

Fred Durbin

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DAVID LENOX, SR., inventor and industrialist, died at Marshalltown, Iowa, February 14, 1947; born in Detroit, Michigan, April 15, 1856; left an orphan at the age of seven when his father was killed in action in the civil war; learned to be a machinist in Chicago's then young industries as a boy and came to Marshalltown in 1880 with merely a bag of tools; with his brother, Talbot, actually, even more of an inventor than David, started out in business together, operating a little machine shop at Marshalltown, their first big enterprise being the trowel, which they turned over to the Williams Brothers; then came the throatless metal shear, pumps, electrical engines and other equipment which they sold to Ryerson Brothers, now a big Chicago, Ill., machine works; his biggest invention a pump which later also went to Ryersons; helped on many of the other inventions, but after he and Talbot got started, David's role was chiefly that of the business man, the Lenox inventions becoming the foundation of what is now the Marshalltown Manufacturing Co. In addition to their mechanical genius, these men had a lot to do with the development of the Cooper, Fisher and Dunham industries; helped to perfect the Lennox furnace and gave the company his name, selling out forty years ago to the present owners. Mrs. Lenox died in 1912, the year he retired from active business. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. R. E. Keyser, Marshalltown, and a son, David, jr., Denver, Colo.

FRED DURBIN, banker and legislator, died at Malvern, Iowa, December 14, 1946; born at a farm home near Emerson, Mills county, Iowa, May 31, 1876, son of Joshua and Almira Durbin, who came to the county from eastern Iowa four years previous in a covered wagon, which they continued as their residence until a new house could be erected for them to occupy; educated in the schools of the vicinity; graduated from Western Normal college at Shenandoah in 1896, later attending the State University of Iowa and graduated in 1898 from the law school; entered the banking business at Malvern in 1899, and assisted in organizing the Malvern National bank, serving successively as cashier and president, the institution changing its organization in 1920 into the Malvern Trust & Savings bank, and he continued as its president until 1946, when he retired as an officer but continued as a director; married Mary Christy November 27, 1901, and they had one daughter, Dorothy, now Mrs. Leo Hoefler, of Omaha, Nebraska; elected in 1917 as state representative from Mills county and re-elected in 1919; maintained an interest in farming his entire life, as well as active in civic and community affairs; a member of the Masonic bodies, the Methodist church and a Republican; suffered a stroke about eleven years prior to his death, though continued to look after business affairs until the past year.

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