

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

EUGENE MANNHEIMER, rabbi and civic leader, died September 8, 1952, in his home at Des Moines, Iowa; born November 3, 1880, at Rochester, New York, son of Sigmund and Louise (Herschman) Mannheimer, German Jewish descendants; removed with parents to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent his boyhood and was educated in the public schools and Hebrew Union college, graduating as rabbi in 1902; received his B.A. degree in Cincinnati University, and assumed his first rabbinate the same year at Sioux City, Iowa; did post graduate work at Chicago University and Columbia University; came to Des Moines in 1905, as rabbi of Temple B'nai Jeshurun, retiring in 1947, since which time he has been rabbi emeritus; married Irma Schloss, of Des Moines, April 17, 1917; active in Red Cross, war loan and charities campaigns; instrumental in organizing the Federated Jewish Charities, now known as the Social Service of Des Moines, also the Jewish Settlement association, now the Jewish Community Center, and the United Jewish Philanthropies, now the Jewish Welfare fund; a member of National Conference of Christians and Jews, Foreign Policy committee of Des Moines and past president of the Iowa Conference of Social Work; a Rotarian, a thirty-third degree Mason and a member of the speaker's bureau of the Iowa Masonic Service committee; has served for a number of years as a member of the board of trustees of the School of Religion at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and an active member of the board of the Bureau of Jewish Education; surviving besides his wife, are two sons, Robert E. of Des Moines, and Richard S. of Los Angeles, California, a brother, Leo Mannheimer, and a sister, Edna Manner, both of New York, N.Y.

ANTHONY MILROY McCOLL, public official, legislator and lumber and grain dealer, died at his home in Woodward, Iowa, September 14, 1952; born at Caledonia, Livingston county, New York, May 19, 1858; the American-born parents, Hugh D. and Jane McColl, with their twin sons Anthony and Donald, came to Dallas county, Iowa, in 1876, located on a farm near Woodward, and engaged at that place in the lumber and grain business, Donald later establishing the same business at Perry, Iowa; elected in 1890 and served three terms as clerk of the Dallas county district court; married October 3, 1903 at Woodward to Bess C. Craft; served one term in the Iowa state senate and in 1913 re-elected to that position, sitting as

a member in the session that year, but resigned in June to accept appointment as a member of the state board of control, serving in that capacity by reappointment for 17 years, being its chairman several times; was instrumental in securing the location of the Woodward State Hospital and School at that place and active in all civic and municipal affairs, together with political movements in the county and state; served as a delegate from his county to every Republican state convention for a period of 72 years; a member of all branches of the Masonic order, the Elks, the Lions club, and a recent honor received was the naming of a local park and recreation center at Woodward as McColl park; for fifty years served as a trustee of the Thomas D. Gregg Fund, involving management of a substantial number of properties and other assets; survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Jean M. Milroy of Washington, D.C., who had been in the home with her parents during the father's last illness.

THOMAS JEFFERSON FITZPATRICK, botanist, educator, civil engineer and publisher, regarded as one of the most eminent botanical authorities of the midwest, died at Lincoln, Nebraska, March 28, 1952; born April 2, 1868, in Centerville, Iowa; acquired his advanced education at Wesleyan University, 1889, State University of Iowa 1889-95, B.Sc. 1893 and M.Sr. 1895, University of Chicago and University of Nebraska; held position of teacher and curator at University of Nebraska; experienced as a civil engineer and a publisher; was first head of Graceland college at Lamoni, Iowa, and member of the faculty there from 1895 until 1900, when he went to Iowa City, Iowa, to serve as superintendent of the public school system, remaining there until 1908, when he returned to Graceland college and rejoined the faculty, remaining until 1912, when he resigned and removed to California for a year, when he was called by the University of Nebraska; owner of the *Lamoni Chronicle* for a period while a resident there; also helped establish the local library, contributing a large number of books from his private collection which was extensive, once comprising over 30,000 volumes; a member of some thirty scientific and educational associations; was a prolific writer principally along botanical lines, also on engineering, history, and biography, some articles being published in the ANNALS, and one of his articles, "The Place-Names of Appanoose County, Iowa," being published in *American Speech*; also others of this series, published in the ANNALS, being "The Place-Names of Des Moines County, Iowa," "The Place-Names of Lee County, Iowa," and "The Place-Names of Van Buren County, Iowa;"

a portrait showing his sturdy appearance in his middle years gracing page 12, Vol. XVII, July, 1929, ANNALS OF IOWA.

