

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

FRED HAHNE, publisher, livestock specialist and industrialist, died March 19, 1952, at Webster City, Iowa, the home of his birth, on March 17, 1877; started at age of fifteen as an office worker in a Webster City newspaper environment, his death ending the sixty years of his business career; founded not only his own printing business in 1902, but from there went on to establish in 1919 the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal*, an internationally circulated livestock publication, and in 1930 established the Strathmore farms, where was formed one of the largest herds of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the world; celebrated the golden anniversary of his business on February 13, 1952, and his 75th birthday on March 17th last; his entire life spent in Webster City excepting one and one-half years as foreman of a Spencer, Iowa, newspaper, prior to the establishment of his own print shop at the former place; served upon the Webster City council and as mayor, and always active in civic affairs; specialized in printing pedigreed livestock sale catalogs from which activity the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal* emerged as a flourishing and influential trade publication, attaining a circulation of 18,000 copies mailed all over the world; located his Strathmore farms on a 340-acre tract north of Webster City, now the home of his celebrated mammoth herd of the Angus breed of cattle; the expanded business required the erection of a large brick structure occupied since 1928 by the publishing company, an addition for housing new equipment being erected in 1951; retired some time ago from active management of the printing company which is now under the direction of his son, Dick, with his son-in-law, Gay Quammen as advertising manager; and despite his long illness, would drop in occasionally to visit the printing plant where he had spent so many active years; has been active in the Republican party, a leader in community work, also was zealous in church work and for many years taught a Sunday school class at the United Brethren church, his later years being a member of the Universalist church and assisted in church work as long as his health permitted. During his long business career a member of many societies affiliated with the livestock business, and prominent in the programs of many of those organizations; in fraternal circles a member of Acacia Lodge, A. F. and A. M. of Webster City, the Elks lodge and the Woodmen of the World, a charter member of the Court of Honor in Webster City and a member

of the Za-Ga-Zig shrine of Des Moines; preceded in death by his first wife, the former Miss Clara Adams, with whom he was united in marriage Dec. 29, 1897, who died August 24, 1943; also was preceded in death by one son, Myron, who died Oct. 15, 1918; survivors include his wife, the former Mrs. Faye E. Parker, with whom he was united in marriage Aug. 21, 1939; by one son, Richard, and two daughters, Mrs. Gay (Winnifred) Quammen and Mrs. T. R. (Georgianna) Amsden, all of Webster City; by two stepdaughters, Mrs. Merlin (Beatrice) Nelson of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, and Mrs. Wendall (Dorothy) Woodall of Denison, Iowa; by a foster son, Richard D. Willey of Chicago; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

PAUL E. STILLMAN, publisher and legislator, died at Carona del Mar, California, February 15, 1952; born in Chicago, Illinois, November 4, 1868; the son of E. B. and Elizabeth Bowman Stillman; attended school in Chicago, and then at Waucoma, Iowa, where his father engaged in the business of milling; later attended high school at the Chicago Manual Training school; came with his parents to Iowa in 1856, who resided in Iowa City, Des Moines and Sioux City, the father established the *Sioux City Journal* in 1863 following that returned to Chicago and operated a printing establishment until the great Chicago fire, after which the Stillmans returned to Iowa and to Waucoma, and in 1884 became associated in the publication of the *Jefferson Bee*; entered University of Michigan in 1887, graduating in 1891 with degree of bachelor of arts; purchased an interest in the *Bee* that year and becoming active in its publication with his brother Frank; became a member of the Iowa House of Representatives, serving three terms from 1907 to 1911, being speaker of the house in the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, at which time he was in partnership with Victor H. Lovejoy in the publication of the *Bee*; in 1914 was temporary chairman of the Republican state convention, and in 1916 a delegate to the Republican national convention; served for eight years from 1915 as a member of the Iowa state board of education; removed to Glendale, California in 1923, and established the Stillman Printing Co., in which he remained active until a short time prior to his death; married Edith May Anderson of Jefferson, in February, 1894, who died, and is survived by his wife, Anne Ruth Anderson, a son, Paul B. Stillman, and two daughters, Mrs. James Van Scoy and Mrs. Carol Higley, of Glendale, and three grandchildren; a member of the Presbyterian church, the Masonic bodies, I. O. O. F. and various civic organizations at both Jefferson and Glendale, and held an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Rollins college at Winter Park, Florida.

