

Iowa's Notable Dead

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TRUMAN S. STEVENS, lawyer and jurist, died at Des Moines, Iowa, August 19, 1950; born on a farm near Montour, Tama county, Iowa, December 20, 1864, where he lived until 1881, and moved with his parents to a farm near Bagley, in Audubon county, Iowa; attended the public schools, graduated from the Guthrie county high school at Panora; taught school for a year and a half, being superintendent of schools at Bayard, Iowa; entered the law course at the State University of Iowa, graduating in 1890, in the same class with former Congressman Chas. E. Pickett, of Waterloo, and U. S. Senator Wm. S. Kenyon, of Fort Dodge; located at Hamburg, Iowa, in the practice of law in 1892; served as county attorney of Fremont county one term; appointed judge of the Fifteenth Iowa judicial district February 1, 1917, and to the supreme court of Iowa April 25, 1917; elected as supreme court judge in 1918, and re-elected in 1922 and 1928; had twice served as chief justice of the high court in 1923 and 1928; married in 1923 to Cora Patterson, who in 1948 preceded him in death, they having no children living, one daughter, Velma, having died December 14, 1910, at the age of thirteen, in memory of whom by provision in the will of the deceased a trust fund of \$75,000 is established, for the education of deserving girls in Drake University, Des Moines; served as president of the Iowa state bar association in 1923; entered the law firm of Cosson & Cosson in 1935, after retirement from public life, and at the time of his death the firm was known as Cosson, Stevens, Hauge & Cosson; a member of bar associations, the Masonic bodies and the Baptist church.

JOHN K. VALENTINE, attorney, former legislator and lieutenant governor, died at Centerville, Iowa, October 12, 1950; born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, February 5, 1904; received his early education in Centerville public schools; was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1926, and the law college of the State University of Iowa in 1929; formed a partnership that year with his father, H. E. Valentine, his brother Robert later joining the firm, and has since engaged in the practice of law at Centerville; elected state senator in 1932, and quickly became a leader among the Democrat members; appointed as a member of the state tax commission in 1935, and resigned in September 1936, to become a candidate for lieutenant governor, to which position he was elected in November and presided over the senate in the subsequent session; a candidate for re-election in 1938, but defeated by

B. B. Hickenlooper; appointed U. S. district attorney for southern Iowa in 1939, which office he resigned in 1940 to become the Democrat candidate for governor of Iowa, but was defeated by Geo. A. Wilson; became general counsel of the Iowa Southern Utilities company at Centerville in 1941, and a director in 1942; entered the U. S. navy and served as Lieutenant Commander until 1945; after which he devoted his entire time to the utility company, becoming vice president, which position he held until his death; served as a member of the state advisory committee on new rules for the procedure of the Iowa supreme court; held memberships in and was active in a large number of fraternal, civic and social clubs of Centerville, being a leader always in community projects and civic movements; survived by his wife, Billie, whom he married November 30, 1932, a brother, Robert, and a nephew, Dennis, his father dying April 2, 1937, and his mother on March 6, 1946.

LOUIS CHARLES KURTZ, hardware merchant and banker, died October 1, 1950, at Des Moines, Iowa, where he was born on November 28, 1867, son of L. H. Kurtz, pioneer tinsmith and hardware man; educated in Des Moines schools and took a business course at St. Benedict's college, Atchison, Kansas; entered the business with his father in 1884, at sixteen, and became president of the L. H. Kurtz Co. upon his father's death in 1923; started the plumbing and heating division, and later the wholesale hardware division of the business in 1905, and extended the firm's operations to Mason City, Iowa, in 1943; four generations of the family ultimately being in the management, including his father, himself, two sons and two grandsons; elected a director of the German Savings bank in 1904, and of the Des Moines National bank in 1915; became chairman of its board in 1922 and president in 1926, and after consolidation with the Iowa National bank became chairman of the board of the Iowa-Des Moines National bank in 1929; elected to the Des Moines school board in 1897, became its president in 1899, again in 1900 and the third time in 1902; served as Des Moines postmaster 1911-1915; active in club and political circles, being delegate from Iowa to the national Republican convention in 1920; was a zealous supporter of Sen. A. B. Cummins in his campaigns; married Alice E. McDonnell, of Des Moines, June 23, 1896, who survives him, they having celebrated their fifty-fourth wedding anniversary in June; surviving with Mrs. Kurtz are two sons, Louis Clarence, Bernard D., eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; was a member of the Des Moines club, the Pioneer club, the Elks, the Greater Des Moines committee, the Knights of Columbus, the Dowling club, the Holy Name society, and the 50-Year club of the Iowa Retail Hardware association.

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