

Necrology of Notable Iowans...

WILLIAM WESLEY WAYMACK, former newspaper editor and original member of the United States Atomic Energy Committee, died in Des Moines November 5, 1960; born at Savanna, Illinois October 8, 1888, the son of William Edward and Emma Julia (Oberheim) Waymack; attended grade school in Savanna, went to live with his maternal grandparents at Mount Carroll, Illinois, dropping out of school a year, but still graduated from the Mount Carroll high school with the class of 1904; returned to Savanna to work as a section hand on the Milwaukee Railroad and at various other jobs before entering Morningside College at Sioux City in 1908; worked part-time washing dishes, was college correspondent for the *Sioux City Journal*, and graduated in 1911; married to Elsie Jeanette Lord of Savanna, Illinois June 27, 1911; became a reporter and assistant city editor with the *Journal*, advanced to city editor, assistant editorial writer, and was chief editorial writer from 1914 to 1918; began his many years with the *Des Moines Register and Tribune* the latter year, was managing editor from 1921 to 1929, purchased a farm near Adel in Dallas County, and after a period of ill health, became editor of the editorial pages in 1931, a vice president of the Register and Tribune Company in 1939, editor of the two combined papers in 1943, and a director of the affiliated Iowa Broadcasting Company in 1944; took an early interest in the development of radio and airplanes, learned to fly and was chairman of the Iowa State Air Law Commission in 1922 and a delegate to the National Air Conference in 1933; recognized as an authority on the economics of agriculture and worked to improve farm conditions as a member of the President's committee on farm tenancy, 1936-37, Iowa farm tenancy committee, the national committee on farm housing, and a principal founder of the National Farm Institute in 1937; received a number of honors for outstanding journalism, including the Pulitzer prize for distinguished editorial writing in 1937; had long urged American participation in international affairs to prevent the rise of totalitarianism, and was a powerful influence in breaking down isolationism in his state; served as chairman of the Economic Policy Committee, 1938-41, special adviser to the Department of State, associate member of the War Labor Board in 1942, and a number of other government agencies and private organizations; elected a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 1941, and was deputy chairman of the board from 1942 to 1946; resigned his position with the Register and Tribune and Iowa Broadcasting companies in November, 1946 to accept an appointment by President Harry S. Truman to the newly created United States Atomic Energy Commission, where his efforts helped to prevent military domination of the commission, and the restriction of public information; retired from active public life in 1948,

though continuing to serve on several national boards and foundations; named to the national committee of the American Civil Liberties Union in 1951, United States Overseas Information Service in 1955, the American Council for North American Treaty Organization in 1954, and awarded the Order of the British Empire for his work on the Midwest Selection Committee for Marshall Scholarships, 1953-58; his political views were those of an independent-minded Republican, was a dedicated liberal with an extraordinarily high concept of public service, having contributed a powerful intellect and driving energy to hundreds of movements and issues ranging from local welfare activities to problems of international import; had been a director and president of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, a director and vice president of the Rotary Club, a director of the Community Chest, a founder and chairman of the Des Moines Round Table for inter-religious toleration and cooperation for ten years, member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rites and Za-ga-zig Shrine, and Methodist Church; survived by his wife and a son, Edward Randolph Waymack.

HELEN M. EDDY, retired associate professor of Romance languages and high school principal, died in Des Moines January 26, 1961; born at Marengo, Iowa March 8, 1876, the daughter of Dr. W. M. and Edith K. Eddy; was valedictorian of her high school class, awarded the Lowden Latin prize and her bachelor's degree from the State University of Iowa in three years, graduating in 1900, a fellow in Latin at the university from 1901 to 1904, earning an M.A. in 1903, and attended the University of Chicago and Byrn Mawr College on a Latin fellowship; went to Germany for further study in the German language, returned shortly before World War I and changed her field to French when many schools ceased to offer courses in German; was a language instructor at North Dakota State Teachers College, 1909-14, head of the foreign languages department at Idaho Technical Institute, 1915-16, helped to organize and became the first principal of University high school in Iowa City in 1916, being relieved of administrative duties the next year and serving as chairman of the Romance languages department until 1946; earned her doctorate and appointed an assistant professor at the State University of Iowa in 1925; gained recognition for her methods in teaching, and advanced to associate professor in 1930; served as a specialist in foreign languages in a national survey of secondary education sponsored by the United States bureau of education in 1931; received the title of professor emeritus of Romance languages by the university in 1949, and had lived in Des Moines for the past several years; wrote *Beginning French Training for Reading*, articles for professional publications, and collaborated on a number of basic French textbooks and readers; was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Modern Language Association of America, the American Classical League, American Association of University Women, and Methodist church; survived by a brother, W. C. Eddy, and a nephew, Roy B. Eddy with whom she had made her home in Des Moines.

