

Necrology of Notable Iowans ...

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Necrology of Notable Iowans ..." *The Annals of Iowa* 35 (1961), 626-632.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol35/iss8/10>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

included "Indian Ceremonial Dance" (piano duet), "Military March" (written and arranged for a complete symphony), "Quintet for Strings," "Sonata for Piano and Clarinet," "Pianoforte Sonata," Flute Quintet," "Introduction and Scherzo" for woodwind quintet, "Divertissement" for woodwind quartet, "Flute Quintet," and "Introduction and Scherzo for Flute and Piano"; survived by one of two brothers, George F. Turechek of Los Angeles, California; a sister, Mrs. Mary Graves, also preceded him in death.

ROBERT EDMUND (ED) HILL, former newspaper publisher, Republican party official, and farm operator, died at his home in Oxford Junction, Iowa, January 16, 1961; born at Elwood November 24, 1895, the son of William S. Hill; graduated from Maquoketa high school, Cornell College at Mount Vernon in 1915, and attended the State University of Iowa; served in the navy during World War I; married at Lost Nation in 1920 to Alma Christensen who died in 1937; edited and published the *Oxford Mirror*, *Wyoming Journal*, and *Lost Nation Press* for 25 years before his retirement from journalism in 1953; became executive secretary of the Republican state central committee in 1941, served as executive assistant to Governor Robert D. Blue from 1945 to 1949, and directed the Iowa campaign of Senator Robert Taft for the Republican presidential nomination in 1952; operated two farms near Maquoketa, and had been an area fieldman, serving 16 northeast counties, with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation for the last six years; married at Maquoketa to Laura Ingals February 12, 1941; was a 32nd degree Mason of Harbor lodge at Lost Nation; survived by his wife and a son, Dr. Robert E. Hill, jr., associate professor at Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana.

JOHN H. DARRAH, retired merchant and former state legislator, died in Kansas City January 12, 1961; born in Wenona, Marshall County, Illinois January 1, 1874, one of the sixteen children of Matthew and Jane (Bryson) Darrah, Scotch-Irish immigrants who settled in the state in 1857; removed with his family to Adams County, Iowa in 1876, went to graded schools until twelve years of age, then worked on his father's farm, attending the Corning Academy a few months each winter; became a clerk in a store in 1894, was placed in charge of a branch store at Cumberland in Cass County the following year, purchased the limited stock of goods from his employer and in 1896 opened a small notion store at Chariton which grew into one of the largest department stores in southern Iowa; was president of the Chariton school board for several years, elected to the city council in 1904, Republican state representative from Lucas County in the fall of 1905 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Eli Manning, and re-elected in November, 1906 and 1908; returned to the General Assembly as state senator from the Fourth district, composed of Lucas and Wayne counties, in 1912, serving in the 35th and 36th sessions; owned and operated his mercantile business till the family moved to Kansas City in 1926; his

wife preceded him in death, passing away in 1944; described as a generous, public-spirited, high-minded man.

EMMET DOUGHERTY, public relations director and former newspaper reporter, died at his home in Washington, D.C., January 6, 1961; born at Ottumwa, Iowa in 1884; began his newspaper career as a reporter on the *Ottumwa Courier*, left the St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* to become a reporter and day city editor for the Washington, D.C. *Times* in 1913, joined the Washington Bureau of International News Service in 1917, and the Washington bureau of the New York *Herald-Tribune* the following year, being remembered by the press as "a gentleman of the old school"; became director of public relations for the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment and had charge of its Washington office from 1928 to 1933; later was public relations director for the Distilled Spirits Institute, and the Millers' National Federation; retired in 1955 after fourteen years as director of public relations for Catholic University, and had since been engaged in general public relations work and free lance writing in Washington; served two terms on the board of governors of the National Press Club; survived by his wife, Margaret J., a daughter, Jane, and two sons; Robert E., Silver Spring, Maryland, and John C. Dougherty with the Department of the Army.

William Becker, retired pharmacist and former state legislator, died at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, January 22, 1961; born in Elkader, Iowa, March 26, 1874, the son of German-born parents, John and Caroline Stemmer Becker; graduated from Elkader high school in 1890, attended the State University of Iowa college of pharmacy and became a registered pharmacist in 1891; established a drug store at Elkader in partnership with his brother, John, January 18, 1892; married to Mollie Schmidt in 1899, a daughter being born to them in 1907; assumed sole ownership of the business in 1907 and operated the pharmacy until its sale to his nephew, George H. Schmidt, in 1916; was a member of the Elkader school board ten years, elected Republican state representative from Clayton County in 1914, and re-elected in 1916, 1918 and 1920; served as mayor of Elkader from 1922 and 1924; named an Iowa Pioneer Lawmaker in 1935, continued to make his home in Elkader, had been in semi-retirement in recent years, but remained interested in pharmacy and periodically assisted in the prescription department of Schmidt's Rexall Drug store; qualified as a 50-year pharmacist in 1941, would have completed 69 years as a registered pharmacist in March, was one of the oldest registered pharmacists in Iowa, and also was a 50-year member of the Masonic lodge and Eastern Star; his wife, Minerva, died April 5, 1953; survived by a step-son, Dr. H. D. Meyer, Evanston, Illinois.

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.