

## *Iowa's Notable Dead*

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DANIEL FREDERIC STECK, lawyer and former U.S. senator, died at Ottumwa, Iowa, December 31, 1950; born in that city December 16, 1881, the son of Albert C. Steck, an Ottumwa lawyer, and Ada Washburn Steck, daughter of a pioneer family; educated in the Ottumwa public schools and the State University of Iowa, and graduated from the latter in 1906; began the practice of law in Ottumwa immediately thereafter; served four years as county attorney of Wapello county, also the greater portion of a six-year term as United States senator from Iowa, being elected in 1924, but Sen. Smith Brookhart was certified by the Iowa election board and Steck was obliged to contest the finding, resulting in a recount of the returns, and on April 12, 1926 the senate voted to seat Steck, displacing Brookhart who had started to serve the term, and becoming the first Democratic senator from Iowa since the Civil war; renominated by the Democrats of Iowa in 1930, but defeated by L. J. Dickinson; resumed the practice of law in Ottumwa, which he continued up until his death; married Lucille Oehler June 30, 1908, and she died in 1945, they having no children; served as a captain in World War I, and since has been active in the American Legion, becoming commander of the O. B. Nelson post in Ottumwa, and the Iowa department, also on the national executive committee and the national legislative committee; in 1933 became special assistant to the U.S. attorney general for service in connection with land acquisition for improvement of upper Mississippi and upper Missouri river channels; survived by a sister, Mrs. Roy Smith, Ottumwa, a half-sister, Eliza Steck, of London, England, a niece, Mrs. Frank E. Jones, of Leroy, Illinois, and a nephew, John W. Smith, Sidney, Ohio.

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FREDERICK WILLIAM HILL, newspaperman, died at Oxford, Mississippi, December 8, 1950, having sustained an attack of coronary thrombosis a week previous while addressing a class in journalism at the University of Mississippi at Victor, and had been in the hospital at Oxford since; born at Grand Junction, Iowa, January 24, 1883, eldest of six children of the late Rev. Enoch and Eliza Pickering Hill, the latter now residing at Malvern, Iowa; as a member of a Methodist minister's family lived in several Iowa towns during his childhood and youth; was educated at the Woodbine normal school and at Simpson college, graduating in 1906; married to Edna Erminda Heckel of Sidney, Iowa, June 2, 1909, and they have one daughter Kathrine Elizabeth Graham of Mitchell, South

Dakota, both of whom survive; became associate editor of the *Fremont County Herald* in 1906 and editor and publisher of the *Hamburg Democrat* in 1908, later purchasing the *Hamburg Republican* and consolidating the two papers, retaining the name of the latter; acquired the *Hamburg Reporter* in 1912 and consolidated same with the *Republican*, since continuing as its publisher until his death; both the paper and its editor gained national reputation, and were awarded a plaque for outstanding community service in 1939; a past president of the Iowa Press association, also of the National editorial association, and active in the Nebraska Press association and the Missouri Press association; served two years as president of the Western Iowa Editorial association; a member of the Sigma Delta Chi, a professional fraternity, the Odd Fellows, Kiwanis, the Methodist church and the Republican party; served on the library board ten years, took part in all community activities, bond drives and war service activities and taught a Sunday school class many years; enjoyed photography, archaeology and Indian relics.

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AMPLIAS HALE AVERY, educator and legislator, died at Spencer, Iowa, December 7, 1950; born near Excelsior, Richland county, Wisconsin, May 20, 1870; his parents having died before he was ten years old the orphan boy was compelled to make his own way from early servitude as a "bound out" boy; eventually found a home with an uncle in Mitchell county and attended rural school and the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, Iowa; removed to South Dakota in 1889 and taught a rural school, then in the town schools at Ashton and Woonsocket; removed to Spencer, Iowa, in 1901 and was superintendent of the city schools until 1915 when he entered the insurance business at Spencer; served one term as mayor of Spencer, during which time he was president of the Iowa League of Municipalities; married first to Grace Cornwall and to their union one child was born, Theta Avery Tucker of Minneapolis, the mother later passing away; married again to Grace Dunham who survives, and to this union three children were born, two of whom are living, Alden D. and Barbara; served in the Iowa house of representatives in the Forty-fourth General assembly and every session since, and was characterized "the dean of the house"; a member of the Congregational church and a Mason.

