

## Wilbur Scott Conkling

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"Wilbur Scott Conkling." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1926), 470-470.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5031>

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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WILBER SCOTT CONKLING was born in Henry County, Iowa, September 17, 1873, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, June 11, 1926. His parents were William W. and Mary Frances Conkling. He obtained his early education in the public schools of Mount Pleasant, in Howe's Academy, and in Iowa Wesleyan University, after which he took a business course in Highland Park College, Des Moines, was graduated in pharmacy from Drake University in 1895, and from the Medical Department of the same institution in 1897. He had enlisted March 18, 1896, as a private in Company H, Third Regiment, Iowa National Guard, and April 8, 1898, was transferred to the Hospital Corps. He was appointed hospital steward of the Fifty-first Regiment, Iowa Volunteers, April 26, 1898, and embarked from San Francisco, November 3, 1898, for the Philippine Islands, was appointed first lieutenant and assistant surgeon of the Fifty-first February 27, 1899, was mustered out of the United States service November 2, 1899, and arrived at Des Moines with members of the regiment November 6, 1899. The following December he left for the East and took post-graduate work in Philadelphia and New York City, returning to Des Moines in January, 1900, and entering the practice of medicine. In January, 1901, he was appointed county physician of Polk County, which position he held several years. On April 11, 1900, he was appointed first lieutenant and assistant surgeon, Fifty-first Regiment, Iowa National Guard, and was promoted to major and surgeon of Fifty-fifth Regiment May 16, 1906. He reported at the duty call of the President of June 18, 1916, on June 20, and was mustered into United States service June 26, went on duty on the Mexican border, and was mustered out February 23, 1917. He again reported at the duty call of the President of July 3, 1917, on July 15, and was mustered into the United States service July 20. His regiment, the One Hundred and Sixty-eighth, sailed for France November 14, 1917. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Medical Corps March 7, 1919, and was honorably discharged May 31, 1919, having been commanding officer of the sanitary detachment of his regiment from its embarkation to September 2, 1918, and commanding officer of the One Hundred and Seventeenth Sanitary Train from September 3, 1918, to April 25, 1919, and having been with his commands on the front in the engagements at Baccarat, at Luneville, and in the sectors of Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne. On July 15, 1921, he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Medical Corps, Iowa National Guard, and on September 30, 1921, was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Medical Corps of the Officers Reserve Corps. His death occurred from pleurisy engendered by exposure to mustard gas while on the front in France. His service both in a military and professional way, was of the highest order.

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