IDA B. WISE-SMITH, teacher, minister and temperance leader, died at Clarinda, Iowa, February 16, 1952; born in Philadelphia, Penn., July 3, 1871; daughter of Robert E. and Eliza Piper Speakman, the father a retired sea captain; came to Iowa with her mother two years later; graduated from the Hamburg, Iowa, high school, and the Kindergarten Training school; started teaching at age sixteen; was a student at the University of Nebraska, subsequently teaching at Missouri Valley, Iowa, and the Crocker school at Des Moines; married James W. Wise of Hamburg, September 3, 1899, who died in 1902, leaving a son, Carl Edwin Wise, who now resides in California; married at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, August 15, 1912, to Malcolm Smith, who died in 1915; became president of the Iowa W.C.T.U. in 1913, and two years later the state prohibition amendment to the constitution became effective; held the position twenty years until 1933, when she became president of the national W.C.T.U., from which position she resigned in 1945 on account of failing health; ordained as a minister of the Disciples of Christ in 1923, and preached in many Iowa Christian churches; served as president of the National Temperance Council, director of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, a trustee of the Benedict Home for Girls at Des Moines for twenty-five years; designated by a committee appointed by the governor of Iowa as one of ten "most honored women of the state" in 1925, and by the next governor as "most distinguished woman of the state" in 1928; widely known as a lecturer and public speaker; a member of the Woman's Committee of the Council of Defense, World War I, the League of Women Voters, the Conference of Social Agencies, the Eastern Star and many clubs and civic organizations; helped promote a child welfare and research station at the State University of Iowa, and sponsored the "children's code" which was written into Iowa law, and continued in church work after her retirement in 1946.

EDWARD S. WELCH, pioneer nursery man and financier, died September 22, 1951, at Shenandoah, Iowa; born February 8, 1869, on a farm in Sangamon county, Illinois, the son of pioneering Welsh and Scotch parents, the family moving to a farm in Fremont county, Iowa, a few miles west of Shenandoah, residing there ten years and then going on to Kansas where they lived until 1882, when they moved back to Shenandoah; associated that year with E. A. Martin in growing fruit trees and other nursery stock for D. S. Lake, and at the same time attended Western Normal college in Shenandoah; purchased with Mr. Martin the Mount Arbor nurseries in 1889, and two years later bought out his partner; married Ida Ann Boydstum in 1891, who died June 1, 1931; married Mae L. Leflay in 1933, who survives him with two children, Gertrude, the wife

of the late Earl E. May, and Wayne, of Zillah, Washington, a sister, Mrs. Mary Malone of Mobile, Alabama, and a brother, John O. Welch of Prescott, Arizona; developed the Mount Arbor nurseries in a remarkable way, establishing five important branch nurseries at Fremont, Nebraska, St. Joseph, Missouri, Gustin, California, Zillah, Washington, and North Collins, New York, shipping stock to all 48 states and Alaska, and to Canada, Mexico and other foreign countries; from a small local concern developed a nationwide business, with 3,635 acres under cultivation and conducting one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the world; became financially interested in many other enterprises, including the May Seed & Nursery company, the May Broadcasting company, two sound banks, and the Home Building & Loan association; in 1926 was awarded a certificate of eminent service by the Iowa State College at Ames; served as chairman of the standardization committee and as president of the American Association of Nurserymen, which gained him just fame; always active in community affairs, a member of the Congregational church, Kawanis, Elks and Masonic branches, and a wide range of civic organizations; with his family making public benefactions, including gift of Waubonsie park to the city, the Country club to the American Legion and provision for a whole wing of the proposed addition to the Hand hospital; during 61 years in business amassed a fortune, leaving an estate of one and one-half million dollars, according to the inventory valuations subsequently filed in the Page county district court, representing the fruits of his struggle from poverty to riches in a difficult field of economic enterprise, and withal a kindly man of personal charm, loved in his community as well as successful in business enterprises.

