

He was married in 1878 in Brussels, Belgium, to Wilhelmina Flebri, who died in Chicago on August 8, 1909. Again he was married on December 27, 1911, to Anna L. Van Allen, who with two daughters and two sons survive him. He was a Republican and a member of the Roman Catholic church. Since his retirement after twenty-five years as director of the state museum Professor Stepan had continued to reside here enjoying the many friends he had acquired in Des Moines.

---

NEWTON BENIAH ASHBY, writer, lecturer and U. S. consul, died at Tuscon, Arizona, March 26, 1945; born on a farm near Parkersburg, Montgomery county, Indiana, July 7, 1856, the son of William Henry Ashby and Margaretta Boyer Ashby. The family line was of Danish origin, coming to England with the Danish invaders in the tenth century. In his autobiography, "The Ashbys in Iowa," Mr. Ashby says: "Every town in England the name of which ends in "by" is of Danish origin. The town of Ashby or Ashby de la Zouche, and the castle of Ashby mentioned in Ivanhoe, are situated in the northeast corner of Leicestershire, England."

The Indiana family moved to Iowa in 1861 in a covered wagon, with three other similar wagons filled with provisions, household goods and machinery; arrived at the farm place north of Tallahoma in Otter Creek township, and not far from the present post-office of Norwood, in Lucas county, on May 3rd. His first years were spent herding cattle and sheep and in rural school; attended high school at Chariton; graduated in 1885 from Simpson college, Indianola; taught school and became a writer on the *Iowa Homestead* at Des Moines, the editor being "Uncle" Henry Wallace, whose daughter, Harriett E., he married in Winterset, the Wallace home, May 24, 1886; resided first at Mason City and then at Des Moines, and in 1891 removed to Cedar Rapids, purchasing a half interest in the *Farmer & Breeder*, becoming its editor, which he sold in 1893 to Henry C. Wallace and C. E. Curtis of Ames, the latter selling his interest to John P. Wallace, and the brothers moved the publication to Des Moines, continuing it as *Wallace's Farmer*.

Associated with Fred Faulkes at Cedar Rapids, Mr. Ashby became interested in state politics; in 1890 wrote a book, "The Riddle of the Sphinx," dedicated to the American farmer and devoted to farm problems and economics; while at Cedar Rapids wrote another book on economics entitled "Wealth and Civilization," treating of the relations between political events and economic progress, and laying the historical groundwork for the study of political economy; for years had been a Democrat in national politics and a Republican in Iowa as a prohibitionist until 1892, when he assisted in the election of Governor Boies, and was appointed by Presi-

dent Cleveland as consul at Dublin, Ireland, serving five years; then was appointed by the Department of Agriculture at Washington for special work on market conditions in England, returning with his family to Des Moines in 1898; moved the following year to a farm he purchased northwest of the city and later to the family home long occupied on Beaver Ave. in Des Moines until removal to Tuscon a few years ago.

---

O. J. KIRKETEG, attorney, soldier and legislator, died March 22, 1945, at Des Moines, Iowa, the second member of the Iowa senate to pass away during the session of the Fifty-first General Assembly; born in Humboldt county, Iowa, May 2, 1891, the son of K. K. Kirketeg; reared on a farm and moved with his parents to Cedar Falls in 1908; graduated from Iowa State Teachers college in 1912; taught rural school and was principal at Little Cedar; was superintendent of schools at Columbus City, Iowa, in 1913-14; graduated from the college of law, University of Iowa, in 1917; served in the army in World War I, 1917-19, and since has been twice commissioned in the infantry reserve; first commander of American Legion in the old Eighth Iowa district; began the practice of law at Bedford, Iowa, in 1919; served as Taylor county attorney in 1929 and 1930; married to Kathlyn M. McCulloch, of Nashua, Iowa, who survives him, on February 7, 1937; served as senator from the Taylor and Adams county district in the 1937 and 1939 sessions; had recently been appointed by Gov. Robert D. Blue as a member of the State Tax commission with term starting July 1, 1945, and had expected to resign as senator in the meantime. Senator Kirketeg was a member of the Presbyterian church, the Masonic and Eastern Star orders, and a Republican.

---

CHARLES EDWARD MALONE, farmer, seedman and legislator, died March 22, 1945, at his home in Atlantic, Iowa; born on a farm near Wiota in Cass county, Iowa, on October 24, 1881, the son of B. F. and Rebecca Malone; educated in the rural schools; engaged in farming, making a specialty of seed corn and other grains for over thirty years; operated a seed business at Atlantic; served as assistant superintendent of the Iowa agricultural exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition in 1903; married to Edna E. Harris, of Atlantic, April 18, 1906, and they have two sons, Claude and Cecil, who with their mother survive, the sons conducting the seed business in Atlantic founded in 1904 by the deceased.

Senator Malone served as county treasurer in Cass county for two terms, from 1914 to 1918, and as county supervisor for three terms from 1924 to 1930; represented the farmers of Iowa and the Middle West in Chicago in 1931 at the installation of new equip-

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.