PAUL NESBITT, lawyer, legislator, contractor and public official, died July 22, 1950, at Talihina, Oklahoma; born April 3, 1872, at Milford, Iowa; removed with parents to Nebraska, obtained a high school education and grew to manhood on the prairies of that state; graduated in 1894 from the Chicago Medical college with an M.D. degree and engaged in his profession for a time at Vinton, Iowa; practiced from 1895 to 1899 at El Dorado Springs, Missouri, and then removed to Watonga, Blaine county, Oklahoma, continuing in his profession, but in 1904 went to St. Louis, becoming a newspaper reporter, and later on the *Joplin Globe*; returned to Oklahoma to direct the press bureau for the Democrats in the constitutional convention campaign; active in Democrat political circles; served as secretary to Gov. C. N. Haskell, and on the night in 1910 when the capital of the state was removed from Guthrie to Oklahoma City, with a Mr. Anthony, bore the Great Seal of Oklahoma to the new capital, enabling the governor to legally transact business in the new location the next morning; represented Pittsburg county in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh sessions of the Oklahoma legislature, serving as speaker of the house for the Sixth session; appointed and served as state commissioner of highways during the administration of Gov. Jack Walton; removed to New Mexico in the 1920's and for a number of years engaged in the construction of highways for that state, establishing residence at Chama, and served for ten years there as postmaster; returned to Talihina, Oklahoma in the fall of 1944, remaining there until his demise; married Carrie May Lee in El Dorado Springs in 1896, and to this union were born five children, two of whom with their mother, survive: Robert L. Nesbitt, Bellingham, Washington, and Mrs. George D. Bradley, Clifton, Arizona, the widow making her home with the latter.

MAURICE G. RICKER, educator, explorer and photographer, died at Washington, D.C., September 9, 1952, after sustaining a fractured hip in a fall; born in Wataga, Illinois, in 1869; came to Iowa with his parents; following graduation in 1892 at Drake university, obtaining his A.B., traveled extensively with archaeological groups, then taught at Marshalltown and was high school principal at Burlington before coming to West high, Des Moines, in 1906, as an instructor and principal, a scientific bent eventually taking him out of school work in 1918, after experimenting here with high school electrical projects and photography; in May that year joined party of scien-

tists and embarked on a voyage to the British West Indies, including Barbados and Antigua, becoming official photographer for the party, and including a moving picture camera in his equipment; upon return removed to New York, taking a position with the Y.M.C.A., which handled "U.S.O.-type" activities during World War I, and traveling in Europe and South America to salvage "Y" equipment after the war; held various government positions, living in Washington, and from 1920 to 1926 was with the public health service as assistant director of educational work; the next three years was director of motion pictures for the interior department, and pioneered in the field of sound and color movies; after a tour of duty as engineer for the film division of United Research Corp., worked with the agricultural department from 1937 until his retirement in 1942; then in 1946 was called out of retirement to do a special job in films for the army; was a fellow of the Iowa and St. Louis academies and a member of the New York Electrical society and the National Press club; a daughter, Helen, wife of William Beebe, naturalist and deep-sea explorer, becoming widely known as an author and under the pen name of Elswyth Thane, writing "From This Day Forward," "The Young Mr. Disraeli," "The Tudor Wench," and among other novels "This Was Tomorrow," written against the background of European unrest and the rise of Nazi Germany; besides the daughter, who lives in New York City, surviving are his widow, Edith, and a sister, Mrs. Pearl Ricker Ellis of Kalistell, Montana.

FRED S. HIRD, U.S. marshal, war veteran and world champion rifle shot, died at Des Moines, Iowa, September 26, 1952; born at New Diggins, Wisconsin, in 1880; attended public schools and Bayless college at Dubuque, Iowa; as a young man was known for some time as a semi-professional baseball player, amateur boxer and wrestler; came to Des Moines in 1905 as manager of the Iowa state arsenal, camp grounds and target range at Camp Dodge; continued there until the Mexican border campaign, in which he served as captain and regimental ordnance officer of the Third Iowa infantry; first joining the Iowa national guard as a private in 1900; advanced to lieutenant colonel of ordnance on the staff of Maj. Gen. Mathew A. Tinley, Council Bluffs, commanding the 34th division; in the 1912 Olympic Rifle team, won the gold medal of honor as the world's most expert rifle shot, the king of Sweden decorating him with the Olympic wreath; also competed with this country's rifle team when the games were held at Antwerp, Belgium, in 1920; served two terms from 1928 to 1936

