

Iowa's Notable Dead ...

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

Recommended Citation

"Iowa's Notable Dead ..." *The Annals of Iowa* 34 (1957), 154-160.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol34/iss2/15>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

Seismological Society of America, Sigma Nu, Phi Delta Phi, Schoolmasters' Club of California; chairman Independent Republicans, San Francisco, 1909-12, and Republican County Committee 1912-13; an Episcopalian and a member of the following clubs: University, Pacific Union, Monterey Peninsula, Menlo Country; author of booklets: "Outline of the Founding of the Leland Stanford Junior University" and "The Educational Ideals of Jane Lathrop Stanford."

NORMAN ISAAC MENZER, retired merchant and civic leader, died at Creston, Iowa, May 25, 1957; born in Lithuania in 1883, came to America as an immigrant boy with his parents when five years of age, his family locating in 1889, at Fontanelle, Iowa, where they launched a mercantile business, the old Menzer store still being operated; orphaned by death of his father when a boy of 10, entered the store as a helper and upon graduating from high school joined the store force with his mother full time in 1904, and joining with his brother-in-law, Sam Friedman, later purchased the business, then operating it as partners until 1929; married Henriette Landau, July 7, 1920, and removed to Creston in 1929, when he acquired the Strass drygoods store, which was sold in 1934, and launched a women's ready-to-wear store there; suffered a heavy loss by a terrific fire in 1942, that swept the whole business section of east Maple street, but rebuilt and continued as one of Creston's leading business houses, later also operating stores in Chariton, Centerville and Atlantic, assisted by his son, Calman Menzer and others of the Menzer family; retired in 1953 after 54 years in business; took leading part in community affairs, in the chamber of commerce, a past president of the Rotary club and of the Salvation Army board of directors, a director of the First National bank, a 33rd degree Mason, an Elk; active in untold community enterprises, including Red Cross drives, Boy Scout programs, the United Fund campaigns and USO activities; honored many times by the community for public-spirited generosity to the needy and unfortunate; survived by his widow and two children, Calman Menzer of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Mary Jane Solomon of Boston, two sisters and five grandchildren.

FRANK B. HALLAGAN, lawyer, former judge, legislator, soldier and public official, died at Des Moines, Iowa, July 2, 1957; born in Franklin county, Illinois, August 16, 1889; educated in the public schools and Valparaiso university, Valparaiso, Indiana, and received his law degree from that institution in 1914; had served in Company F, 23rd U. S. infantry from 1907 in the Philippine Islands and the Mexican border; married Pearle Kirkpatrick of Royalton, Illinois, July 6, 1914, and moved to

Des Moines that year, becoming general counsel for the National Life Insurance association; during World War I was an instructor in the officers' training school at Camp Lee, Virginia; returned to Iowa, to practice of law as general counsel for the Merchant's Life Insurance company; appointed judge of the Des Moines municipal court, serving in 1927-28; during World War II was chief legal officer of selective service in Iowa, retiring shortly after the end of the war with the rank of brigadier general; represented Polk county in the Iowa house of representatives in 1939; during period of martial law in Iowa served as special assistant attorney general and aid to civil authorities; was Des Moines corporation counsel under Mayor Heck Ross; was grand patron of the Eastern Star in 1928 and 1929 and head of the Des Moines consistory in 1946; also was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and College Avenue Christian church; in recent years was associated in law firm with James P. Irish and Berry O. Burt in the law firm of Hallagan, Irish and Burt; survivors include his widow, Pearle, and a daughter, Mrs. William Marks, Jr., both of Des Moines; a brother, Harvey of Bloomington, Illinois, and a sister, Mrs. Charles Sursa, Carbondale, Illinois.

COL. CHARLES ROSS GREENING, USAF, survivor of the World War II raid on Tokyo and one of the war's most colorful heroes, died at Bethesda Naval hospital at Washington, D.C., March 29, 1957; born at Carroll, Iowa, in 1915, and after removal to Tacoma, Washington, became a star athlete there and a fine arts graduate in 1936 from Washington State College, Pullman, Washington; enlisted in the Air Corps in 1937, the year he married Dorothy Watson; as an Air Corps captain was credited by the then Col. James (Jimmy) Doolittle with designing a 20-cent bombsight for the 1942 attack on Tokyo so that no secret bombsight would fall into enemy hands; was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Silver Star; the flight commander who successfully dodged the enemy in Asia, North Africa and Italy succumbed to endocarditis, a heart lining inflammation; praying for his recovery from this 2-year illness were many residents of five towns in northern Italy, where he was shot down and eluded German troops for more than a year; grateful to residents of Masarolis, Italy, and other villages, who risked their lives to help him hide from German troops, he was arranging economic aid for them at the time of his death; despite their efforts to hide him, was captured, then recaptured after an escape, and sent for the remainder of the war to Stalag Luft 1, a prison camp in Germany; helped his fellow captives meet prison hardships by teaching them to paint and work with their hands; moved to Washington in 1949 for several Pentagon assignments;

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.