

Iowa's Notable Dead

WILLIAM R. BOYD, editor and educator, died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 6, 1950; born at Lisbon, Linn county, Iowa, May 19, 1864, the son of Jasper W. Boyd and the former Elizabeth Osmond; spent his boyhood in Tipton, Iowa, and attended its public schools; attended Parsons college two years and graduated from the college of liberal arts of the State University of Iowa in June 1889, having earned his way by teaching school and working in a store; principal of the school at Mechanicsville two years, editor of the *Tipton Advertiser* two years, and editor and associate editor of the *Cedar Rapids Republican* sixteen years; served as postmaster of Cedar Rapids from 1899 to 1909, resigning to become chairman of the finance committee of the state board of education, in which position he served with fidelity and distinction until his retirement on account of his health in 1949; received honorary degrees of doctor of laws both from the State University and Coe college having been a lecturer upon political economy for a time at the latter institution of which he was a trustee; president of the Cedar Rapids Perpetual Savings & Loan association since 1918 and a director since 1904; served on the governing board of the Jane Boyd Community house, named for his late sister; an authority upon political and historical events he lectured and wrote extensively since retiring from newspaper work, articles of merit appearing in many magazines and newspapers; long gave energy and forceful leadership in Iowa higher educational affairs, and perhaps more responsible than any other one individual for the growth and development of the medical college and hospital at the State University of Iowa; always a student and self-effacing he kept abreast of current affairs and the trends in many fields, speaking and writing with insight and vigor; married in 1930 at Rochester, N. Y. to the former Lou F. Hadley, who survives; had membership in community organizations, the Masonic bodies and the Presbyterian church.

FRED CRAMER GILCHRIST, lawyer, state legislator and U. S. congressman, died March 10, 1950, at Laurens, Iowa, born June 2, 1868, the son of Prof. James C. and Hannah Cramer Gilchrist, at California, Washington county, Penn., and lived there and in West Virginia until 1876, when the family moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa, where the father established and was the first president of the Iowa State Normal school, now known as Iowa State Teachers' college, from which the son graduated in 1887, going

immediately to Laurens where he lived on a farm in Sherman township; taught in the rural schools near Laurens and was principal of the Laurens school one year and at Rolfe two years; became county superintendent of the schools upon reaching his majority in 1889, serving two years, the youngest official in that capacity in the state at the time; served as a member of the Laurens school board twenty-five years; graduated from the law school at the State University of Iowa in 1893 and was admitted to the bar, returning to Laurens where he practiced law continuously for fifty-seven years; elected state representative in 1901 from the Pocahontas-Humboldt district, serving in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly, and in 1922 was elected senator for the Fiftieth senatorial district, serving two terms until 1930, at which time he was elected to the 74th congress from the old 10th Iowa district, now the 8th, composed of fifteen counties in northwestern Iowa, and re-elected six times, serving until January 1, 1945; remained at Laurens after retirement in the practice of law with his son who entered the partnership in 1922; had been active in legal phases of the drainage law of Iowa, and was sponsor for the Iowa corn-warehousing act, later used by the U. S. department of agriculture in the corn sealing programs assisting in financing farm operations; was the author of the Gilchrist amendment to the constitution of Iowa, establishing the county as the unit for state representatives and limiting the number; a leader in formulating the farm program in congress and regarded as one of the ablest lawyers in the house; married to Ellen Louise Hurley in 1896, who survives with three children, Mrs. L. B. Hakes, Mrs. Mavis Allen and Fred Gilchrist Jr., all of Laurens; a member of the Masonic order and the Methodist church.

BAYARD CHANDLER ("Bide") WAY, pharmacist and telephone company executive, died at Mason City, Iowa, February 24, 1950; born on a farm near Forest City, Iowa, June 28, 1869, one of eight children (all now deceased) of Chandler C. and Georgiana Way, the family name having origin in France and spelled Vey; there being no W in the English alphabet until about the thirteenth century, when added it was first called "double V, and the V in Vey changed to W, the early spelling in England, from whence the family stemmed, being Wey and Weye, later became Waye, and then the last 200 years in the United States, has been Way. Chandler C. Way was a surveyor in McDonough county, Illinois, and in north Iowa, and moved to Ellington township, Hancock county, and later to Britt in 1878, where he in turn was a county superintendent of schools, a banker and a land agent.

