

## NOTABLE DEATHS

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FREDERICK MADISON SMITH, prophet and president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints since 1915, died March 20, 1946, at Independence, Missouri; born in 1873, at Plano, Illinois, son of Joseph Smith, whom he succeeded as head of the church organization, and grandson of Joseph Smith "the seer" and martyr, its organizer on April 6, 1830, at Fayette, Seneca county, New York, and its prophet and president for fourteen years until his assassination June 27, 1844, at Carthage, Illinois.

The church headquarters of the non-polygamous branch of the Mormon faith were located at Lamoni, Iowa, in 1881, where also was established Graceland college, in which Frederick M. was a student and its first graduate in 1898; prior to this he attended the Iowa City academy in 1895, and State University of Iowa in 1896, where he took a pre-engineering course; his degrees included a B. S. in natural sciences and an M. A. from Kansas university in sociology and economics; was finishing his Ph. D. in genetic psychology at Worcester, Mass., when word of his father's death reached him on May 5, 1915; had taken great interest in the organization's mammoth printing plant at Lamoni and was one of the editors of the Saints Herald published by the society; in 1902 had been called to assist his father as counselor in the world organization; in 1904 moved to Independence, Missouri; the burden and responsibility of the presidency came to rest upon his shoulders in 1915, having received careful training for church leadership under the efficient and loving guidance of his father, whom he succeeded in the great life's work that he performed.

It was from the Joseph Smith church organization at Nauvoo, Illinois, that Brigham Young led his band of followers to Utah to form the branch of the Mormon church there. Dr. Smith always earnestly defended the memory of his grandfather against any charge that he instituted the doctrine of polygamy promulgated by Brigham Young in 1852, who assumed leadership after the death of the elder Joseph Smith, who during his lifetime, both by precept and teaching, was a monogamist. Dr. Frederick M. once was quoted as saying in regard to his church and his people, that: "It is a strange thing, although not a single lineal descendant of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church, is a member of the Utah branch, that we, who are his descendants and successors, who have waged a never-ceasing fight against polygamy, blood atonement, the Adam God theory and other sacri-

legious teachings that are practiced in the name of Mormonism; we are the ones who are compelled to fight for recognition as a separate and distinct body, and happily our work has not been in vain."

During forty-six years Dr. Smith ably and wisely led the organization, and was beloved and respected throughout the entire church body, and probably was more instrumental than any other person in the church in encouraging the youth to secure the benefits of higher education, not only in their own college but in the colleges and universities of the land.

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GARDNER COWLES, SR., publisher, banker and legislator, died at his home in Des Moines, Iowa, on his eighty-fifth birthday, February 28, 1946; born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, on February 28, 1861, the son of a Methodist minister; attended Penn college at Oskaloosa, Grinnell college at Grinnell, and Wesleyan college at Mount Pleasant; established himself at Algona, Iowa, becoming superintendent of schools and part owner of the *Algona Republican*; entered the loan business, became a stockholder and officer of ten northwest Iowa banks and acquired a large acreage of Iowa farm land; served in the Iowa legislature from 1899 to 1903 as representative from Kossuth county; organized the block of Republican members who obtained the election of Gov. John H. Gear as United States senator over Albert B. Cummins in the Twenty-eighth General Assembly; purchased control of the *Des Moines Register* with Harvey Ingham in 1903; removed to Des Moines and later acquired the *Des Moines Tribune*, *Iowa Capital* and *Des Moines News*, combining same with the *Register*, which has since dominated the Des Moines newspaper field; a decade ago relinquished direct management of the newspaper property to his sons, John and Gardner, Jr., who subsequently obtained controlling interest in Minneapolis papers and established *Look Magazine*.

In 1932 Mr. Cowles was appointed a director of the Reconstruction Finance corporation, serving during the Hoover administration; established and endowed the Gardner Cowles Foundation to aid Iowa colleges and charitable institutions, including in its gifts during his lifetime a library building at Drake University, a dormitory at Grinnell college, a convalescent home for crippled children in Des Moines and funds for a new negro community center in Des Moines in honor of the late Wendell Willkie; served several times as lay delegate to the Methodist Episcopal international conference, and declined to seek further political preferment or connection with business institutions other than his newspaper, which during the ownership and management of himself and sons became one of the leading publications in the

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