CHARLES A. WILLIAMS, banker, insurance executive and mining operator, died at the home of his son in Los Angeles, Cal., March 15, 1952, a few days after arrival on the west coast for a vacation, coming from his home at Oskaloosa, Iowa; born at Pomeroy, Ohio, July 16, 1870, son of Dave W. and Elizabeth Pascoe Williams; came to Beacon, Iowa, when a small boy, and soon was working in the coal mines in the vicinity; early in youth went to Mexico as a gold mine prospector; went to Lucas, Iowa as a young man and opened a general store, becoming acquainted there with John L. Lewis; married Emily D. Rogers of Chariton on February 11, 1902; spent two years in Canada operating a store in a mining camp; organized the Rex Fuel Company, heading its activities for a long period; assisted in locating many important industries in Oskaloosa, and became head of the city's first planning commission; was president of the Mahaska State bank until his 75th birth-

day, when he retired from active work and became chairman of its board; also served as chairman of the board of the Bituminous Casualty corporation of Rock Island, and among his numerous business activities, held the same relation to the Western Grocery Co.; a member of the Congregational church throughout his lifetime and prominent in civic activities; survived by his wife and three sons, Charles A. Williams, Jr. of Oskaloosa, Roger M. Williams of Dallas, Texas, and Jack Williams of Los Angeles, six grandchildren, and one sister, Miss Edith Wynn Williams of Oskaloosa.

ABRAM EDWARD CORY, minister, missionary and executive, died March 20, 1952, at Indianapolis, Indiana; born at Osceola, Iowa, August 13, 1873, son of Nathan Edward and Margaret Connoran Cory; received his B.A. degree at Eureka (Ill.) College in 1894, and his M. A. at Drake University, Des Moines, in 1898; did graduate work at Columbia and Union Theological Seminary; received a D. D. degree at Drake in 1914 and LL.D. at Eureka in 1915; married Bertha Adkins of Osceola, Sept. 30, 1895; served the Disciples of Christ in China as a missionary and educator fifteen years; engaged in the activities of the Disciples in America since 1912; secretary of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, director of the Men and Millions missionary movement, vice president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, secretary of the United Christian Missionary of the Disciples, a member of the executive committee of the International Christian Endeavor Society and the World's Christian Endeavor Society; was pastor of the Gordon street Church of the Disciples at Kinston, N.C.; served as director of the Pension Fund of the Disciples and was a chaplain with the U.S. army in the Phillipines in 1900; served overseas with the Y.M.C.A. in World War I, in 1918, and from 1941 to 1950, when he retired, was professor of missions at Butler University at Indianapolis; was an author of several religious works and wrote extensively for the church press.

GEORGE M. BECHTEL, investment banker and financier, died at Davenport, Iowa, March 21, 1952; born at Nevada, Harrison county, Missouri, April 1, 1868; son of J. C. and Matilda Stecher Bechtel; spent his childhood in Nevada and at the age of twelve began working in a local bank and also attended high school in Nevada; started for himself in investment banking in 1891 at Davenport by organizing the George M. Bechtel Co., which became the largest securities brokerage house in Iowa; married Martha Reimers of Davenport October 11, 1893, who preceded him in death in 1944; founded the Independent Baking Co. in Davenport in 1905 and served

as its president many years; built the Mississippi hotel and theatre building in 1930; also founded the First Trust and Savings bank in Davenport, retiring from the presidency of that institution in 1947; a charter member of the Davenport Rotary club and had other fraternal affiliations; a member of the First Presbyterian church and was formerly a member of the board of trustees of Grinnell college, a 50-year Mason and held the 33rd degree; survived by a son, Harold R. Bechtel of Davenport, four daughters, Mrs. Don Barber, Miami, Florida, Mrs. J. B. Rittenhouse, St. Davids, Penn., Mrs. Allen E. Lusk, Davenport, and Mrs. Tom V. Frank of Pleasant Valley, and twelve grandchildren.

