

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

WILLIAM EDWIN COTTON, internationally known veterinarian and former superintendent of the Agriculture Department's Animal Disease Station, Beltsville, Maryland, died September 6, 1951, at Washington, D.C.; born September 17, 1866, at Oskaloosa, Iowa, son of George E. and Mary Binns Cotton; after employment over eighteen years in the experiment station at Beltsville, he entered George Washington University and received his DVM degree in 1911; married Grace E. Caskey September 20, 1898, and she died September 11, 1928; since the 1920s much of his time had been devoted to research on undulant fever in humans and its causes; developed the vaccine known as Strain 19, *Brucella Abortus*, now used to immunize cattle against the Brucellosis organisms, bacteria which cause undulant fever in humans; also discovered that the Brucellosis organisms were carried in milk and that they would be destroyed by pastuerization.

Dr. Cotton's studies on animal diseases and their relation to human diseases brought him world-wide recognition; in 1946 he was presented the Borden Foundation Award for his research in diseases in dairy cattle; in 1910 was named assistant superintendent at the station and remained in this position until 1928 when he was appointed superintendent; in the early part of his career did considerable research on tuberculosis in connection with dairy products; moved to Beltsville in 1935 at the same time the station was renamed the Animal Disease Station, and was retired two years later at the age of 71 but quickly took the post of professor of infectious diseases at the Veterinary College of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.

Dr. Cotton did not retire from his teaching position until 1948; lived for the last three years at his home, Brockwood, on Wilson lane in Bethesda, Maryland; wrote more than 75 technical papers on his research in addition to numerous farm magazine articles; formerly was first vice president of the American Veterinary Medicine Association and president of the Research Workers in Animal Diseases in North America; also belonged to the International Veterinary Congress and the United States Livestock Sanitary Association; in 1930 and 1934 was an official United States delegate to the International Veterinary Congresses in London and New York; survived by a daughter, Dr. Cornelia Marie Cotton of the home address; two sons, Edwin Cotton of Gowanda, N.Y., and John C. Cotton of Batesville, Miss., and five grandchildren.

ROBERT JAY COOK, orthopedic surgeon, died at New Haven, Connecticut, October 4, 1951; born in Independence, Iowa, January 6, 1888, son of Justin E. and Bessie Johnson Cook, who were New Hampshire pioneers who settled in Iowa in the middle 1800s, their forebears being among the first settlers in New Hampshire; an outstanding student and athlete in the Independence high school; was graduated from the State University of Iowa with B.A. degree in 1909 and took his medical degree at Johns Hopkins university in 1913; served as resident physician at the Lenox Hill hospital, New York, N.Y., and later as instructor in orthopedic surgery at Harvard Medical school; was with the army medical corps, directing the school of anatomy at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, from 1918 to 1920; began his career with Yale university in 1920, becoming assistant professor of orthopedics on the Harriman foundation, and attending orthopedic surgeon to two major children's hospitals and Griffin hospital in Derby; in 1921 appointed orthopedic surgeon in the department of university health, a position he held until 1925 when named associate clinical professor of surgery in the school of medicine; from 1928 to 1935 was associate clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Yale; active in study of posture and helped found Yale's famous posture clinic; wrote articles on posture for the *New York Medical Journal and Medical Record* and for the *American Physical Education Review*; interested in civic affairs, served as a member of the New Haven board of aldermen from 1925 to 1929; also active in child welfare work; a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical association and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and a member of many other organizations; surviving are his wife, the former Edith Moore Valet, a New Haven attorney; a daughter, Edith, 20, a student at Wellesley college; a sister, Florence Cook, New York, N.Y.; a brother, William E. Cook, of Paris, France; and two nieces, Mrs. John R. Parish of Grinnell, and Mrs. James Hamilton, Independence.

STEPHEN W. STOOKEY, professor of geology and biological sciences, dean of Coe college and twice its acting president, died September 27, 1951, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; born on a farm near Marion, Iowa, April 3, 1859, graduated from the Marion high school and attended Cornell college two years, entered Coe college and graduated as a member of its first class, giving one of the commencement addresses in 1884; received his master's degree in 1887 and became principal of the Manchester high school, two years later advancing to position of superintendent of schools there; in 1891, with his wife, the former Isabel Ione Graham, became a member of

