

Iowa's Notable Dead ...

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owned the *Illinois Farmer*, Chicago; inherited 51 percent of the capital stock of the Homestead Company upon his father's death, and subsequent to assuming control of the property sold it to John and Henry Wallace of *Wallace's Farmer*, who combined the two farm papers, since being known as *Wallace's Farmer and Iowa Homestead*; the venture of the Wallaces ending unsuccessfully, whereupon Pierce purchased the plant from receivership in 1932 and since continued the publication with Donald R. Murphy as editor and his son, Richard S. Pierce as associate publisher since 1950; married Florence Prather, mother of Richard S. Pierce and they were divorced in 1929; married Mrs. Laura Rawson Coffee, who died in 1934, leaving three daughters, two of whom were adopted by Mr. Pierce; survived by the widow, the former Dr. Grace O. Doane, they having resided in the former Coffee-Francis home at 4140 Grand avenue, Des Moines.

JULIUS A. NELSON, farmer, banker and legislator, died at Atlantic, Iowa, July 24, 1955; born on a farm north of Atlantic, January 14, 1872, and resided in Cass and Audubon counties all his life; son of Danish parents, Peter and Marie Nelson; attended rural schools and the Atlantic high school, and a graduate of the Atlantic Business college; married Elizabeth Brown January 1, 1902 and they lived on the same farm west of the Atlantic Golf and Country club for 49 years; when 21 was elected clerk of Oakland township, Audubon county and served until he moved to Benton township, six years later; served as Benton township trustee six years and after moving to Grove township became school board secretary and treasurer; elected state senator in 1919 and served until 1928; served as vice-president and director of the Farmer's Savings Bank at Atlantic and at one time a director of the Federal Land bank in that district; was formerly president of the Cass County Mutual Insurance association and the Atlantic Building and Supply company, being a director of these organizations at the time of his death; surviving are the widow, two sons, Donald, living on the west coast, and Gail residing north of Atlantic, a daughter, Mrs. Margery E. Martin of Red Oak, three sisters, ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

GEORGE B. PERKINS: banker, city and county official and legislator, died at Sac City, Iowa, October 4, 1955; born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, August 11, 1874; came to Sac City in 1896 and since resided there; active in community and official life and became identified with the Sac county district court in 1906; was a state bank examiner for a period and on January 1, 1905 became president of the First National bank, Sac City; was an Iowa legislator in both house and senate, serving in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth General Assembly as a representative

and in the Fortieth, the Fortieth extra and the Forty-first General assemblies in the senate; was mayor of Sac City and long regarded as one of Sac City's leading citizens; his mother died in 1941 at Fond du Lac aged 105 years; served for 20 years as treasurer of the independent school district of Sac City; was married in June, 1899 to Lola May Early; a member of the Presbyterian church and several fraternal organizations including Masonic bodies, Iowa Pioneer Lawmaker's association; survived by his widow, one son, George Perkins of Big Fork, Minnesota, two daughters, Mrs. C. H. Jeglum of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Eloise Kibbie of Sac City, a sister, Miss Frances B. Perkins, of Fond du Lac, and two grandchildren.

CHARLES RAYMOND FISCHER, farmer, banker and public official, died September 8, 1955, at Des Moines, Iowa; born on a farm near Turin, in Monona county; son of George and Mary Fischer; attended rural schools and local high school, and also attended University of Nebraska and Des Moines university; in early maturity was engaged in farming and later in banking at Turin and Onawa in Monona county; became assistant budget director of Iowa in 1924, serving four years; served as corporation clerk in the office of secretary of state in 1931 and 1932; appointed state insurance commissioner in 1939, continuing in that position until 1947; was clerk of a legislative committee on reorganization of state government from 1947 to 1949, when reappointed state insurance commissioner and served in that position until his death; had previously been connected with several mutual insurance associations; a Republican and active in many state campaigns; suffered for several years from ill health and spent many winters in Tempe, Arizona; survived by his widow, Naomi Bennett Fischer; one son, George D., of Norwalk; three brothers, Lewis of Onawa, Walter of Castana and Chester A. of Cleveland, Ohio; one sister, Mrs. W. S. Whitlock of Turin, and two grandchildren.

WILLIAM J. KEEFE, attorney and jurist, former resident of Clinton, Iowa, died in Bronxville, New York, September 14, 1955; born in Clinton, November 17, 1872; son of Thomas and Mary Miles Keefe; attended the schools of Clinton and was graduated from the University of Iowa law school in the class of 1894; began the practice of law in Clinton and served two terms as county attorney of Clinton county; married Annabel Carroll of Davenport on June 12, 1912; served as chairman of the Clinton county Democrat central committee in 1932; appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal bench as judge of the U. S. Customs court in 1933, serving in New York city, the family moving east at the time of his assuming the office; retired from office in 1947 and continued his residence in

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