

Iowa's Notable Dead

RAY LYMAN WILBUR, educator and U. S. official, died at his Palo Alto home in California, June 26, 1949; born at Boonesboro, Iowa, April 13, 1875, the family moving to Jamestown, North Dakota, in 1883 when he was eight years old; later another move took them to Riverside, California, where the father practiced law and was a civic leader; was graduated from Stanford university in 1896 and from Cooper Medical college in San Francisco in 1899; became dean of the Stanford Medical school in 1911, and left campus for an extended period of time only twice thereafter—the first time during World War I when he went to Washington as chief of the conservation division of the U. S. food administration, and the second time in 1929 when he became secretary of the interior in President Hoover's cabinet, serving from 1929 to 1933; founded the California physician's service, a voluntary, prepaid health insurance plan and forerunner of health care plans on the insurance principle, but was opposed to socialized medicine; headed Stanford university twenty-seven years, from 1916 to 1943, becoming chancellor upon his retirement; and only a week previous to his death had been able to attend Stanford graduating class exercises; his wife having died several years ago, he is survived by two daughters and three sons, and by his brother, Curtis Dwight Wilbur, the eminent Federal jurist, who served as secretary of the navy in President Coolidge's cabinet, a retired judge of the Ninth circuit court of appeals.

VERNON E. PRICHARD, major general, U. S. army public relations chief, died in the explosion of the pleasure cruiser Halcyon, taking on gas in a boat basin at the Corinthian Yacht club, on the Potomac river, Washington, D. C., July 10, 1949; born at Smithland, Iowa, January 25, 1892; son of Jacob A. Prichard, of Onawa, Iowa, who died in the late 30's; graduated from the Onawa high school in 1908, and later from Morningside college at Sioux City; graduated from West Point military academy in 1915; was an All-American football quarterback on the army team in 1913 and captain of the team in 1914; married January 1, 1917 to Charlotte Blesse at Eagle Pass, Texas; served as a lieutenant in the punitive expedition to Mexico in 1916; went to France early in 1918 with the Second division; saw action in World War I at Verdun and Chateau Thierry, and entered Germany after the armistice as major attached to headquarters, Seventh army corps; a graduate of the Army War college, Washington, D. C.,

the two-year course of the command and general staff school, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the artillery school, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; held a professorship in military science and tactics at Yale university and an instructorship at West Point; served twice as an aid to commanding generals, once with General Bundy in 1918, and later with Gen. Hugh A. Drum.

General Prichard served in World War II second in command at the 4th Armored division, and next activated the 14th Armored division, commanding it until July 1944, then being called to head the 1st Armored division in Italy; next serving with Gen. Mark Clark's 5th Army for the duration of the war; after close of field service he was military head of surplus property disposal in Europe, and next as head of plans and training for the army in occupied Germany until return to this country a few months ago to become the army's public relation head; Mrs. Prichard, with him upon the vessel at time of the explosion, escaped injury, and survives with one daughter, Caralotta, also the general's mother, Mrs. E. Grace Prichard, and three brothers, Judge George Prichard and Elbert Prichard, attorney, of Onawa, and Leslie Prichard of Emmetsburg, Iowa.

ALEXANDER FELL WHITNEY, railroad labor leader, died July 16, 1949, at his home in Cleveland, Ohio; born April 12, 1873, at Cedar Falls, Iowa, son of the Rev. Joseph Leonard Whitney; attended high school at Cherokee, Iowa; worked as a "candy butcher" on the Illinois Central railroad through Iowa in the 80's; became a brakeman later and worked up through various stations in the employ of the railroads, finally in 1928, becoming president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, one of the world's most powerful labor unions, including in its membership brakemen, switchmen, conductors, stewards, and other operating employees; stood high in the radical group surrounding President Roosevelt and served upon numerous committees relating to labor activities and movements; on the seven-member United States delegation to the inter-American peace conference at Buenos Aires in 1936; crossed party lines in political campaigns and liked to quote the single-tax theories of Henry George; supported Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Robert M. LaFollette, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin Roosevelt; often-times trumpeted at Wall street; belonged to the Progressive Citizens of America but quit the organization when it announced the support of Henry Wallace for president; engaged in a spectacular tilt with President Truman and threatened to spend forty-seven million dollars of the railroad brotherhoods funds to defeat the president for re-election, but subsequently made his peace

with Truman and supported him; last official act was to authorize a strike of employees against the Southern Pacific railroad just a few hours prior to his death; survived by his second wife, Dorothy Mae Whitney, whom he married in 1924, two sons, Gen. Joseph L. Whitney, of the air force reserve, and Everett A. Whitney, and a daughter, Mrs. Richard J. Olson, all of Chicago, Illinois, and children of his first wife, the former Grace E. Marsgman of Hubbard, Iowa.

