

quickly began making fountain pens, incorporating the idea he had long toyed with, of placing an eye-dropper rubber tube in pens to retain a quantity of ink and lessen the inconvenience of frequent filling of the pen. He purchased a jewelry store in Fort Madison and soon seven employees were assisting him manufacture the pens, resulting in the organization of the Sheaffer Pen Company in 1913, with an original capital of \$35,000.

He married Nellie Davis at Pulaski, Iowa, February 8, 1888, since deceased. They were parents of two children, Clementine, now Mrs. Harry Waldron, of Fort Madison, and Craig Royer Sheaffer, of Fort Madison; and in 1928 he married Mrs. Jean Lawrence, who survives. Through the years his business expanded into million dollar proportions, with two plants at Fort Madison, factories also at Toronto, Canada; Mount Pleasant, Iowa; Quincy, Illinois; and is internationally known in the manufacture of a wide range of pens, mechanical pencils, desk sets and writing fluid.

At the time of his death he was chairman of the board of directors of the corporation, and his son, Craig, president and general manager; he was a member of the United Presbyterian church, the Masonic order, Elks, Rotary and a Republican. His industrial genius led him to high places in Iowa and national manufacturers circles; and for many years he had paid liberal bonuses to over 1,100 persons long with the company, his profit-sharing plan dividing earnings of the business between stockholders and employees, prior to any agitation for such procedure in national labor and employment circles.

LOUIS PELZER, educator, author, historian, died at Iowa City, Iowa, June 28, 1946; born at Griswold, Iowa, February 4, 1879, the son of Henry and Sophia Pelzer; graduated from Iowa State Teachers' college in 1901, received a Ph.B degree from the University of Iowa in the same year and a Ph.D in 1909; after serving as teacher and principal of several Iowa high schools, joined the state university staff in 1911 as an assistant professor; as an associate professor following 1917, he was elevated to full professorship in 1925.

Dr. Pelzer married Mildred Lenore Weenick at Dillon, Montana, January 1, 1917, who survives him; two sons, Lieut. Loren Parker Pelzer, killed in the navy air force in California in 1943, and Lieut. Henry Pelzer, killed in the European war area in 1945, preceded him in death. Since 1941 Professor Pelzer has been editor of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, an outstanding historical journal; served as secretary of the Big Ten athletic conference in 1927-29 and member of the Iowa Territorial Cen-

ennial committee in 1938; vice president of the Mississippi Valley Historical association in 1936, and was vice president of the American Association of American University professors at the time of his death; also a member of the American Historical association, the Iowa City Research club, the Triangle club and the Presbyterian church.

He was author of "Augustus Caesar Dodge," 1907; "Henry Dodge," 1911; "Marches of the Dragoons in the Mississippi Valley," 1917; "Cattleman's Frontier," 1936; and "Prairie Logbooks," 1943.

RANDOLPH S. BEALL, publisher and business man, died at Mount Ayr, Iowa, June 2, 1946, where he was born February 13, 1864; a son of Ithamar S. and Charlotte Swan Beall, the last of the original family of that name which came to Iowa from Ohio in the early fifties; his entire life spent in the community where his mother was a pioneer teacher in the local schools; a studious, purposeful man with a love for literature, history and books, owning an extensive private library; educated in the Mount Ayr schools; informed and active in educational and community affairs; married August 25, 1904, to Martha Stahl, of the faculty of Simpson college, Indianola, who served as a trustee of that institution a number of years and corresponding secretary for the Women's Foreign Missionary society and passed away January 8, 1933. Although in late years Mr. Beall engaged in the real estate and insurance business, his most active years were spent in newspaper work, first the associate of his brother, the late Walter Beall, in the publication of the *Mount Ayr Twice-A-Week News* until 1907 when it was merged with the *Mount Ayr Record*; in later years established the *Ringgold County Bulletin*; assisted in founding the Ringgold County Historical society and establishing the annual Ringolder Reunion; a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for over three-quarters of a century; active in the Sunday school work and as a member of the board of trustees of the church.

EARL G. MILLER, public official, died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 21, 1946; born in Carlisle, Warren county, Iowa, January 31, 1888, his mother dying when he was five years old; was raised by his grandmother, a native of France; came to Des Moines in 1898; educated in Des Moines schools and sold newspapers on the down-town streets; attended Chicago University of Applied Science; conducted a furniture business in Des Moines; elected Secretary of State of Iowa in 1938; became a candidate for governor in 1942 and was defeated in the Republican primary by Lt. Gov. Bourke B. Hickenlooper; was again nominated for office

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