

8, 1872, a son of lawyer George Porter and Hannah Porter and grandson of a Presbyterian minister; graduated from Centerville, Iowa, high school and attended Parsons college at Fairfield, Iowa, one year, and St. Louis law school one year; began practice of law at Centerville in 1893; served as sergeant-major of the 50th Iowa infantry in the Spanish-American war; a member of the Iowa house of representatives from 1896 to 1900, and of the Iowa senate from 1900 to 1904, being the youngest member of each house at the time of his service, only 23 when he was named to the house; a member of the investigating committee that recommended the board of control system for management of state institutions; from 1914 to 1918 served as United States attorney for southern district of Iowa; became special assistant U. S. attorney general and later assistant attorney general in charge of criminal prosecutions; next was chief counsel of the federal trade commission, and later special counsel of that commission; unsuccessful Democratic candidate for secretary of state of Iowa in 1898, three times, a Democratic candidate for governor and five times for United States senator, in none which was he successful; first appointed member of the interstate commerce commission by President Coolidge in 1923, to fill a vacancy, and reappointed by Coolidge in December following for term expiring in 1935; served as chairman of the commission and reappointed by President Roosevelt for term expiring in 1949.

Senator Porter's death was occasioned by a cerebral hemorrhage two days previous, and subsequent to receiving word of the death of his 45-year-old son, George B. Porter, a Washington, D. C. attorney, the Sunday night previous at a hotel in San Francisco, who choked on a piece of food found lodged in his windpipe. He is survived by his wife, the former Maude Boutin of Cape Girardeau, Mo., whom he married in 1899, by four married daughters and ten grand children; was active in the Centerville and Des Moines Presbyterian churches; thirty-two years ago organized at Centerville the Porter bible class which is still active; an aggressive foe of the liquor industry in Iowa; always a man of great zeal in the causes he advocated and held the confidence of those who knew him through a long and creditable public service.

WALTER A. SHAEFFER, manufacturer, died at his home, "High Point," at Fort Madison, Iowa, June 19, 1946; born at Bloomfield, Iowa, July 27, 1867, son of Jacob Royer and Anna Eliza Walton Sheaffer, educated in the Bloomfield public schools. After employment in jewelry stores at Centerville, Iowa, and Unionville, Missouri, returned to Bloomfield to become a partner in his father's jewelry and music store; opened his own store in 1906 and

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-

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