EDMOND BRISTOL GREGORY, retired Quartermaster General of the Army and federal agency official, died in Washington, D.C. January 27, 1961; born at Storm Lake, Iowa, July 4, 1882, the son of Frank Buckingham and Emily Hatch (Bristol) Gregory, leaving there with his family when five years old; commissioned a 2nd lieutenant of infantry upon his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1904; one of his first duties was post quartermaster and commissary in the Philippines, 1908-1910, then stationed at Fort Harrison, Montana, 1910-11; married Verna Ellsworth Green July 19, 1911; promoted to 1st lieutenant in 1911, captain five years later, and colonel in 1935; served as an instructor in history and English at the U.S. Military Academy, 1911-12, assigned to the General Supply Depot, Jeffersonville, Indiana from 1917 to 1921, assisting in the sale of war supplies after World War I, transferred to the Quartermaster Corps in 1920, had charge of the Columbus General Depot in 1921, represented the Secretary of War in settlement of War Department contracts in Shanghai, China, 1922-24, with the New York National Guard, 1924-27, and studied at the Harvard graduate school of business administration, receiving a masters degree in 1929; worked in the office of the Quartermaster General in Washington, D.C. from 1929 to 1933, headquarters of the 2nd Corps Area, 1933-36, and returned to the office of the Quartermaster General after attending the Army War College, 1936-37; appointed Quartermaster General in January, 1940, considered one of the most difficult tasks in the army, with the responsibility for feeding, clothing and transporting a million soldiers; developed a skeleton force at the beginning of World War II into a vast supply organization for more than eight million men; appointed lieutenant general April 14, 1945, the first officer to hold that rank in the Quartermaster Corps; became chairman of the War Assets Corporation in January, 1946; in March named the first director of the War Assets Administration by President Truman, organized and directed the collecting, cataloguing and disposing of over 35 billion dollars worth of surplus wartime supplies and equipment, and administered the agency for several months at a time when its operations were being highly criticized by congress and pressure groups; retired from the army June 30, 1946, and was succeeded as head of the War Assets Administration by Major General Robert Littlejohn the next month; awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and also high decorations from the governments of Britain, France and Italy; had owned a farm in Maryland, but lived with his wife in Washington, D.C., since 1952.

MARY ELIZABETH GOLDEN, osteopathic physician, died in Des Moines November 8, 1960 at the age of 78; born at Kellogg, Iowa, the daughter of Charles Moore and Deborah Ann (Walker) Golden; attended Bellevue College and Drake University; married for a short time before beginning her professional career; graduated from the College of

Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines in 1912, and took up a lifelong practice in Des Moines; was a member of the board, president two years, and professor of pediatrics at Still College of Osteopathy; vice president, 1933-35, and president, 1936-37, of the National Association of Osteopathic Women, a vice president of the American Osteopathic Association, and president of the Iowa Society of Osteopathic Physicians three years, the only woman to hold that office; served as president of the Des Moines Women's Rotary Club, 1933-34, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and chairman of the women's department of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce; devoted much time to working with young women as a member of the local executive committee, vice president, 1933-34 and treasurer, 1934-36, of the Camp Fire Girls organization, member of the Y.W.C.A. for 52 years, being on the board of trustees three years; became widely known as "Dr. Mary," speaking frequently before lay and professional groups, much interested in birds and animals, an official of the Animal Rescue League, and had been in semi-retirement in recent years; was a member of the board of the Quota International Club and chairman of this year's committee on public affairs, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, Adelpic Eastern Star, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and a Republican in politics; survived by a niece and five nephews.

