

## Comfort Harvey Van Law

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WARD BARNES, newspaper publisher, died at Iowa City, Iowa, March 15, 1947; born on a farm near Fedora, South Dakota, December 4, 1883; came to Iowa when he was thirteen years of age, at the time his father, A. H. Barnes, purchased the Eagle Grove Eagle, the family moving there in 1896; graduated from the Eagle Grove high school in 1902; spent a year in the printing office and then entered the State University of Iowa graduating in 1907; taught English and public speaking at Burlington High school and at Washington High school at Cedar Rapids; bought a half interest in the Eagle newspaper in 1909, and became the sole owner in 1918; married Maude Morford of Iowa City in 1909; consolidated the papers at Eagle Grove in 1927; took in as a partner in the publishing business Maurice B. Crabbe in 1934, when his father retired from editorial work upon the paper, and in 1940 died at the age of ninety-two; served as president of the Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce, president of the Rotary club, a member of the Wright county Republican committee, on the board of directors of the Security Savings bank, and master of the Masonic lodge; became president of the Iowa press association and the National editorial association; a winner of the 1938 "master editor" award of the Iowa Press association; was active in politics serving as campaign manager for Gov. Robt. D. Blue; in 1940 was an Iowa delegate to the national Republican convention in Philadelphia; besides his wife and a brother Solon, is survived by two children, Mrs. Mary Baxter of Middleton, Ohio, and Arthur Barnes, professor of journalism at the State University of Iowa.

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COMFORT HARVEY VAN LAW, attorney and legislator, died at Marshalltown, Iowa, April 20, 1947; born on a farm in Keokuk county, near Tilton, Iowa, July 19, 1869, a son of Catherine and Robert Van Law; educated in the rural schools, and his family lived for a time at Brooklyn, Iowa; at the age of eighteen he was teaching school and continued until he began to read law in 1892 in the office of Maj. John F. Lacey of Oskaloosa; attended the old Oskaloosa college and in the fall of 1893 entered the State University of Iowa and graduated in 1896, receiving his M. A. degree the following year and was admitted to the bar in October 1897; opened a law office in Marshalltown in 1898, practicing there as an attorney for forty-eight years; married Alice Luscombe at Iowa City August 2, 1898, Mrs. Van Law dying in January 1933; served as city attorney from 1901 to 1905; served as state senator 1908 to 1912 in the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth General Assemblies; active always in community and church affairs, serving as chairman of the official board of the Marshalltown Christian church for more than thirty years and often filled the pulpit as a lay speaker when the church was temporarily without a pastor; survived by a

son, Ted, an electrical engineer with the Southern California Edison company at Los Angeles, and a daughter, Mrs. Gilbert Blue, the former Alice Van Law, who has been prominent in Marshalltown as a teacher and secretary of the Y. W. C. A.

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GEORGE M. TITUS, lawyer and legislator, died at Muscatine, Iowa, April 9, 1947; born in Cayuga county, New York, May 19, 1856; moved with his parents to Michigan when eleven years old and attended school there, the family later moving to Iowa where he attended the Baptist college at Wilton, in the meantime started teaching school at the age of fifteen, and continued for seven years; undertook the study of law in 1876 in the office of A. N. VanCamp at Wilton; later studied in the office of Allen Broomhall and was admitted to the bar in 1880; associated in law partnership with DeWitt C. Richman until 1886 and then joined with D. V. Jackson in forming the firm of Titus & Jackson which continued until Mr. Jackson's election as district judge; served as state senator from Muscatine county in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eight General Assemblies; author of the Titus amendment to the Iowa constitution which changed from annual to biennial elections; also author of the legislation establishing the state library commission; active in state and local civic affairs and at time of his death was president of the P. M. Musser library, a position he had held since 1901; president of the Titus Loan & Investment company and a past president of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' association; married June 1, 1881, in Muscatine to Ella Broomhall, who died May 5, 1907; again married October 10, 1909 to Hannah Jefferson Hutchinson, who also preceded him in death, those surviving being one son, G. Raymond Titus, of Muscatine, and a daughter, Miss Harriett Titus, of Red Oak, Iowa.

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JOHN T. HANSEN, farmer and legislator, died at his farm home in Sheridan township, Scott county, Iowa, March 15, 1947; born in Davenport, Iowa, November 28, 1858; son of Margaret and Henry Hansen who came to Iowa from Germany in 1851; educated in the rural schools of the county; learned the blacksmith trade, but went to farming when he became of age; married to Emma Harst of Scott county, March 12, 1887, who died October 6, 1897, leaving four children, two girls and two boys, both the latter having served in the U. S. armed forces in World War I; served upon the board of education in Sheridan township, as justice of the peace and as vice president of the Scott county farm bureau; a member of the Iowa House of Representatives for sixteen years from 1916 to 1932; a member of the Woodmen of the World and a Republican.

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