"Bide" Way studied pharmacy in Des Moines, and passed the state board of pharmacy examination at the age of twenty, but due to his youth received an assistant's certificate, which was the second such certificate issued in the state; began as a pharmacist at Britt February 26, 1890, and maintained his certificate during his lifetime, though not using it for many years; with his brother, Thos. A. Way and Ed. Healey, under the firm name of Way Brothers & Healey, bought the John Kenyon drug store, his brother paying for "Bide's" share, the only time he ever was in debt and then only briefly; selling the drug store joined with his brother and others in organizing what became the Western Electric Telephone company at Britt, which grew rapidly, extending to other towns through northwest Iowa, southern Minnesota and South Dakota, eventually being sold to the Northwestern Bell Telephone company.

Mr. Way eventually purchased the interests of associates and had served successively as secretary, treasurer and vice president of the Western, and moved with the general offices to Mason City, in 1901, and became a part of the Northwestern Bell June 1, 1929, of which he became vice president, serving in that capacity until 1934, when he retired, but continued upon its board of directors until 1946; continued his residence at Mason City and the summer home at Dodge's Point, Clear Lake, during his years of retirement; with his wife, Mina, devoted a great deal of time to St. John's Episcopal church at Mason City, being a most liberal contributor both to its building and retirement of debt; served as chairman of the local Salvation army board, a charter member of the Rotary club and a member of the Elks lodge.

WILLIAM CARDEN, businessman and legislator, died at his home in Winfield, Iowa, March 18, 1950; born on a farm near Middletown, in Des Moines county, Iowa, August 24, 1865, the son of William and Isabelle Miller Carden; attended the State Normal school at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and finished his education in Parsons college, Fairfield, Iowa; taught school about three years and then entered the hardware and implement business at Winfield; served as postmaster under appointment from Pres. William H. Taft, after which he entered the banking, insurance and real estate activities, becoming vice-president of the Winfield National bank, and also had been vice-president of the Farmers National bank since its organization in 1916; served three terms in the Iowa house of representatives from 1902 to 1906 inclusive, and eight years in the state senate from 1927 to 1944 inclusive; active in the Presbyterian church, as an elder for fifty years and superintendent of its Sunday school forty-two years; honored by the

church as moderator of the Iowa Presbytery and vice-moderator of the Iowa synod, positions rarely held by laymen; a trustee of Parsons college thirty-four years; vice-president of the State General Insurance Co., of Des Moines; married Fannie DeLashmutt November 18, 1891, who with an adopted daughter, Thelma Carden, survives; the last of a family of seven brothers and a sister; a leader in civic activities and for some years a vice president of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa; a member of the I. O. O. F., the Masonic bodies and the Lions club.

E. L. C. WHITE, newspaper publisher, died February 23, 1950, at his home in Spencer, Iowa; born in 1885, in Fairfax, Missouri; located at Villisca, Iowa, in 1909, where he became part owner and manager of the *Villisca Review*; removed to Spencer in 1916 and became editor and publisher of the *Spencer News-Herald*, which he continued to direct until 1936 when he retired, during which period he also was associated with the *Storm Lake Register* and the *Sheldon Sun*; devoted much time to public interests and community affairs; one of the organizers of the Clay county fair; headed the committee which developed paved roads in the county; became chairman of the committee that put Spencer banks under waivers in 1926, and helped reorganize one bank, so that depositors lost nothing, and another in which the loss to depositors was only five percent; headed a committee that obtained location of a hospital at Spencer; active upon war finance committees and bond campaigns; served as president of the Iowa Press association in 1935, and in same year his paper was awarded honors as the best weekly paper in the United States; was one of the founders of the Spencer Golf and Country club, and past president and life director of the chamber of commerce; survived by his wife and a son, James, a student at Northwestern university, Evanston, Illinois.

MAURICE F. DONEGAN, U. S. attorney and jurist, died March 24, 1950, at Davenport, Iowa; born in Welton township, Clinton county, Iowa, September 2, 1875, the son of Jeremiah and Mary Lucey Donegan, pioneer settlers in that county; reared on the farm near Welton, attended rural district school, later DeWitt high school, St. Ambrose academy in Davenport and Creighton academy in Omaha; was graduated from Creighton university with an A. B. degree in 1895; received his master's degree from Georgetown university, Washington, D. C. in 1898; took two years in the law college at Georgetown, completing his legal training at the State University of Iowa, where he received his

LLB degree in 1901; practiced law in Davenport, served as city attorney from April, 1908, to December, 1912, and on January 1, of the following year became a judge of the Seventh judicial district; elected Iowa supreme court justice and served a six-year term from 1933 to 1939 inclusive; chief justice in 1936; appointed United States attorney for the southern district of Iowa in 1940 and retired in 1949; married to Mary I. Martin November 29, 1905, who survives him with three daughters and one son; active in church and community affairs; a Democrat, a member of the Catholic church and the Knights of Columbus, being master of the fourth degree for Iowa for many years.