Coe college faculty; assumed duties as administrative assistant to President James Marshall; later became head of the preparatory and biological science departments; organized the department of education and taught courses in both the history of education and the philosophy of education, also German, botany and geology; became dean of the college in 1904 and during that year and in 1905 served as its acting president; for six years following 1908 was president of Bellevue college, now the University of Omaha, but in 1914 returned to Coe college as professor of geology and dean of college; was recipient of the LL.D. degree from Coe in 1906; a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi honorary fraternities, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Iowa Academy of Science, also of the Bahama scientific expedition in 1893 and in 1899 of the dinosaur expedition to Wyoming, both receiving wide publicity at the time; surviving are a daughter, Mrs. R. B. VanCleve of Cedar Rapids, two sons, Stanley C. Stookey of North English and Donald G. Stookey of Fort Worth, Texas, a sister, Mrs. Ida L. Stamy of Webster City, and ten grandchildren.

MILES WILLIAM COLLINS, attorney and real estate man, died at Davenport, Iowa, August 20, 1951; born May 16, 1881, son of the late Miles Augustus and Amy George Collins; represented the third generation of an outstanding Davenport pioneer family, his grandfather, William Sheridan Collins, having settled in the original townsite in 1838, and took part in its growth and development; received his early education in the public schools; was graduated from Grinnell college in 1904, after which he was a member of the Redfield, S.D. college two years; received his bachelor of law degree and that of jurisprudence in 1909 from the University of Chicago; returned to Davenport and entered the practice of his profession, combining legal activity with extensive dealing in real estate for more than forty years; a member of the Iowa and Scott county bar associations and of the National Association of Real Estate Boards; active in historical research and a member of the Pioneer Settlers association of Scott county; a member of Edwards Congregational church, the Y.M.C.A., the Davenport Chamber of Commerce and the Woodmen of the World; survived by five sisters and a niece.

ARCH M. CLAPP, newspaper publisher, died September 12, 1951, at Clinton, Iowa; born February 5, 1879, at Owosso, Michigan, the eldest of three children of U. F. and Orena Taylor Clapp, the father a building contractor; attended elementary and high schools of Owosso assuming duties on the *Detroit Free Press* staff before graduation, after which he was

employed by the *Owosso Press-American* as circulation manager, a position he held three years; continued in newspaper work in subsequent years in Ft. Scott, Kansas; LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Sterling, Canton and Dixon, Illinois; also in Pennsylvania and Missouri, and for several years was the owner of the *Weekly News* at Elizabeth, Illinois; took the management of the *Clinton Herald* in August of 1928, where he has since resided; married Bernice Farrell of Sterling, and to this union were born four children, Mrs. Clapp dying in 1917; married again in 1945 to Hazel Hill Walsh of Clinton, who survives with three daughters, Mrs. L. E. Reed of Dubuque, Mrs. John W. Dailey of Lexington, Ky., and Mrs. Charles Hubbard of Washington, D.C.; engaged in newspaper work for over sixty years, serving in the meantime as a director in both the Iowa Daily Press Association and the Inland Daily Press Association; gave generously of his time to civic affairs and community interests in Clinton; a member of the St. John's Episcopal church, the Rotary club, chamber of commerce, Y.M.C.A., and the Masonic bodies.

MYRTLE EMERT STEMPEL, educator, author and linguist, died at Bloomington, Indiana, Oct. 8, 1951; born in 1874 in Iowa; married June 24, 1895, to Prof. Guido H. Stempel, who had served as principal in high schools at Oskaloosa, Iowa, Kendallville, Indiana, and Litchfield, Illinois; and now professor emeritus of comparative philology at Indiana university, having retired from active work in 1938; succeeded her husband at his retirement as head of that department, and herself retired in 1944, having served as a member of the university faculty for nineteen years; author of Latin in English (with Guido Herman Stempel, 1940) and other writings; received A.B. and M.A. degrees from Indiana and besides her husband and herself, their son, Prof. John E. Stempel, is head of the department of journalism, and another son with the father survive.

HUGH HARRISON, newspaper editor, died at Davenport, Iowa, October 4, 1951; born in Davenport Sept. 10, 1874; son of Charles Harrison; attended Davenport schools, and upon graduation from high school went to Philadelphia and worked in the Wannamaker store for a year and a half, after which he engaged in gathering crop statistics for the Los Angeles chamber of commerce, and worked for a time in a silver mine near Phoenix, Arizona; became a want ad solicitor for the *Denver Republican*, his start in the newspaper field in which he was to continue for more than a half century; returned to Davenport in 1900 and became a reporter on the *Daily Times*; married Roberta Dawes of Davenport October 1, 1901; went with the

Davenport Leader which was merged with the *Democrat*, and in 1905 became city editor, continuing in that post until he became managing editor in 1931, from which position he resigned July 1 last on account of illness; did considerable editorial writing after Ralph Cram's death in 1940; always active in community affairs, and served upon the Davenport Public library board a number of years; a Mason and an Elk, and a Democrat; survived by his wife, one daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Wagner, Glendale, California, and two brothers.

