

**W. F. Severa**

ISSN 0003-4827

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**Recommended Citation**

"W. F. Severa." *The Annals of Iowa* 21 (1938), 398-399.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.6023>

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Sheldhal, where he operated a grocery. In 1887 when the Northwestern Railroad was built he left Sheldhal and helped to establish the town of Slater, where he helped organize the first bank, and continued to live the balance of his life, holding prominent positions of public trust in the affairs of the town. Elected to the 21st and the 22nd General Assemblies of the state, he had a shaping hand in the establishment of the Old Soldier's Home in Marshalltown. Since 1923 he has served the House of Representatives continuously as doorkeeper. In 1927 he was elected State Commander of the Iowa Department of the G. A. R., and in 1936, was elected National Grand Commander. A member of the Lutheran Church, he was one of twelve men who, in 1890 at St. Paul, organized the United Norwegian Lutheran Church.

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JOHN PARKER RISLEY, State Commander of the Iowa Department of the G.A.R., died March 27, 1938 in Des Moines, Iowa. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 1846, and was brought to Iowa by his parents in 1856 when they settled in Clinton County. He first enlisted in the Civil War by running away to join the 75th Illinois Infantry, but was discovered by his parents and returned home. A few days later he succeeded in joining the 20th Iowa Infantry, in which, together with the 29th Iowa, he served throughout the remaining two years of the war. Following the war he engaged in farming and the grocery business until 1915, when he was appointed chief oil inspector for the state. In 1922 he was appointed adjutant general of the Iowa G.A.R., also assistant adjutant general of the national G.A.R., in charge of the records of the Iowa G.A.R. veterans. In this office he continued for fifteen years, until June, 1937, when he was elected state commander of the Iowa G.A.R.

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W. F. SEVERA, business man and philanthropist, died in Cedar Rapids March 29, 1938. Born on September 3, 1853, in Chrudim, then in Austria, now Czechoslovakia, he came to the United States at the age of fifteen in 1868. Locating first at Cedar Rapids, then at Belle Plaine, he returned to the former city in 1880 to establish a successful pharmaceutical business. In 1903 he founded a wholesale drug company bearing his name that has been eminently successful. In addition to his drug interests he dealt in real estate, founded the Bohemian American Savings Bank, which later became the American Trust and Savings Bank, and was also one of the founders of the Iowa Electric Power and Light Company. As notable as his business enterprise was, his interest in the welfare of those of his native country and the aid he offered them is equally noteworthy. He established the Council of Higher Education of American Students of Czech Extraction which had its first headquarters in Cedar Rapids. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of this council he was presented with the Order of the White Lion to America by Thomas G. Masaryk, President of the Czechoslovak Republic.

After the World War Mr. Severa became interested in the welfare and education of children in the war stricken areas of his native land, and in 1925 established at Brn the American Home School. For many years he was a loyal supporter of the *Damista Matice Skolska* in Cedar Rapids which sought to aid the Czech youth of that city to better know their mother tongue.

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CASSIUS CLEM STILES, former Superintendent of the Public Archives Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, died in Des Moines May 8, 1938. He was born in Madison County, Iowa, October 17, 1860, the son of Thomas W. and Mary Ann (Stockdale) Stiles. After attending Simpson College, 1880-81, he taught school until 1892. In the following year he removed from Patterson, Iowa, to Winterset, becoming in the same year deputy auditor of Madison County, serving as deputy until 1897, when he became auditor, which position he held until 1901. In January, 1902, he came to Des Moines as a deputy in the office of the Secretary of State, remaining there until 1907, when the Public Archives Division was established in the Historical, Memorial and Art Department. As the first superintendent of that division, Mr. Stiles wrote a manual of classification and filing of archival material widely used in other states. He was also a frequent contributor to the *Annals of Iowa*. In varying position, he had been in public service fifty-eight years. He was a Methodist in religion, and a Republican in politics.

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FRANCIS R. KORNS, lawyer, died as the result of an accident in his home in Des Moines, Iowa, June 29, 1938. He was born January 1, 1873, in Dixon, Illinois, the son of Joseph and Martha (Moore) Korn. After graduating from the public schools of Dixon, Illinois, Mr. Korn took a commercial course at Steinman University, later he took the scientific course at the Northern Illinois Normal, from which he was graduated in 1894. A short time later he came to Des Moines, where he entered Drake University, graduating from the law department in 1899. His home since has been Des Moines. He was chairman of the committee which successfully sponsored the Des Moines plan of government in 1908, was president of the camp community service at Camp Dodge from 1917-19. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Drake University from 1909 until the time of his death.

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DWIGHT N. LEWIS, Mayor of Des Moines and prominent worker among boys, died at his home in Des Moines May 1, 1938. He was born of Quaker parents in Oskaloosa, Iowa, May 26, 1869. He received his education at the East Des Moines High School and at Drake University, he

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