EDWIN PERCY CHASE, editor and columnist, died at Washington, D. C., July 9, 1949; born in Anita, Iowa, November 2, 1879, son of Chas. F. and Ruth Dull Chase; moved to Atlantic the following year when his father founded the *Cass County Democrat*; graduated from the Atlantic high school and employed for several years in the newspaper business and in county offices in Denver, Colorado; returned to Atlantic in 1902 and entered newspaper business with his father, later consolidating the papers there under name of *News-Telegraph*, which became a daily in 1908; edited the paper until the death of his father in 1927, when he became both editor and publisher; attained some fame as a writer, being awarded the Pulitzer award in 1933 as author of the best editorial of the year—"Where Is Our Money?"; active in Republican political circles and retired from publishing in 1937, moving to Washington, D. C., where for a year he was on the editorial staff of Hearst's *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*; later became a columnist from the nation's capital for the *Atlantic News-Telegraph* and the Iowa Daily Press association; while yet in Iowa served as a member of the Cass county defense council during World War I; a past president of the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce and the Atlantic Rotary club, and the state planning board; married in Alexandria, Virginia, March 15, 1823 to Jane Colton, a past librarian of the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, and only survivor.

RILEY D. MOORE, osteopath physician, explorer and anthropologist, died April 24, 1949, at Washington, D. C.; born in 1883 at Cherokee, Iowa, graduated from the American School of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo., in 1907, and entered practice at Grand Junction, Colo.; went to Washington in 1912 and joined the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology; visited Alaska under Smithsonian Institution auspices and, according to the United States Museum Report for that year, gathered a 630-piece ethnological collection on St. Lawrence Island which was the most thorough of its type ever presented the museum. During his career as an anthropologist, practiced osteopathy in the evenings, and in 1918 resigned from the Smithsonian and devoted full time

to osteopathy; enjoyed collecting Chinese coins as a hobby, and at the time of death his collection contained more than 2000 coins; a charter member of the Washington Lion's Club, he addressed that group on Chinese coins the week prior to his death; taught himself Chinese to facilitate his coin collecting, also an amateur magician and a former president of the Society of American Magicians; had authored various magazine articles on subjects ranging from osteopathy and Eskimo life to history and medicine; although he never practiced law, was a graduate of National University law school, of Washington, a member of All Souls Unitarian Church and belonged to various osteopathic, anthropological and exploring clubs; survived by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Collette Moore, of Washington; a daughter, Mrs. Juan Yriart, whose husband, formerly first secretary of the Uruguayan Embassy, now is stationed at Annecy, France; a sister, Mrs. Margaret Thornton, Salt Lake City, and three brothers, Berwyn T., Louisville, Ky., Gilchrist, San Francisco, Calif., and Zene Moore, of Oakland, Calif.

EDWARD MARSH WILLIAMS, physician and educator, died at Oskaloosa, Iowa, May 17, 1949; born at Lake Mills, Wisconsin, October 6, 1870, son of Robert and Gracia Marsh Williams; began teaching science and directing athletics at Friends University at Wichita, Kansas, when it was organized in 1898, for four years; there met Evangaline Pollard, teacher of Greek and Latin, whom he married at Sterling, Kansas, June 14, 1900; went to the Chicago high schools, Le Grange, in 1902, where he also taught science and directed athletics three years, during which time he pursued medical studies in Rush Medical college; went to University of Oklahoma in 1905 and became intensely interested in public health and helped organize the medical school of that university, being a fellow teacher with Dr. Upjohn; on establishment of state board of health of Oklahoma assisted in securing enactment of law permanently locating its laboratories at the university; removed to St. Louis in 1907 to teach in the department of pharmacology at St. Louis university, also having charge of the x-ray and Out-clinic of St. John's hospital; located at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1912, to be associated with his brother Dr. B. G. Williams at Mercy hospital; became active in Mahaska county and state medical and public health circles; appointed by Gov. N. E. Kendall to membership on the state board of health and is credited with assisting State Health Commissioner Henry Albert in broadening the scope and character of the department's work; surviving in addition to the widow are five daughters, two sisters and two brothers.

DR. G. A. ALLIBAND, physician and community leader, died at Atlantic, Iowa, July 9, 1949; born at Darlington, Penn., May 1, 1875; the son of John and Marian Alliband; moved with parents when eight years old to a farm southeast of Griswold, Iowa; graduated from the Griswold high school, and following graduation from the University of Nebraska Medical school in 1904, entered the practice of medicine at Elliott, Iowa; removed to Atlantic in 1928 and associated with Dr. C. R. Jones in Jones hospital until establishing his own practice; served as city health officer and in his practice of medicine over forty-five years, devoted himself to the best interests of the community; active in civic clubs and municipal movements; received in February last the Junior Chamber of Commerce award as the outstanding Atlantic citizen of 1948, and being ill in the hospital at that time the trophy was accepted for him by his wife, the recognition given for "devotion to the community above the demands of his profession" in recognition of his willingness to serve the health needs of his community, despite his own failing health; married in Elliott to Stella Thompson, November 22, 1911, the survivors being the widow, four sons, Glen of Worthington, Minn., John of Atlantic, Dr. George of Omaha, Dr. Harold of Atlantic, and a daughter, Mrs. Albert Nelson, of Fresno, California; a member of the Methodist church, the Masons, the Rotary club and the Iowa Medical society.