MATHIAS M. HOFFMAN, JR., prominent priest, historian, professor of economics, and army chaplain, died at Dubuque, Iowa January 10, 1961; born in Dubuque January 7, 1889, the son of native settlers, Mathias M. and Mary Voelker Hoffman; attended St. Mary's grade school, Loras Academy, graduated from Loras College in 1909, received his bachelor of divinity degree from St. Paul Seminary and ordained June 11, 1913; assigned to St. Francis Xavier parish at Dyersville, Iowa as an assistant priest; entered the army in 1917, served in France as chaplain of the 359th Infantry, attaining the rank of major, awarded a regimental citation for his work during the battle of St. Mihiel September 12, 1918, and was one of the few American clergymen to receive the Pershing Medal of Honor; with the permission of his superiors stayed in England to study at Oxford University, returned to Dubuque in 1920, appointed an instructor in economics and political science at Loras College, in 1923 obtained his master's degree from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; advanced to assistant professor at Loras and later head of the economics department, being on the faculty 22 years; was chaplain general of the Civilian Conservation Corps for the archdiocese of Dubuque in the 1930's, active in the settlement of labor disputes, and for six years directed the Dubuque Labor Forum; spoke six languages and traveled extensively, having been permitted to observe conditions in Europe and Russia before the outbreak of World War II; had been chaplain of the 332nd Cavalry in the Army Reserve Corps, recalled to active duty in January, 1941 as a lieutenant colonel, supervised the building of a recreation center at Fort Rosecrans

in San Diego, California, served as chaplain of O'Reilly General Hospital at Springfield, Missouri, received a special letter of commendation for his war record November 24, 1945, and promoted to full colonel in the Army Reserves after World War II; appointed irremovable pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church at Dyersville September 13, 1945 following the death of the Very Rev. J. B. Herbers, made a Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XII and raised to Rt. Rev. Monsignor in 1948; arbitrated the John Deere Dubuque Tractors Works strike in 1950; planned and completed the construction of the imposing St. Francis Xavier grade school in 1949, a new gymnasium and auditorium in 1960, besides refurbishing the giant architecturally noted, two-spired church, which was consecrated in 1955 and inaugurated a Minor Basilica, the only one in Iowa, November 8, 1956; was a former president of the Dubuque Historical Society, Iowa Historical Society, editor of the *Iowa Catholic Historical Journal*, the author of *The Catholic Sponsors of Iowa*, 1928, *Antique Dubuque 1673-1833, Centennial History of the Archdiocese of Dubuque 1837-1937, Church Founders of the Northwest*, 1937, a biography of Bishop Mathias Loras, 1938, *The Story of Loras College*, 1939, a novel, *Young and Fair is Iowa*, commemorating the statehood centennial in 1946, wrote five articles for the *Dictionary of American Biography*, and frequently contributed articles to a number of historical journals; popularly known as "Father Matt," and Mathias M. Hoffman Public Library at Dyersville named for him; served as state chaplain of the American Legion, president of the Dubuque Reserve Officers Association, member of the 40 & 8, Last Men's Club of the Army's 90th Division, Knights of Columbus, Dyersville Commercial Club, and Catholic Order of Foresters; survived by two sisters, Mrs. Mayme Grace, Sister M. Jeanette, OSF, both of Dubuque, and two brothers, Alois M. of Dubuque and Dr. Martin H. Hoffman, Detroit, Michigan.

EDWARD M. TURECHEK, musician, composer and teacher, died at his home in Carroll, Iowa January 16, 1961; born at Carroll May 2, 1886, the son of Frank and Mary Prochaska Turechek; began his career in music at an early age, studied piano, clarinet, harmony and composition with various teachers, attending Highland Park College in Des Moines, Cornell University, Washington University at St. Louis, and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music; later played clarinet with orchestras in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York; graduated from the Philadelphia Academy of Music in 1913; taught for a time at the Marion Conservatory of Music, Marion, Indiana, and founded the Marion School of Music in 1918; established the Turechek School of Music in Kokomo, Indiana in 1927, owning and directing both schools until his retirement to Glidden, Iowa in 1954; continued to give music lessons and compose after moving with his mother to Carroll a year and a half later, where she died in 1953; was a widely-known composer, his music being selected for state and national contests, and often presented in concerts; his compositions

included "Indian Ceremonial Dance" (piano duet), "Military March" (written and arranged for a complete symphony), "Quintet for Strings," "Sonata for Piano and Clarinet," "Pianoforte Sonata," Flute Quintet," "Introduction and Scherzo" for woodwind quintet, "Divertisement" for woodwind quartet, "Flute Quintet," and "Introduction and Scherzo for Flute and Piano"; survived by one of two brothers, George F. Turechek of Los Angeles, California; a sister, Mrs. Mary Graves, also preceded him in death.

