

NOTABLE DEATHS

RANSOM JAMES BIXBY, former state legislator and agriculturalist, died in Edgewood, Iowa, November 18, 1940. The son of Reverend and Mrs. Newell W. Bixby, pioneer settlers in Iowa in 1847, R. J. Bixby was born on a farm near Edgewood, Iowa, March 29, 1854. After an early education he taught school, then attended Wilton College, in Wilton, Iowa, then resumed teaching, becoming principal of the Edgewood schools. He shortly entered the mercantile business, later the drug business, and later still retired to invest in and to manage farms, breed sheep and cattle. Actively identified with the Republican party in the county, and several times chairman of the county committee, he was elected to the state legislature as a representative from Delaware County, serving two terms from 1903-1907.

When an ice cave was discovered on his farm, Mr. Bixby made the 84 acre area into a park, which subsequently, in 1926, became the Bixby State Park when taken over by the Iowa State Conservation Commission. Long prominent in church work, he was first a member of the Baptist church, and later when that church was discontinued in Edgewood, became a member of the Congregational Church.

JOHN CALVIN FLENNIKEN, former state legislator, died in Strawberry Point, Sunday, July 14, 1940. Born in Millville, Iowa, August 17, 1862, the son of Wallace and Gertrude Flenniken, he was educated in the public schools of Elkader and taught the jewelry trade by his step-father, Capt. A. B. Morland. He later owned and operated jewelry stores in Traer and Strawberry Point. From 1908 to 1912, he was mayor of the latter town.

Elected to the 29th General Assembly, he was re-elected to the succeeding session. Among other measures sponsored by him was the primary election law.

DR. THOMAS V. GOLDEN, physician, died in Des Moines, November 21, 1940, at the age of fifty-three. Trained in the Creighton University medical school, Omaha, Nebraska, he practiced medicine in Creston, Iowa, twenty years before appointment as physician and psychiatrist at the Iowa State Hospital for the Insane at Clarinda in 1932. During the World War he was a Major in the medical corps of the 90th division, seeing service in France.

JOHN H. HENDERSON, Judge, lawyer, and former state official, died in Orange, California, September 30, 1940. The son of Col. and Mrs. P. P. Henderson, he was born on a farm in Warren County, September 16,

1848, near where the town of Ackworth now stands. He was reportedly the first white child born in the county after it was organized.

Educated in the public schools and in Central College, later Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, he was admitted to the bar in 1872. Elected a Circuit Court Judge in 1885, he was elected a District Court Judge in 1886 when the Circuit Court system was abolished. He was re-elected to the district court in 1890 and again in 1894. Two years later he resigned to re-enter private practice with his son Frank P. Henderson. A member of the school board of Indianola, he was also a member, from 1869 to 1940, and for a long time the secretary, of the board of trustees of Simpson College. In 1896 he was elected president of the Iowa State Bar Association.

In 1911 he withdrew from private practice to become Commerce Counsel to the Iowa State Railroad Commission. With the exception of 1927-28 he held this position continuously from 1911 to 1935.

L. STEPHEN HILL, business and government official, died in Des Moines, October 3, 1940. Born on a farm near Creston, Iowa, September 20, 1877, and spending his early boyhood in southern Iowa and eastern Kansas, he entered the printing trade as an apprentice in Muscatine, Iowa. Coming to Des Moines about 1890, and continuing in the printing business, he shortly thereafter helped to organize the American Lithograph Company; he was president of the firm at the time of his death.

Long prominent in the Democratic party, a member of the Polk County Democratic Committee for thirty years, and chairman at one time, serving also on the state central committee of that party, he was at various times the party's candidate for elective office. On February 1, 1934, he was appointed Postmaster of the Des Moines office, and in April of 1940, appointed to the permanent position under the recent postal civil service law order. In July, 1935, he was appointed the first administrator in Iowa of the WPA, a position he retained with success until resigning in late 1936.

PERRY C. HOLDOEGEL, telephone company executive and former state legislator, died in Rockwell City, Iowa, July 2, 1940. Born on a farm near Woodbine, Iowa, September 7, 1869, he led a varied career as an apprentice brick mason, printer, clerk in a dry goods store, and teacher, before engaging in the telephone business. As a teacher in the public schools for fourteen years, he served seven as superintendent of the Rockwell City schools, as well as maintaining a connection with the Calhoun County Normal School. He is credited with establishing Iowa's first rural telephone line, in 1893, between Logan and Missouri Valley. As organizer and head of the Central Mutual Telephone Co. of Rockwell City, he later disposed of this interest to the Iowa Continental Telephone Co., remaining as its manager until 1931. He also had large farming and banking interests.

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