

## Abigail Gardner Sharp

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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CAPTAIN HARRISON CUMMINS McHENRY was born in Des Moines, Iowa, May 21, 1890, and died on the Baccarat sector of the battle line in France, March 5, 1918. He attended the McHenry grade school, the West Des Moines High School, and the Law Department of Drake University, being graduated from the latter in 1914. For the next two years he engaged in the practice of law in Des Moines with his father's firm, McHenry, De Ford & McHenry. In 1912, while still in high school, he enlisted in the National Guard, becoming a member of the sanitary detachment under Dr. Wilbur Conkling, but in 1913 was transferred to Company B, Third Iowa Infantry, under Captain W. A. Graham. He was made a corporal, then a sergeant, and was second lieutenant in Mexican border service in 1916. In February, 1917, the captain and first lieutenant being detailed to other duties, Lieutenant McHenry was in command on their home-coming trip. He was promoted to captain of the company in March, 1917. He had laid off his uniform but about a month when he was called into recruiting service. He left Iowa September 9, 1917, with the One hundred and sixty-eighth United States Infantry, formerly the Third Iowa, and sailed October 4. The vessel returned for repairs, but finally sailed November 14 and landed at Liverpool December 1. They reached France December 12 and by February 21, 1918, were in the front line trenches. This regiment was part of the Forty-second Division which was the first division of the American Army to take over a sector. Company B, which Captain McHenry commanded, was occupying a portion of this sector at No. 6 (Malgrejean Farm) when, on the morning of March 5, at about 4:30 o'clock the Germans first opened up a raid on American lines. Captain McHenry had just left his post of command and gone to another position to order a rocket sent up as a signal for a more general barrage, when a German shell made a direct hit where he stood and killed him instantly. He was the first officer among Iowa troops to be killed in action. The body was brought home, reaching Des Moines November 4, 1921. It lay in state in the rotunda of the State Capitol Saturday afternoon and Sunday forenoon, and Sunday afternoon public funeral services were held in front of the capitol in the presence of many thousands, and burial was made in the Gold Star plot of the Woodland Cemetery. He was an able and gallant young officer and popular with his command.

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ABIGAIL GARDNER SHARP was born in Seneca County, New York, in 1843, and died at the Victoria Sanitarium, Colfax, Iowa, January 21, 1921. Burial was at Arnolds Park. Her father was Rowland Gardner. She was taken when only a child by her parents to Steuben County, New York. In 1853 the family migrated to Ohio, and in 1854 they located at Shell Rock, Iowa. In 1855 they removed to Clear Lake, and on July 16, 1856, they located on the shore of West Okoboji

Lake. On March 8, 1857, her parents and all the others of their household except herself were massacred by a band of Sioux Indians. In all about forty persons in that vicinity, men, women, and children, were killed, and three young women whose husbands had been killed, and Abbie Gardner, were taken captive. They were made slaves and burden-bearers on the long march west of several hundred miles. Two of the women were murdered on the way by the captors, one was sold to an Indian who returned her for a ransom, and Miss Gardner was taken to the place where now stands the village of Ashton, Spink County, South Dakota, on the James River, to a great Indian village. Two Wapeton Indians, sent by the Indian Agent in Minnesota, came to the village and purchased her, and took her to St. Paul, where she was received by Governor Medary, on June 22, 1857. She returned to a sister who lived at Hampton, Iowa, and on August 16, 1857, was married there to Casville Sharp. They lived in Bremer County, then in Grundy County, for a time in Missouri, and in Kansas, then in Shell Rock, Iowa. Her health had been broken by the hardships she endured when she was a captive. Three children were born to them. In 1885 she wrote and had published "History of the Spirit Lake Massacre and the Captivity of Miss Abbie Gardner," which ran to six editions. In her later life Mrs. Sharp obtained the original Gardner cabin on the shore of Okoboji Lake and collected many relics of the times of the early settlement of the region. For several years she spent the summers in the cabin, meeting the throngs of visitors.

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JENNESS J. RICHARDSON was born in Vermont March 22, 1839, and died in Davenport, Iowa, February 19, 1917. He attended common school from the time he was seven years old until he was seventeen. In 1857 he came to Davenport to help his older brother, D. N., who had come out three years previously and had become owner of the *Davenport Democrat*. J. J. worked on the paper as a compositor three years and one year as foreman. It became apparent to the brothers that they would have to obtain more income or lose their paper to their creditors. At that time very little advertising was done in newspapers, the value of it being unknown to the business man. J. J. went among the business men of Davenport soliciting advertising and succeeded so well that he and his brother were soon out of debt. He then went to the larger cities soliciting advertising, an unprecedented thing to do. He succeeded only fairly well at Chicago, but in 1864 he went to New York on the same mission. For the next fifteen years he was on the road most of the time as the pioneer advertising solicitor, making New York, Boston, Baltimore and all the large eastern cities. His success was phenomenal. About 1880 his health becoming poor he quit the road and interested himself in importing and breeding Jersey cattle. This he continued for twenty-five years, winning great success in this field. He also became interested in politics. In 1880 he was made a member of the Democratic Congressional Committee and in 1888 was chosen as the Iowa member of the Democratic National Committee, and was placed on the executive

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