JOHN C. CROCKETT, attorney, clerk of Iowa supreme court and reading clerk in U. S. senate forty years, died at Washington, D.C., June 6, 1952; born in Galena, Illinois, June 17, 1864; son of Edwin A. and Catherine Crockett, both natives of England; removed with his parents to Alden, Hardin county, Iowa, in 1869, and his boyhood spent upon a farm; received his schooling in the Alden high school and the State University of Iowa; worked two years in a general store, then taught school and studied law in the office of Judge Benjamin P. Birdsall, during this period being prominent in theatricals; took the law course at the State University of Iowa, graduating in the class of 1883, and returning to Hardin county practiced law in the office of Judge S. M. Weaver; married Myrtle May Gifford of Spencer, Iowa, in 1891; to them in 1893 was born a daughter, now Mrs. Avonelle C. Noah of Washington, D.C., his only survivor; appointed in 1893 deputy county clerk by his brother, Frank W. Crockett, in 1896 was elected clerk, and in 1898 re-elected; became reading clerk of the Twenty-ninth Iowa General Assembly in 1902; and served as clerk of the Iowa Supreme court from 1903 to 1908, after which he became reading clerk of the U. S. senate, serving forty years in that capacity until retirement; in fraternal circles was prominent in the Knights of Pythias, and honored in the Masonic order, holding the office of deputy Grand Master of Iowa in 1905-1906, becoming a 33rd degree Mason and active in all the bodies of Masonry; a Republican in politics, retaining through the years his Iowa official residence, although he had a house and some 400 acres of land in nearby Maryland, close to the Manor Country club, Norbeck, but sold this property in 1947 when he retired, and with his daughter resided at Hotel Claridge.

RALPH W. CRAM, retired editor and publisher, and aviation promoter, died May 8, 1952, at Davenport, Iowa; born June 19, 1869, in Zanesville, Ohio; educated in the public schools and on removal of the family to Davenport obtained a job in the *Democrat* office at the age of 14, and worked six years at learning that

trade; then became a reporter in the editorial department of the paper, having the distinction of being its first full-time reporter in the sense that reporters are now known; made city editor in 1903 and promoted to managing editor in 1908; continued with the paper until 1940, when he retired; active in civic work of every nature and put a great deal of energy into the development of aviation, becoming a flyer, taking his first solo flight when 62 years of age; married to Mabel LaVenture of Davenport December 27, 1892; was deeply interested in educational projects and a member of the Contemporary club, chairman of the board of the Morris Plan company, the Iowa Commission on Aeronautics, and vice-president of the National Aeronautical association; honored by Davenport calling its first municipal airport Cram Field, a former president of the Kiwanis club, a member of the Davenport Advertisers club, many other civic organizations, and the Presbyterian church; from five children three are surviving, being Dr. Eloise B. Cram, Washington, D.C., Mrs. Margaret Siemen, Davenport, and Mrs. M. M. Miller, San Diego, California; a son Ralph, an aeronautic engineer, was killed in the crash of an experimental plane March 18, 1939, and another son, Herbert, who died at the age of 5; five grandchildren also surviving.

CLAUDE R. WHITLOCK, Indian educator, agency supervisor and Bureau of Indian Affairs official for 45 years, died May 25, 1952, at Washington, D.C., having retired from active service a year previous to residing in Washington; born in Corning, Iowa, October 19, 1880; educated at Teacher's college, Springfield, Missouri; began his long service under the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1905, when he became a day school-teacher on the Chyenne River Reservation in South Dakota; served almost half a century spanning the years that United States troops were in charge of Indian education and when the Episcopal Church also briefly took over school administration of one reservation; for the past fourteen years, until his voluntary retirement last year, was superintendent of the Rosebud (Sioux) Indian Agency, Rosebud, S. Dak.; one of the outstanding accomplishments of his career being the development of a Tribal Land Enterprise for the Rosebud Sioux Indians, designed to aid their economic rehabilitation; a member of the Kiwanis, Mason, Scottish Rite, and the Shrine; the National Federation of Federal Employees, and the Washington Society of Cinematographers; survived by his wife, Mrs. M. Gertrude Whitlock, of 4105 Wisconsin ave. nw., Washington; by his daughter, Mrs. Charles H. Jennings, 4115 Wisconsin ave. nw., librarian with the Department of Agriculture; a sister, Mrs. Mabel Smith, of Hominy, Okla., and a brother, Fred Whitlock, of Eldon, Mo.