as United States marshal in the Southern district of Iowa, his law enforcement activities also including a year as special agent for the Iowa attorney general's office and three years as chief deputy sheriff for Polk county; a Des Moines resident since 1905, was a veteran of the Mexican border campaign of 1914-15, and of World Wars I and II; retired from active duty in July, 1943, because of age, with the rank of lieutenant colonel; mustered into federal service in 1941, served 29 months before retirement; a member of Pioneer Masonic lodge No. 89, Argonne post, American Legion; Voiture 71, 40 and 8, and of the 34th division organized veterans; survived by his wife, Mary E., three sons, Fred Hird, Jr., of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Theo. L. Hird of Victoria, Texas, and Wilber E. Hird of Fort Dodge, one sister, Mrs. Olive Leiser of Dubuque, and five grandchildren.

MERLIN HALL AYLESWORTH, lawyer, publisher and radio executive, died September 30, 1952, in New York, New York; born July 19, 1886, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; son of Barton Orville and Georgia (Shores) Aylesworth, the father at the age of 29 made president of Drake university, Des Moines, serving from 1889 to 1897; a student at Colorado Agricultural college, the University of Colorado, the University of Wisconsin, Columbia university, received his LL.B. degree of Denver university in 1908, and awarded a LL.D. degree by Drake university in 1932, then a member of its board of trustees; practiced law at Fort Collins, Colorado, 1908-14; served as chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities commission, 1914-18; executive vice-president Utah Power & Light Co., Salt Lake City, 1918-1919; managing director National Electric Light association, 1919-26; first president of National Broadcasting Co., 1926-36; vice-chairman of board of directors, 1936; president and chairman of the board of Radio-Keith Orpheum corporation, RKO Radio Pictures, Pathe News, Inc., director of Keith Albee Orpheum corporation, B. F. Keith corporation, until March 1, 1937; one of the key figures in development of Radio City in New York; member of Scripps-Howard Management, 1937-38; publisher *New York World-Telegram*, 1938-40; chairman of board of Radio City Music Hall 1934-35; executive consultant office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs 1941-45; chairman executive committee Ellington & Co., Inc., New York; member appeal board Selective Service, Sigma Chi and Christian church; married to Blanche Parrett, October 19, 1909, who also is deceased, leaving two children, Barton Jerome and Dorothy, who survive with second wife, Caroline Andrews McEntear, to whom he was married July 1, 1945;

frequently visited Des Moines during career as president of the National Broadcasting Co. and trustee of Drake university.

FLORA DUNLAP, educator and social welfare worker, died at her home in Circleville, Ohio, August 26, 1952; in her early 70's; had retired nine years ago, left Des Moines for her girlhood home to spend her remaining years; suffered a fall in January, 1952, breaking a hip and since has been in precarious health; born in Pickaway county, Ohio, attended schools at Columbus and graduated from Cincinnati Wesleyan college; was a volunteer resident worker in Kingsley House Social settlement, Pittsburg, Penn., and Hull House, Chicago, before coming to Des Moines; in 1904 as resident director of the Roadside settlement house in south Des Moines; in 1909 became a charter member of the Public Health Nursing association and three years later became the first woman member of the Des Moines school board; from 1913 to 1916 was president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage association, actively campaigning for the right of women to vote; became the first president of the Iowa League of Women Voters, serving in 1919 and 1920; in 1917 and 1918 served as regional director of the girls division of the War Camp Community service — the USO program of World War I; active in the Iowa Federation of Women's clubs and served as its legislative chairman in 1913 session of the general assembly; became a member of the Polk county emergency relief committee in 1933, and head of the WPA's women's division; after 1937 served as a member of the Polk County Social Welfare board; also that year was a member of a "committee of five" to draft social welfare bills; a member of the Des Moines Community chest board of directors from 1932 to 1938, and a past president of the board; served as president of the Polk county Women's Democratic club in 1922 and again in 1940; survivors include two brothers, both of Williamsport, Ohio, and a nephew, John Dunlap, Jr.

