

Iowa's Notable Dead ...

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tended Iowa State college at Ames, the State University of Iowa and Drake University, receiving a law degree from the latter in 1913; became a law clerk for the Fidelity and Casualty Insurance Co. in New York in 1913 and 1914, and then returned to Des Moines, where he entered general law practice and served as claim agent for the same company in 1914 to 1916; appointed federal referee in bankruptcy for the southern Iowa district September 1, 1916, and held that position 15 years except for time spent in service in World War I; active in Democratic politics most of his life; a delegate to a number of national and state conventions and was a party leader without becoming a candidate for office; served as Democratic national committeeman from 1939 to 1944; was general counsel and a director of the Insurance Plan Savings and Loan Association and president of the Des Moines Building Co.; belonged to Kappa Sigma and Tau Psi fraternities and the Knights of Columbus, of which he was a district deputy for a number of years; survived by his widow, Marie, his mother Mrs. Thomas Comfort of Mason City, a brother, George P. of Des Moines, a son, Frank P. of Des Moines, a daughter, Mrs. Calvin Manning of Sterling, Ill., and four grandchildren.

ELMER A. JOHNSON, lawyer and legislator, died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October 21, 1955; born in a lumber camp at Werner-ville, Juneau county, Wisconsin, November 29, 1871; son of John and Kate Burke Johnson; came with parents to Chester, Howard county, Iowa, in 1877, where he grew to manhood upon a farm; obtained early education in rural schools, taught school, read law in John McCook's office in Cresco and in 1899 graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa; admitted to the bar the same year and subsequently practiced law at Lisbon in Linn county; served in the Spanish-American war with Co. I of the Fiftieth Iowa infantry regiment; was married June 5, 1901, to Ella Kettering of Lisbon, who died in 1903; again married December 14, 1905, to Iva M. Strong of Lisbon; served in the Iowa house of representatives three terms, which included four sessions; began his practice of law in Cedar Rapids in 1919 and his combined years as an attorney both in Lisbon and Cedar Rapids was 56 years; a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans, Iowa Consistory, El Kahir Shrine, Star of the West Knights of Pythias lodge, the Chamber of Commerce, the Linn county, Iowa and American Bar Associations and St. Paul's Methodist church, also formerly a member of Linn County Farm Bureau and the Kiwanis club; survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Erroll L. Miller of Cedar Rapids.

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