ROBERT EDMUND (ED) HILL, former newspaper publisher, Republican party official, and farm operator, died at his home in Oxford Junction, Iowa, January 16, 1961; born at Elwood November 24, 1895, the son of William S. Hill; graduated from Maquoketa high school, Cornell College at Mount Vernon in 1915, and attended the State University of Iowa; served in the navy during World War I; married at Lost Nation in 1920 to Alma Christensen who died in 1937; edited and published the *Oxford Mirror*, *Wyoming Journal*, and *Lost Nation Press* for 25 years before his retirement from journalism in 1953; became executive secretary of the Republican state central committee in 1941, served as executive assistant to Governor Robert D. Blue from 1945 to 1949, and directed the Iowa campaign of Senator Robert Taft for the Republican presidential nomination in 1952; operated two farms near Maquoketa, and had been an area fieldman, serving 16 northeast counties, with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation for the last six years; married at Maquoketa to Laura Ingals February 12, 1941; was a 32nd degree Mason of Harbor lodge at Lost Nation; survived by his wife and a son, Dr. Robert E. Hill, jr., associate professor at Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.

JOHN H. DARRAH, retired merchant and former state legislator, died in Kansas City January 12, 1961; born in Wenona, Marshall County, Illinois January 1, 1874, one of the sixteen children of Matthew and Jane (Bryson) Darrah, Scotch-Irish immigrants who settled in the state in 1857; removed with his family to Adams County, Iowa in 1876, went to graded schools until twelve years of age, then worked on his father's farm, attending the Corning Academy a few months each winter; became a clerk in a store in 1894, was placed in charge of a branch store at Cumberland in Cass County the following year, purchased the limited stock of goods from his employer and in 1896 opened a small notion store at Chariton which grew into one of the largest department stores in southern Iowa; was president of the Chariton school board for several years, elected to the city council in 1904, Republican state representative from Lucas County in the fall of 1905 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Eli Manning, and re-elected in November, 1906 and 1908; returned to the General Assembly as state senator from the Fourth district, composed of Lucas and Wayne counties, in 1912, serving in the 35th and 36th sessions; owned and operated his mercantile business till the family moved to Kansas City in 1926; his

wife preceded him in death, passing away in 1944; described as a generous, public-spirited, high-minded man.

EMMET DOUGHERTY, public relations director and former newspaper reporter, died at his home in Washington, D.C., January 6, 1961; born at Ottumwa, Iowa in 1884; began his newspaper career as a reporter on the *Ottumwa Courier*, left the St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* to become a reporter and day city editor for the Washington, D.C. *Times* in 1913, joined the Washington Bureau of International News Service in 1917, and the Washington bureau of the New York *Herald-Tribune* the following year, being remembered by the press as "a gentleman of the old school"; became director of public relations for the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment and had charge of its Washington office from 1928 to 1933; later was public relations director for the Distilled Spirits Institute, and the Millers' National Federation; retired in 1955 after fourteen years as director of public relations for Catholic University, and had since been engaged in general public relations work and free lance writing in Washington; served two terms on the board of governors of the National Press Club; survived by his wife, Margaret J., a daughter, Jane, and two sons; Robert E., Silver Spring, Maryland, and John C. Dougherty with the Department of the Army.

William Becker, retired pharmacist and former state legislator, died at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, January 22, 1961; born in Elkader, Iowa, March 26, 1874, the son of German-born parents, John and Caroline Stemmer Becker; graduated from Elkader high school in 1890, attended the State University of Iowa college of pharmacy and became a registered pharmacist in 1891; established a drug store at Elkader in partnership with his brother, John, January 18, 1892; married to Mollie Schmidt in 1899, a daughter being born to them in 1907; assumed sole ownership of the business in 1907 and operated the pharmacy until its sale to his nephew, George H. Schmidt, in 1916; was a member of the Elkader school board ten years, elected Republican state representative from Clayton County in 1914, and re-elected in 1916, 1918 and 1920; served as mayor of Elkader from 1922 and 1924; named an Iowa Pioneer Lawmaker in 1935, continued to make his home in Elkader, had been in semi-retirement in recent years, but remained interested in pharmacy and periodically assisted in the prescription department of Schmidt's Rexall Drug store; qualified as a 50-year pharmacist in 1941, would have completed 69 years as a registered pharmacist in March, was one of the oldest registered pharmacists in Iowa, and also was a 50-year member of the Masonic lodge and Eastern Star; his wife, Minerva, died April 5, 1953; survived by a step-son, Dr. H. D. Meyer, Evanston, Illinois.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.