KARL VER STEEG, geologist and educator, died at Wooster, Ohio, October 10, 1952; born at Pella, Iowa, March 10, 1891; son of Nicholas and Maggie VanderZyl Ver Steeg; was graduated from the Pella high school in 1908 and continued his education in Central college there, graduating in 1914; taught for several years in high schools at Pella, Preston, Minnesota, and Neenah, Wisconsin; volunteered for army service at Fort Riley, Kansas, but discharged early because of a heart condition; served as director of athletics in 1918 and 1919 for the Y.M.C.A. at Camp Dodge, Des Moines; resumed teaching in

1919 at the University of Idaho at Moscow, Idaho, then to the Wisconsin School of Mines and Technology at Platteville, Wisconsin, as head of the geology department, and in 1923 went to Wooster as a teacher in the department of geology of the College of Wooster, where he had continued since 1926 as head of the department; obtained his master's degree at Chicago university and his doctor's degree at Columbia university, New York, in 1930; married Helena Martha Erdman of Neenah, May 31, 1919, who survives him; author of many scientific research papers, and of a book, "The Wind and Water Gaps of the Northern Apalachian Mountain Range;" a member of Sigma Xi, Fellow of Geological Society of America, Fellow of the Ohio Academy of Science of which he also was vice-president, member of the American Geophysical Union, the Association of American Geographers and the Division of Higher Education of the National Educational Association; in 1946 awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Science, by his alma mater, Central College of Pella.

JOSEPH KINSEY HOWARD, author and newspaper man, died at Choteau, Montana, his summer home, August 25, 1951; born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, February 28, 1906; son of Joseph and Josephine Kinsey Howard, formerly of What Cheer, Iowa, where his grandfather for years was the station agent for the Rock Island railroad; spent his childhood in western Canada where the father was a coal mine operator for a United States syndicate; removed with his mother to Great Falls, Montana, in 1919, and after graduating from Great Falls high school in 1923, immediately joined the staff of the *Great Falls Leader*; advanced to news editor in 1926, in which position he continued until 1944, aside from about a year as news broadcaster for the *Great Falls Tribune*; resigned to become research associate for the Montana Study, a project of the Rockefeller Foundation and the University of Montana, retiring two years later to devote full time to writing; author of "Montana: High, Wide and Handsome," a history of the state, his first book, which won critical acclaim, published in 1943 by Yale University Press; and went into eight editions in its first three years; in 1946 edited a large collection of Montana materials which were incorporated into a book, "Montana Margins: a State Anthology," also published by Yale Press; twice, in 1947 and 1948, the recipient of a fellowship by the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, much of his writing being done under these grants; left a manuscript since published under the title, "Strange Empire: a Narrative of the Great Northwest," the work representing a dream of his whole life, as since boyhood

he had been fascinated by the story of the Red river half-breeds; survived by his mother still residing in Great Falls.

JOHN WESLEY BALL, newspaperman and soldier, died October 23, 1952, in Washington, D.C.; born March 23, 1891, at Toledo, Iowa; a brother of Amos Ball, formerly chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Co., of Indiana; began his newspaper career in 1911 with the Chicago (Illinois) City News Bureau, later joined the Hearst papers, then the *Chicago Evening Post*, and for a time was advance man for John Philip Sousa's band; served overseas with the Rainbow division in World War I, as a first lieutenant and assistant adjutant of the 168th Iowa infantry regiment; upon return home became a reporter on the *Sioux City Tribune*, then commercial editor of the *Des Moines Capital* and later city editor, and news editor; resigned from position on the *Capital* in 1926 and entered the advertising profession, the firm in Des Moines being Battenfield & Ball; entered armed service as a captain in armored forces World War II, stationed in New Guinea, Australia and other points in the Pacific and rose to rank of major before being invalidated home in 1945; started a newspaper called *Guinea Gold* while in service in New Guinea; employed on the *Washington Post* following World War II, and since 1945 had been serving as its agricultural editor; author of a series of articles on the government's potato program, and another upon peacetime uses of atomic energy; survived by his widow, the former Dorothy Cohen, and two daughters — Cornelia Ball, a reporter on the *Washington Daily News*, and Mrs. N. R. Kean, wife of a Navy Officer in Apponaug, R.I.; other survivors being two brothers, Amos of Evanston, Ill., and George of Chicago, and three sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Woodhead and Elsie Ball of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Gladys Hanks of Willows, Calif.