PAUL W. SCHMIDT, legislator and steel contractor, died February 20, 1950, at Iowa City, Iowa; born in that city June 29, 1886, a son of George W. and Augusta Schmidt, and has always resided there; a graduate of St. Mary's high school, attended the engineering college, State University of Iowa in 1904-5, and Purdue University in Indiana; associated with his father in the ownership and management of the Iowa City Iron & Construction Co., which was sold to the Putnam interests; married June 4, 1913, in Iowa City, to Laura M. Englert, who survives him; served as a Democrat member of the Iowa state senate in 1932-1936, and assisted in the enactment of the law authorizing the establishment of the Iowa highway patrol; served as exalted ruler of the Elks in 1915, and for a time as president of the Iowa Elks association, as well as deputy of that body for southeastern Iowa district; a charter member of Marquette council, Knights of Columbus at Iowa City and the only Iowa Citian to become a member of Alhambra, the fifth degree organization of the Knights of Columbus; affiliated with the Chicago Athletic club, the Holy Name society and the Catholic church; surviving besides his wife are a son, Donald W., Iowa City; a daughter, Mrs. Joyce Dixon, and a grandson, Jeffrey Craig Dixon, both of Norfolk, Virginia.

DANIEL C. STEELSMITH, physician, public health official and legislator, died March 12, 1950, at Des Moines, Iowa; born June 11, 1877, in Grundy county, Iowa, and when five years old moved with his parents, to Arcadia, Ohio, where they resided for thirteen years, returning to Iowa, near Liscomb and Conrad; graduated from the medical division of the State University of Iowa in 1902, and practiced medicine fourteen years thereafter at Melvin, Osceola county, which he represented in the Iowa legislature in 1913 and 1915; received his degree in public health from Harvard

University in 1918, after which he spent a year in Alabama public health work and another year as an instructor in that subject at the University of Iowa; served seven years as commissioner of public health at Dubuque, and became Iowa State Commissioner of Health upon the death of Dr. Henry Albert in 1930; married June 29, 1904, to Maude Ralston, of Conrad, where in later years they have maintained a summer home, and have resided since Dr. Steelsmith's retirement; survived by the widow and two daughters, Mrs. Chestern Crum of Des Moines, and Mrs. Burton Jobe of Pasadena, California, two sons having preceded him in death.

WENDELL W. CORNWALL, attorney, legislator and official, died at Spencer, Iowa, February 9, 1950; born at Albion, Dane county, Wisconsin, February 10, 1857, and was educated at the Albion Academy there, and Alfred University, Alfred, New York, his law degree being from The University of Wisconsin; first practiced law at Huron and Leola, South Dakota; then located at Spencer as a young man and has since continuously practiced law there, more recently being a member of the firm of Cornwall & Cornwall, a partnership with his son; served as city attorney of Spencer, and a member of the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth General Assemblies of Iowa, chairman of the judiciary committee of the house of representatives, and a member of the legislative committee which had in charge the annotation and publication of the code of Iowa of 1897; the oldest former legislator of Iowa at the time of his death; elected reporter of the supreme court of Iowa at the general election in 1902 and re-elected in 1906; married in 1885 to Marion Wilson, who with three sons and two daughters survives him; a member of the Episcopal church, the I. O. O. F and a Republican.

IRA B. WILSON, composer, died at Los Angeles, Calif., April 3, 1950; born in Bedford, Iowa, in 1881; removed to Dayton, Ohio, where the greater part of his life was spent; became widely known in his profession, having more than 1,500,000 copies of his cantatas published, according to the Lorenz Publishing Company there; used the pen name of Fred B. Holton for some of his music, which was played throughout the world, his best known religious works being "Music of Christmas," "The Christmas Kind," "The First Easter," and "The Living Lord," and secular music including "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," "Rip Van Winkle," and "Childhood of Hiawatha;" survived by his wife, Louise, and son, Roger, in Dayton, and two other sons, Dr. Robert and Dr. Walter Wilson, both M.D's, of Los Angeles.

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