

NOTABLE DEATHS

LEWIS A. COCKLIN, manufacturer and inventor, died in Griswold, Iowa, August 10, 1940. Born on a farm in Pottawattamie County, on August 22, 1878, the son of William and Melissa Cocklin, he led a varied business career. One of the first automobile dealers in Griswold, he also built many homes there for which he himself drew the plans. A number of years ago he perfected plans for the well known Laco oil burner, which through sales abroad he made into a successful business. At the time of his death he was interested in perfecting still further additional designs for burners.

JOHN BROWN HAMMOND, prohibitionist and crusader, died in Des Moines, Iowa, July 20, 1940. Born August 29, 1856, and distantly related to John Brown of Harper's Ferry fame, John B. Hammond carried a strain of that perfectionist character. Before the turn of the century, as a miner at Centerville, Iowa, Hammond began his anti-saloon activities, success there widened his field, and a few years later brought him to Des Moines, 1908. Not only an inveterate foe of liquor, he vigorously fought all forms of vice, being a leading figure in the fight on the white slave rackets in Kansas City and other points to the west coast.

During World War I he was head of the state liquor law enforcement commission, and made the law a constant reality to many a damp goods proprietor. In 1922 he was appointed Chief of Police of Des Moines, and in the two years he remained in that position he gave a whole-hearted energetic service to the city to clean up the dirt of the liquor traffic and associated vice and crime. Never doubting the right of the State to control the liquor business, he even advocated stronger enforcement laws than were current on the books prior to the repeal in 1933, and as late as four months before his death sought to organize to place once more on the statute books a liquor prohibitory law.

ORVAL RAY LATHAM, president of Iowa State Teachers College, died in Iowa City July 9, 1940. He was born in Boone, Iowa, April 13, 1890, the son of David Harrison and Mary Francis Latham. Graduated from the Boone High School in 1907, and receiving his A.B. degree from the State University of Iowa in 1911, he obtained his M.A. degree in 1919, and his Ph.D. in 1928 from the same institution. Preceding his election to the presidency of the Iowa State Teacher's College in 1928 he had served as superintendent of schools at Coggar, Pomeroy, Ida Grove, and Le Mars, Iowa, then, in 1922, went to Duluth, Minn., as director of research, two years later, 1924, he was appointed professor of education in Ohio State University, Athens, Ohio, where in his last year before coming to the Iowa institution he was director of teacher training.

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.