

In 1906, General Gibbs, then a captain, saw service in Cuba with a signal corps company, later commanding signal corps companies at various posts in the U. S., and was at one time department signal officer in Hawaii. When trouble arose on the Mexican border in July, 1916, he was ordered to El Paso.

Upon the outbreak of World War I, he was ordered to service at Washington, D. C., in the office of the chief signal officer, and in September, 1917, he was ordered to France, given a temporary rank of colonel and later brigadier general, serving as assistant to the chief signal officer of the American Expeditionary Forces. In December, 1917, he was an observer with the British First Army, and later saw service in the Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne offensives of the American forces.

Beginning in May, 1922, and until June, 1923, he was detailed as executive officer to the assistant secretary of war, in which detail he was ordered to temporary duty at The Hague, Holland, as assistant military advisor to John Bassett Moore, then attending the commission of jurists to consider revision of the rules of war. In 1924 he supervised completion of the Ketchikan-Seward cable in Alaskan waters. On January 9, 1928, he was appointed chief signal officer of the army with the rank of major general, and on June 30, 1931, he retired from the active list of the army, after thirty-two years of continuous service, being one of two or three men who rose from service as a private to the rank of major general in the American army.

He married the former Ruth Annis Hobby on October 9, 1899, and they had four children, Mrs. George K. Perkins, Robert H., George W. and David P. Gibbs, the last three being officers in the armed services.—Ed. S. White.

EARL E. MAY, seedman, nurseryman and broadcaster, of Shenandoah, Iowa, died in St. Mary's hospital, Duluth, Minnesota, December 18, 1946; born on a ranch near Hayes Center, Nebraska, March 21, 1888, the son of Richard May and Rosa Ernest May, pioneers; graduated from the Hayes Center high school in 1906; taught a rural school near Wauneta, Nebraska, entered the normal college at Fremont, Nebraska, completing the course in 1910, when he became principal of Hayes Center high school; entered University of Michigan law school, but in 1913, his junior year, was cut short by the illness of his father and he returned home to Hayes Center again becoming principal of the high school there; later entered the University of Nebraska and received his LL.B. degree in 1915; also received an honorary degree from Tarkio college in 1938; the practice of law not appealing to him, and having traveled for the

D. M. Ferry Seed company in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina, he located in Shenandoah with the Mount Arbor nurseries, and in 1918 established the seed and nursery business bearing his name; married Gertrude Frances Welch June 8, 1916, daughter of E. S. Welch, Shenandoah nurseryman, and they have two children, Mrs. J. D. Rankin, Jr., of Shenandoah, and Edward Welch May, associated with his father in business which has 30 nursery and seed stores in Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota; in 1924 first explored the possibilities of radio as a means of education and publicity, first presenting a special program through an Omaha station, from a studio in Shenandoah by remote control; then established KMA in August, 1925, which became one of the most popular broadcasting stations in the middle west; with his wife donated land for a city park and also with Mrs. May and her father bought and gave the Southmoreland country club to the American Legion as a community recreation center; was always aggressive in community enterprises and served as chairman of the Hand Hospital trustees for more than twenty-five years and a member of the park board many years; served many nurserymen's associations as an officer, including the presidency of the American Association of Nurserymen, a member of the bar association in both Iowa and Nebraska; held many local positions of honor and was a past president of the Shenandoah chamber of commerce; a member also of Masonic bodies and was widely traveled; interested intensively in agricultural experimental station at Iowa State college at Ames, Iowa; assisting in the introduction of new varieties of legumes, oats and hybrid seed corn; made possible the establishment in Guatamala the experimental station by Iowa State college by a grant of \$75,000.00 and by subsequent liberal grants which he made annually.

WILLIAM E. G. SAUNDERS, banker, soldier and legislator, died at Altadena, California, January 16, 1947; born in Blairgowrie, Scotland, in 1865; came to America in 1882; lived four years in New Mexico and located at Emmetsburg, Iowa in 1886; associated with the old Scottish-American Land Company, and was one of its agents in northwest Iowa; became captain of Old Company K, Emmetsburg's Iowa National Guard unit; served as quartermaster of the 52nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American war; became president of the former Commercial bank at Emmetsburg before it was absorbed by the First National Bank, and was a director of the latter bank; served the state banking department as a bank receiver; a member of Fortieth, Fortieth extra, Forty-first, Forty-second and Forty-second extra sessions of the Iowa House of Representatives; always an active and energetic civic-

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