JAMES GRANT WHITNEY, banker, trust officer and businessman, died August 18, 1951, at Atlantic, Iowa, where his entire life had been spent; born January 20, 1864, son of Franklin H. and Elinor Graham Whitney, at Whitneyville, a village just south of the present city, founded by his father prior to the origin of Atlantic, where his father also was the first settler; married Nellie Milner on February 12, 1889, who survives him, with a son-in-law and wife, Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Ash of Council Bluffs, Iowa, two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren, a daughter, Marie Whitney Ash, and a brother, Thomas H. Whitney, having preceded him in death.

Mr. Whitney had become the oldest active businessman in Atlantic, as well as the dean of Iowa bankers, having entered the bank with his father when fourteen years old, continuing until his death; with his brother founded the Whitney Loan & Trust Company bank in 1907, following the death of their father, of which he was the first and only president; served as city treasurer more than fifty years; active in the Congregational church and a director of the Y.M.C.A., and a member of the Elks lodge; organizer of Whitney's hose company, Atlantic's original fire-fighting unit, and the last living member of the founding family of the city, his life having paralleled its growth and development, and looked upon as the unofficial historian, long called "Mr. Atlantic."

GARRETT POLHEMUS WYCKOFF, educator and sociologist, died at at Grinnell, Iowa, October 31, 1951; born at Fairview, Illinois, October 4, 1871, son of Garrett Polhemus and Ann Field Wyckoff; moved to Iowa with his parents and received his early education in the Gilman schools; attended Grinnell college, received his B. A. degree, and his graduate study included three years at Columbia university and three years at the University of Chicago; also attended lectures at the University of London, Berlin university, the Paris Musee Social and the University of Wisconsin; received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Grinnell college in 1934; spent one year as a Russell Sage Foundation Fellow in the New York School of Social Work; united in marriage June 29, 1899, in Gilman, with Florence

Sutherland, who survives him; connected with Grinnell college since immediately after his graduation, continuing for twenty-eight years, in turn being a professor of Sociology, acting professor of Political Science, and professor of economics; left Grinnell in 1921 and taught seventeen years at Tulane university at New Orleans, where he founded a School of Social Work, retiring in 1938 and returned to Grinnell, where he has since resided; organized and directed the League of Red Cross societies in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1919-20, and organized the Czechoslovakian Red Cross at Prague in 1920; was chairman of the Louisiana state library commission at one time and in 1926 organized the first New Orleans Community chest; trained social workers for over thirty years, maintaining at the same time an interest in agriculture which led to his appointment as agricultural economist and advisor for the USDA; made heavy contributions both in money and time to his college and town community activities while in retirement; had celebrated with Mrs. Wyckoff their golden wedding anniversary in June of 1949, and continued as professor emeritus of Grinnell college until his death, his retirement having been in 1941, his remaining years being spent in Grinnell in quiet serenity, surrounded by friends of many years.

MARTIN X. GESKE, lawyer and legislator, died at McGregor, Iowa, October 26, 1951; born at the place of his death in Clayton county, Iowa, in 1870; son of German parents, F. F. and Sophia Geske, both having migrated from Germany to this country; a member of a family of fourteen children; raised on a farm and graduated from the McGregor high school; clerked in a country store and taught rural schools, and with earnings attended and was graduated from the Valparaiso (Ind.) Normal school in 1893, after which he taught in the public schools at Windom, Minnesota, and was superintendent of schools at Lake Crystal, Minnesota; then attended the University of Minnesota for two years and later read law with D. D. Murphy at Elkader, Iowa; and was graduated from the law school at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa; has been in the practice of law at McGregor since his admission to the bar; served as a member of the local board of education at McGregor, also as a member of the council and mayor of the town; a Democrat and was county attorney of Clayton county and elected to the Iowa senate serving as state senator from 1932 to 1941; president of the Clayton county bar association at the time of his death, and in active practice until the last two months prior to his passing; survived by two brothers and four sisters, August, of Chaska, Minn., Albert, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Kate Huebsch, Mrs. Edith Ertz, and Mrs. Amy Heffron all of McGregor, and Mrs. Sadie Mehlhof, Berkeley, Cal.

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