

CORA BUSSEY HILLIS was born at Bloomfield, Iowa, August 8, 1858, and died in an automobile accident near Saint Cloud, Minnesota, August 12, 1924. Burial was in Des Moines, Iowa. Her parents were Cyrus (afterward General) Bussey and Ellen (Kiser) Bussey. Soon after the close of the Civil War General Bussey and his family removed to New Orleans, Louisiana, where Cora grew to womanhood and was graduated from Sylvester Larned Institute, New Orleans. In 1880 she was married to Isaac Lea Hillis. In 1883 they removed to Des Moines. In 1887 Mrs. Hillis was one of the incorporators of the Des Moines Women's Club. She soon began her notable career as a worker and organizer in the cause of child welfare, by securing the first public bath house in Des Moines for children, so they could in safety enjoy the river. In 1898 she attended, in Washington, D. C., the second meeting of the Congress of Mothers, as a delegate from the Iowa Child Study Society, a department of the Iowa State Teachers' Association. Soon thereafter she organized the Iowa Congress of Mothers. She introduced the penny savings system in the Des Moines schools, and in 1901 secured the first children's ward in the Iowa Methodist Hospital. In 1902 she opened a public sewing room in connection with the Des Moines public schools, where children who were out of school for lack of clothing were supplied with garments by mothers' clubs. In 1904 she led in organizing public opinion for a juvenile court law for Iowa, assisted in drafting a bill, and urged it upon the General Assembly, which resulted in its adoption, Iowa thus becoming one among the early states enacting this beneficent system. In 1912 Mrs. Hillis organized in Des Moines a "Save the baby" campaign and personally conducted a fresh air camp for mothers and sick babies. In 1914 she organized the Iowa Child Welfare Association and in 1915 urged on the legislature the adoption of a bill providing for the establishment of a Child Welfare Research Station at the University of Iowa, which was passed in 1917, having as its object the investigation of the best scientific methods of conserving and developing the normal child. This station was the first of its kind in the United States, although several states have since followed. In November, 1923, Governor Kendall appointed The Iowa Child Welfare Commission, making her one of the members. Its duty was to make a thorough investigation of the whole field relating to dependent, delinquent and unfortunate children, and to make recommendations to the governor and the Forty-first General Assembly. Mrs. Hillis assisted in this work, but her death occurred before the report was submitted. In vision as well as accomplishment in her chosen field, child welfare, Mrs. Hillis perhaps had no equal in the country.

---

FRANK EDWARDS LYMAN, JR., was born at Kinsman, Ohio, June 20, 1869, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, April 13, 1925. His parents were Frank E. and Eunice I. Lyman. He came to Des Moines in 1886 and was graduated from East Des Moines High School in 1890. He began

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.