GEORGE A. KELLOGG, banker, legislator and land operator, died May 9, 1952, at St. Joseph's hospital, Omaha, Nebraska; born May 19, 1872, at Missouri Valley, Iowa, where he resided his entire life, with exception of occupying a winter apartment in Omaha in recent years; his parents, Lorenzo and Joanna Airis Kellogg, were of English and Scotch descent and long residents of Harrison county; acquired his education in the schools of Missouri Valley and attended Cornell college at Mount Vernon, Iowa, one year before entering the banking business with his father, a pioneer financier, whose capacity for wise and judicious banking he inherited, along with substantial property interests; began as a clerk in the C. H. Duer lumber and coal yard in 1889, and entered the employ of the First National Bank of Missouri Valley as assistant cashier in 1895, and served that institution as president from 1901 until his retirement a few years ago, remaining on its board of directors until his death; held the office of city treasurer a number of years; chairman of the Harrison county Republican committee for the years 1903 to 1905; elected state representative in 1906, serving two terms; besides heavy bank and financial investments owned and supervised operation of over 5,000 acres of Harrison county land; in addition to civic activities was a member of the Masonic order, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Elks and Yoemen.

HENRY EDMOND FRY, attorney and jurist, died May 20, 1952, at Boone, Iowa, the city of his birth, which occurred September 13, 1870; a son of Henry and Mary Fry, the father being one of ten children reared upon the old homestead in Gouverneur, St. Lawrence county, New York, and removed to Boone county in 1861; spent his entire life in Boone, graduated from its high school in 1889, afterward attended Cornell college, and took partial law course at the State University of Iowa, afterward continued its study under the direction of J. J. Snell, of the Boone bar, until qualified for admission to practice, which he began in 1901; had served as an accountant with the local Building and Savings association, and teller in the First National Bank of Boone; associated with John L. Stevens in the practice of law from 1902 until 1914; married in January 1913 to Elsa C. Odel of Red Oak, Iowa, a daughter of H. F. Odel; served as city solicitor two terms, from 1905 to 1909; became a district judge and served from 1915 to January 1951, when he retired, a period of 36 years; a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias orders and the Methodist church; survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Jean Caldwell, also of Boone.

BERTRAM O. TANKERSLEY, teacher, attorney and jurist, died May 30, 1952, at Marshalltown, Iowa; born in Mount Auburn, Illinois, November 26, 1877, the son of Lewis and Lauretta Davidson

Tankersley; graduated from the Mount Auburn schools and attended the Northern Illinois Normal school, and received a bachelor of science degree in 1898 from Maion college in Indiana; received a bachelor of laws degree from Drake University, Des Moines, in 1901, and after practicing law in that city for a time, located at Watertown, South Dakota, also teaching in the schools there; served as county supervisor of schools at Watertown, and worked for the MacMillen book company, returning to Iowa and locating at Marshalltown in the practice of law in 1912; elected county attorney of Marshall county in 1914 and became the city's first municipal judge in 1920; became district judge in 1929, since serving continuously in that capacity; past president of the Marshall county bar and a member of the Iowa State Bar association, the Lions club, the 20th Century club and the Congregational church; surviving are his wife, Grace; two daughters, Mrs. Perry L. Bodie, West Liberty, and Mrs. Loyal Meek, Cedar Rapids; four grandchildren, and one brother, Harry L. Tankersley of Mount Auburn, Illinois.

JOHN ELY BRIGGS, political science professor and historian, died at Iowa City, February 9, 1952; born at Washburn, Iowa, July 30, 1890, son of William J. and Anna Briggs; moved to O'Brien county when a small boy, and later to Eagle Grove, Iowa where he graduated from the high school in 1909; attended Morningside college at Sioux City, and was graduated there in 1913; began graduate work at the State University, received his master's degree in 1914 and his Ph.D. in 1916; edited the *Pallimpsest*, published by the State Historical society for 23 years from 1922, has since been a professor in the department of political science; married Nellie Upham, at Melvin, Iowa, June 19, 1917; surviving with the widow are a daughter, Shirley, of Washington, D.C. and a brother, Wilbur A. Briggs, of LaPorte City, Iowa.

JAMES GOW, playwright, scenarist and journalist, died February 11, 1952, at his home in New York, N. Y.; born in Creston, Iowa, in 1908; engaged as a scenarist and playwright for some years and also newspaper work; collaborated with Arnaud d'Usseau in writing the hit plays, "Tomorrow the World" and "Deep Are the Roots;" also the "Legend of Sarah" and the screen play for "One Night of Love;" survived by his wife, the former Olga Alexander.

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.