FRANCIS ARGLE ELY, neuro-psychiatrist, died at Des Moines, Iowa, September 25, 1952; born at Beloit, Wisconsin, January 15, 1876; son of Benj. E. S. and Abbie A. (Moore) Ely; received his education in the public schools of Ottumwa, Iowa, his degree in medicine at the State University of Iowa in 1898; was the first full-time interne at the university hospital at Iowa City; took graduate work at Chicago, Illinois, New York City, Boston, Massachusetts, and Vienna, Austria; married Lulu Lester June 16, 1919, at Des Moines, who survives; served two years on the staff of the state mental hospital at Clarinda; was a professor of neurology at the former Drake university college of medicine at Des Moines, from 1908 to

1912; also a neuropsychiatric consultant at Broadlawns hospital at Des Moines from 1906 to 1925; was president of the Iowa Methodist hospital medical staff at Des Moines from 1940 to 1941 and was head of the hospital's neuropsychiatric division several years; a member of the Polk county, Iowa, and American Medical associations and served as president of the Polk County Medical society in 1907; also was a member of the Central Neuropsychiatric association, of the Iowa Society for Mental Hygiene, and a past president of the Des Moines Medical Library club and Prairie club; a frequent contributor to medical journals and was the author of a book, "Lights and Shadows in the Life of a Doctor," published last March.

HARRISON JOHN THORNTON, historian and lecturer, died at Iowa City, Iowa, September 22, 1952; born in Liverpool, England, July 8, 1894; son of Harrison and Isabella (Almond) Thornton, the father being a mining engineer; coming to the United States in 1914, and naturalized in 1923, was married September 12, 1928 to Nadine Hemmingson; held A.B. and A.M. degrees from Grinnell college, an A.M. degree from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago, and taught at all of these institutions; served with the Canadian army in France and Belgium in World War I, from May 1916 to May 1918, and had served as professor of history at the University of Iowa since 1929; a member of the American, Mississippi Valley and New York Historical associations, the South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska Historical societies, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science; a writer on historical topics, among his published books being "Theodore Roosevelt — Historian," "President and Others at Chatauqua," "History of the Quaker Oats Company," and numerous articles; a book in process of publication is entitled: "Chatauqua — Adventure in Popular Education," the product of ten years research and study on the subject; a 32nd degree Mason and survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Tiger Andrews of New York, New York.

ALBERT J. SHAW, lawyer, legislator and public official, died October 10, 1952, at Fort Dodge, Iowa; born at Dayton, Wisconsin, in 1876, and moved with his parents, Prentice J. and Jennie (Marshall) Shaw, to Pocahontas county, Iowa, when a lad of seven years; received his early education in the schools at Plover and Rolfe; attended Cornell college and was graduated from Drake university, Des Moines, Iowa, receiving an LL.B. degree; practiced law a short time at Corwith, Iowa, and removed to Pocahontas in 1909; married in

1909 to Genevieve B. Murphy of Iowa City; served as county attorney of Pocahontas county from 1910 to 1920, and state senator from the fiftieth district from 1935 to 1947, being active in legislative circles and one of the authors of the Iowa homestead exemption law; engaged in the practice of law with his son, Frank, at Pocahontas, and in 1950 was appointed state industrial commissioner to fill a vacancy, serving in that capacity until time of demise; interested in and engaged in farming and dairying, a Republican and member of the Catholic church; survived by his wife, three sons, Frank and Albert of Pocahontas and Robert of Boone, two daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Flaherty and Mrs. George Shore of Pocahontas, two sisters and sixteen grandchildren.

GEORGE WILLIAM STIMPSON, author and newspaperman, died at Washington, D.C., September 27, 1952; born near Anamosa in Jones county, Iowa, November 3, 1896; son of John Adams and Anna (Specht) Stimpson; educated in Iowa rural schools, in Valparaiso university 1916-21, George Washington university law school 1922-23; served as a private in World War I and discharged in 1919; a reporter on the *Valparaiso* (Indiana) *Messenger* 1921-22, *Washington Herald* 1922, associate editor of *Pathfinder*, Washington, D.C., 1922-32; a free lance writer 1932-34; Washington correspondent of *Houston* (Texas) *Post* 1934-41, and various papers since; conducted a weekly radio feature on politics and science topics 1924-25; author of daily syndicated newspaper feature, "Information Roundup," 1938-48; member of standing committee of correspondents 77th congress; member board of directors National Press Building Corp., member and president, 1936-37 of National Press club, Washington, D.C.; author of various books, some included in list of best-sellers when published; unmarried and survived by his mother, Mrs. John Stimpson, and a brother, Tom Stimpson, both of Anamosa, Iowa, and a sister, Mrs. Gladys Bader, of Elmhurst, Illinois.

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