba Shrine, the Elks and Eagles; was a 50-year member of the Clinton Turner society and a member of St. John's Episcopal church; survived by the widow, two sons, Bernard M., general manager of Station KROS, and Meinard, a Clinton insurance man, three sisters, Mrs. Alma Callendar, Clinton, Mrs. Alvina Hammond, Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Bernice Denksen, Harvey, Ill., and a brother, Marvin J. Jacobsen, Clinton.

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FRANK G. MOORHEAD, editor and writer, died March 19, 1955, at home in Des Moines, Iowa; born April 20, 1876, in Council Bluffs, Iowa; son of Dr. S. W. Moorhead, editor of the *Keokuk Gate City*, who at one time was editor of the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* and twice mayor of Keokuk; attended Iowa State college and Grinnell college; became an assistant upon the *Gate City*, and finally started a competing paper, which languished, was with the *Des Moines Capital* from 1898 to 1903 and an associate editor of the *Des Moines Register and Leader* from 1903 to 1908; with the *Iowa Homestead*, a Pierce publication, on two occasions, associate editor from 1910 to 1920 and editor-in-chief from 1922 to 1929; upon purchase of the *Homestead* by the Wallace Publishing Co. in 1920, the merging of that publication with *Wallace's Farmer*, and Henry A. Wallace becoming editor, Moorhead retired, his varied newspaper career also having included a brief period as editor of the *Farm Journal* at Philadelphia and as Sunday editor of the *Spokane, Wash., Spokesman-Review*; appointed in 1933 by the late Gov. Clyde L. Herring as agent of the Iowa state bureau of investigation, and in some of

Herring's political campaigns took charge of publicity, continuing in that capacity under former Gov. Nelson G. Kraschel, and in 1939 and 1940 was a special writer on the *Iowa Official Register*; originally a Republican, changed to Democrat in 1939 and became Democrat publicity director, a job he held most of the time the next 12 years; was with Bankers Life Co. as editor of house organs from 1942 to 1945, and most recently was in retirement; contributed to magazines and published two small books, "Unknown Facts about Well Known People" in 1893, and "Jazz History of the United States" in 1925; was one of the organizers of the Des Moines Press and Radio Club; a Congregationalist, and survived by his wife, Mrs. Mildred Moorhead, and a daughter Verlaine.

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WINONA EVANS REEVES, editor, writer and club official, died at Keokuk, Iowa, February 19, 1955; born in Deep Mound, Iowa, August 14, 1872; daughter of Dr. James MacFarland and Helen Isabel Lusk Evans; received preparatory education in Whittier academy at Salem, Iowa, after which she obtained her B.S. degree at Iowa Wesleyan college at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1891, her M.S. degree there in 1896 and in 1944 was granted an honorary degree of L.H.D.; on December 23, 1897 married Harry J. Reeves, who died in 1944, and to them were born two daughters, Mrs. Robert S. (Helen Lusk) Casey of Fort Madison, and Mrs. Agnes Reeves Colville of Akron, Ohio; served as society and club editor of the *Keokuk Daily Gate City* 1918-1926, editor of the Blue Book of Iowa Women and Blue Book of Nebraska Women 1914-1916, and editor of the *P.E.O. Record* 1918-1930; was a trustee of Cottey Junior college at Nevada, Missouri, a foreign correspondent for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian church in 1928, a delegate to Womens International Week in Budapest, Hungary in 1938, Paris in 1939; a member of the National Federation of Press Women and its vice-president 1939-1941, the American Association of University Women, the P.E.O. sisterhood and its national president 1909-1911, the Illinois Women's Press association, and honorary member of the Iowa Press Women's association, the Cordon club of Chicago, the D.A.R. and the Presbyterian church; author of "The Story of P.E.O." and "We Were Saying," a book of essays; active in many societies and other organizations; survived in addition to her daughters by three grandchildren.

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FRANK FINLEY MERRIAM, newspaper man, legislator and state executive, died at Long Beach, California, April 25, 1955; born on a farm in a log cabin near Hopkinton, Iowa, December 22, 1865; son of Henry C. and Anna E. Merriam, the oldest of eleven children; worked his way through Lenox college at Hopkinton,

and was graduated in 1888, served as principal of schools at Hopkinton, Hesper and Postville, Iowa, and Wisner, Nebraska; returned to Hopkinton and became publisher of the *Hopkinton Leader* and elected in 1896 to the Iowa house of representatives; elected auditor of state on November 8, 1898 and served until 1903, and in that position was ex-officio commissioner of insurance and superintendent of banking; became publisher of a Muskogee, Indian Territory, newspaper in 1903, but was called to Long Beach, California through family illness in 1910; until 1920 was in the advertising department of the *Long Beach Press*, later the *Press-Telegram*, and afterward a bank president and real estate broker in Long Beach; elected to the California state assembly in 1916 and re-elected four times, and in 1928 went to the state senate; elected lieutenant governor in 1930 and became governor June 2, 1934, when James Rolph, Jr., died in office; married in 1903 to Mrs. Nellie Bronson Day, formerly of Des Moines, the widow of Chas. H. Day, formerly a deputy in the office of auditor of state of Iowa when Merriam was incumbent, who died shortly before his election as governor of California; again married on January 25, 1936, at the age of 70, to Mrs. Jessie Lispey, an Iowa childhood acquaintance and widow of an Iowa banker; experienced a turbulent service as governor occasioned by violent labor strikes and a bitter but successful political campaign for re-election with Upton Sinclair, the novelist, but was defeated in the 1938 election by Clubert Olson, a Democrat.