J. WILBUR DOLE, educator and legislator, died July 17, 1949, at Iowa City, Iowa; born February 7, 1867, in Jefferson county, Iowa, on a farm later owned by himself for many years, the son of Joe R. and Marie E. Dole; graduated from Parsons college in 1894; taught in rural schools, high school and as principal of village school, and for fourteen years served as secretary of the Fairfield school board; was postmaster at Fairfield 1916-1921; served as a member of the board of trustees of the Fairfield public library and as secretary; served many years as Democrat county chairman and congressional committeeman; a representative in the Iowa General Assembly 1933-34; a director of the Fairfield engine company; interested for years in nature study, botany and birds, being the author of the legislative resolution in the Forty-fifth General Assembly which made the Goldfinch the official bird; a member of the Iowa Ornithologists Union, the Iowa Academy of Science, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Odd Fellows and Masonic orders, and the Presbyterian church; served as noble grand and grand conductor of the I.O.O.F. grand lodge of Iowa, and held many civic posts during his useful life in Fairfield.

DR. AUGUST ENGELBRECHT, educator, emeritus college president, died at his home at Waverly, Iowa, June 5, 1949; born at Neidersungen, Cassel, Germany; came to America in 1873 at the age of eleven and settled at Iowa City, with his mother, sister and brothers, his father having died the same year; entered Wartburg college at Mendota, Illinois, in 1875 and in 1875 enrolled at Wartburg Teachers Seminary which had just been opened in Waverly, graduating in June 1882; entered teaching profession at Paducah, Kentucky, and was later at Defiance, Ohio, where he met Maria Deindoerfer, who became his wife September 27, 1886; began house-keeping in Chicago where he was a parochial school teacher at Trinity Lutheran church; removed to Waverly in 1900 where he was called as a faculty member of Wartburg college, serving there for forty-four years, being director for twenty-four years; awarded the honorary LL.D. degree in 1948 by Wartburg college; many years served as treasurer of the Iowa Synod and on the Waverly city council from 1896 to 1909, and instrumental in securing the Lutheran Children's home for Waverly; survived by three sons and two daughters, three children dying in infancy and the wife preceding him in death on December 31, 1941.

IRA W. JONES, lawyer and legislator, died at his home in Clear Lake, Iowa, June 7, 1949; born at Boston, Erie county, New York, February 28, 1877, the son of Murray and Amelia Jones, with whom he came to a farm near Allison in Butler county, Iowa, at three years of age, where he resided until 1899, when he entered Iowa State college, graduating in the scientific course in 1903; entered the law school at Drake university, graduating in 1905; also received law degree from Yale university; located at Clear Lake, where he has since practiced law; married Bertha Montgomery in 1906; active in civic welfare; made a member of the public library board in 1915 and became chairman in 1922, which position he continued to hold until his death; a member of various fraternal orders, and the Lions club, being a charter member of the latter and served as district governor one year; was Republican county chairman four years; represented his county in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh general assemblies, and a member of the Congregational church; survived by his wife and a son, Dr. Lawrence M. Jones, of Baltimore, Maryland, a daughter, Betty, preceding him in death in 1930.

BEN J. GIBSON, attorney general and legislator, died at Rochester, Minnesota, July 8, 1949; born in Adams county, Iowa, November 13, 1882; one of six children, his mother, Mrs. Virginia Gibson,

still living at Nodaway, Iowa; educated in schools of Adams county, the University of Nebraska, and received his law degree from the University of Nebraska law school; began the practice of law in 1906 at Corning, in his home county; served as county attorney from 1908 to 1912; elected state senator for the Sixth district, but did not complete the term, resigning in 1917 to volunteer in World War I, becoming a Third Iowa and 72nd U. S. infantry captain; returned to the practice of law in 1919; elected attorney general of Iowa in 1920 and re-elected twice thereafter; retired from office in 1927 and entered the practice of law in Des Moines; married September 5, 1905, to Anna Rolston, of Adams county, who with two sons, Wendell B. and Ben. J. Jr., survive him; a member of bar associations, fraternities and clubs and the Central Presbyterian church of Des Moines.

WILLIAM HENRY GEORGE, inventor and industrialist, died at Fairfield, Iowa, March 19, 1949; born June 24, 1862, at Durant, Iowa, son of Clark and Martha Morrison George; united in marriage October 18, 1883 to Olive Nolte, who survives, the couple having celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary last year; enjoyed long and successful career in Iowa as an inventor and manufacturer; organized the Excelsior Thresher Tooth company at Dexter, Iowa, doing a nation-wide business; designed several models of hand-power washing machines shortly after 1900, when he set up the Dexter Washer firm, which was reorganized and removed to Fairfield, Iowa, in 1912, and enlarged from time to time as he originated a number of important mechanical devices connected with the washing machine business; retired in 1929 from position of general manager of the organization; survived in addition to his wife, by a son, Dr. Clark W. George, of Fairfield, Mrs. Foss Heaton, Creston, and Mrs. Cody Luce, of Moravia, Iowa, another daughter, Verna, having passed away in 1897.

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