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WILLIAM HENRY STEVENSON, agriculturist and educator, died at Ames, Iowa, January 7, 1951; born in Freeport, Illinois, September 4, 1872; son of Henry Staley and Louisa Rosenstiel Stevenson; received his A.B. degree from Illinois college in 1893, a B.S.A. degree from Iowa State college in 1905, and his D.Sc. degree at Illinois college in 1923; married Rosalthea Coffin Scott June 29,

1904, who survives; became assistant professor in soils at the University of Illinois in 1901 and was professor of soils at Iowa State college, Ames, 1902-10; was head of the department from 1910 to 1932; served as vice-director of the experiment station at that institution from 1912 to 1948; was secretary of the Iowa State Drainage association from 1904 to 1913; member of executive committee of Iowa State Drainage, Waterways, and Conservation commission, 1908-10, and Iowa state Stocks commission, 1917-1918; U.S. delegate to International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, 1921-22, and special representative of U.S. government to same, 1924 and 1934; a fellow of the A.A.A.S., the American Society of Agronomy; a member of the International Society of Soil Science, the American Soil Survey association of Iowa, the Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Phi Kappa Alpha, a Republican, a Presbyterian and a 32° Mason; co-author Soil Physics Laboratory Guide, 1905, senior author of many Iowa soil survey reports and numerous papers on soil fertility; became professor emeritus on his retirement in 1948 as vice-director of the Iowa Experiment station, but continued to be a familiar campus figure, retaining his life-long interest in the institution and its progress.

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ALBERT MYNARD WALKER, major USA (retired), topographic engineer, died at Washington D.C., December 22, 1950; born at Waterloo, Iowa, in 1869, and had resided at Washington sixty years; attended Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and later received LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from Washington College of Law, and admitted to the District of Columbia bar in 1911; joined the U.S. Geological Survey in 1890; supervised topographic mapping in several states, and served as map editor; went overseas as a major with the 29th Engineer regiment during World War I, and after the close of the war continued this activity with the corps of engineers reproduction plant until 1928, and retired in 1933; a member of the Cosmos club, the Army and Navy club, the Washington Society of Engineers, the American Society of Military Engineers, the Masonic bodies and the Congregational church, his home being at 5314 Thirty-second street, Washington.

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W. E. BRICE, railroad builder, died at Mason City, Iowa, December 29, 1950; born at Rochelle, Illinois, July 26, 1861; son of James Brice, Jr., and Sarah Hill Brice, the grandparents and father's family coming to Iowa from Washington, Pennsylvania, where they had been in the steel business; located at Tama, Iowa, in 1868, the father entering the general merchandise business; received his education at Tama and Cornell college, and from 1878 to 1896

operated his father's business at Tama, then removing to Mason City, where he promoted the building of the Mason City & Clear Lake Railway, the first passenger service beginning July 4, 1898; assisted in the promotion and building of the Chicago & Northwestern line from Belle Plaine to Blue Earth, Minn.; in 1900 became interested in the power and light company at Mason City, and operated it in conjunction with the Mason City-Clear Lake inter-urban line; platted and opened the Brice & Ong addition to Mason City, and interested in many local business activities; married Minnie H. Tallon at Tama, who died in October 1938, and the couple had no children; surviving is a niece of Mrs. Brice, Mrs. Roy Bosworth, who has been a member of the Brice family since early childhood, and a grand-niece of Brice's, Mrs. Maud Hendricks, Chicago, Ill.

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MILTON B. PITT, farmer, county official and legislator, died at Logan, Iowa, January 20, 1951; born June 2, 1875, on a farm near Macedonia, Pottawattamie county, Iowa, son of Sidney and Patience E. Pitt, the father being a native of Indiana; attended rural schools and Woodbine normal; taught several terms, served as township clerk and two terms as treasurer of Harrison county, Iowa, from 1909 to 1914; devoted his life to farming and was a member of the Iowa house of representatives in 1915 and 1917, being speaker of the house in the Thirty-seventh General Assembly; elected state senator in 1918 and served one term; was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for congress; survived by his widow, Carolyn Jane, of Logan, seven sons, two daughters, a sister and two brothers.

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JAMES WILLS BOLLINGER, lawyer and jurist, died at Davenport, Iowa, January 30, 1951; born at Geneseo, Illinois, April 10, 1867; son of Albert Lester and Emily Diana (Wills) Bollinger; moved to Davenport in 1873; graduated from the local high school, received degrees from the State University of Iowa 1888, 1889 and 1893, and named as permanent president of his law class; practiced law in Davenport, and elected district judge in 1896, serving until 1911; joined M. F. Donegan and Louis Block in the practice of law; devoted much time to collection of Lincolniana, acquiring one of the finest in private hands; one of three or four of the charter members of the state bar association being its first secretary when organized in 1890; past president of the board of trustees of the Davenport public museum; served on the city council and was a member of the chamber of commerce for sixty years; married to Elizabeth Gilman November 1, 1899, who survives with one son, Stephen A. Bollinger, Pasadena, California.

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