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MALVERN H. KEPLER, lawyer and jurist, died at Northwood, Iowa February 7, 1955; born on a farm near Davenport, Iowa, April 14, 1870, and lived to be the first native-born Iowan to serve on the judicial bench of the 12th district; was the son of John and Ann Douglas Kepler, natives of Pennsylvania, who moved to a farm near Toledo in Tama county, Iowa in 1886; entered Western college at Toledo, a school which was subsequently combined with Coe college at Cedar Rapids, where he received his B.A. degree in 1892 and spent the following two years in teaching and farming; entered the law school at the State University of Iowa in 1894, and was graduated in 1896 and admitted to practice, his first two years in Toledo, near his family home, from where he removed to Northwood about January 1, 1923, and since resided; appointed by Gov. N. E. Kendall district judge to fill a vacancy March 1, 1923, and since regularly re-elected to succeed himself; became ill while presiding in court in Mason City in November, 1953, and had not been active on the bench since that time, although he did not resign; a member of the Elks and of the Masonic Lodge; bereaved last July 11 when Mrs. Kepler died; survived by

two sons, both attorneys, Donald of Riverside, California, and Harrison of Northwood, the latter having been practicing in California and came to Northwood when his father became ill.

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CHRISTINE ERICKSON HILL, physician, died March 24, 1955, at Norfolk, Virginia, where she had been a resident of Princess Ann county the past five years since her retirement from the medical practice, making her home with a daughter, Mrs. Kathryne Venner; born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1875; was graduated in 1903 from the University of Nebraska School of Medicine, thereafter entering the general practice at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she continued for 46 years until retirement; long associated with her husband there, the late Dr. C. A. Hill; specialized in obstetrics and pediatrics and had handled three generations of babies in the community; became a charter member of the Council Bluffs Clinic; also a member of the county, state and national medical societies; served as a member of the local school board from 1928 to 1947, as Sunday school superintendent of the First Presbyterian church 20 years; a charter member of the Altrusa club, and several years ago was named as "outstanding professional woman in the state of Iowa;" burial was in Council Bluffs and the survivors include two daughters, Dr. Kathryne Venner of Princess Anne Court House, Virginia, and Mrs. Margaret Beardsley of Seattle, Washington; two brothers, Henry and Peter Erickson, both of Salem, Oregon, and seven grandchildren.

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CLIFFORD L. NILES, businessman and publisher, died at Anamosa, Iowa, February 7, 1955; born there August 4, 1876, son of Charles L. Niles, of Niles and Watters Savings bank, into which he went as a bookkeeper when he was graduated from the Shattuck, Minn. Military school and University of Michigan in 1899, afterward becoming vice president of the bank; founded the American Cooperage Company in 1905; became interested in the theatre business with his father, and at one time they operated eight show houses in eastern Iowa; active in Republican politics and served terms upon both the state conservation commission and the state highway commission, and chairman of the latter in 1920; purchased the *Anamosa Eureka* in 1925, which he disposed of in 1952; engaged at various times in auto garage and real estate business; a former member of the Iowa Press association, and the American Press association; was also a member of the Masonic bodies and the Elks, and a past president of the Anamosa Chamber of Commerce; was married in 1902 to Clara Louise Holt of Anamosa, and surviving besides his widow are a son, Charles, at Anamosa and five daughters, all married and residing in other states.

RAY PAUL SCOTT, lawyer, jurist and legislator, died at Marshalltown, Iowa, March 9, 1955; born at North Eaton, Ohio, June 8, 1884; son of the Rev. William H. and Laura E. Scott; removed to Marshalltown in 1899; was graduated from the Marshalltown high school in 1902 and Drake University in 1909; married Kate Timmons in Marietta December 26, 1922; served as Marshall county attorney in 1914-1918, Iowa House of Representatives 1918-1920, Iowa state senate 1920-1924, and as municipal judge at Marshalltown 1942-1949; a member of the Christian church and active in its state conventions; past president of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers association; president of the Iowa Christian Missionary society 1931-1949; a Republican; also a member of Marshall Lodge 108 A.F. & A.M., King Solomon council 20, St. Aldemar commandery 40, Cedar Rapids Consistory, Des Moines ZaGazig Shrine, Madon Shrine 38 of White Shrine of Jerusalem, and the Marshalltown chapter of the Izaak Walton League; survivors include the widow, a brother, Winfield W. Scott, and a sister, Miss Iola G. Scott, both of Des Moines.

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BOYD R. BRYSON, lawyer and jurist, died at Muscatine, Iowa, November 7, 1954, having suffered a stroke in February, 1953; born at Ackley, Iowa, September 29, 1877, son of Alexander and Carthagina Bryson, and resided at Iowa Falls, 53 years practicing law, having graduated from Ellsworth college in 1896 and the law school of Drake University, Des Moines, in 1899; married on March 22, 1898, to Alma Collins, who died in 1931; was again married on March 31, 1914, at New Orleans, Louisiana, to Mrs. Thelma Gay Clark, who died in 1947; served as mayor of Iowa Falls from 1906 to 1908, and as judge of the 11th judicial district from 1924 to 1926; was president of the Iowa Rose Society in 1942-43, and active as a Rotarian, Mason and as a member of the Congregational church; resided since the illness in 1953 with his daughter, Mrs. J. B. Tracy, at Muscatine, who survives, a brother, Ralph, also surviving, with two grand children and one great grandchild.

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