

Geis Botsford

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ican College of Surgeons of the United States and Canada, a member of founders of the American Board of Surgery, a past president of the Northwest Conference of Medical Service, and a member of the Western Surgical society, the American Association of Railway Surgeons and the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons; was a Mason and various local clubs, and is survived by his wife and two daughters.

WILLIAM H. GEMMILL, educator and public official, died at Osceola, Iowa, May 22, 1945; born at White Lake, in Ontario, Canada, March 14, 1871, and brought to the United States in infancy, his parents removing that year to a farm in Keokuk county, Iowa, near South English; attended rural schools and graduated from the South English high school in 1889; entered Iowa State college at Ames and graduated in 1894, with degree of Bachelor of Science; during same years taught several terms of county schools; took educational work in history and economics in Drake university, Des Moines college and Highland Park college, receiving his Master of Arts degree from the latter in 1911; served as principal of the schools at Gibson, Iowa, two and one-half years, of the schools at Mechanicsville, Iowa, two years; was county superintendent of schools of Keokuk county, Iowa, four years, superintendent of schools at Dallas Center from 1901 to 1911, superintendent of the Carroll, Iowa, schools from 1914 to 1917, and resigned to become secretary of the Iowa State Board of Education, which position he held 23 years, resigning in 1936 and was appointed superintendent of documents for Iowa State College at Ames; married in 1895 to Birdia D. Richards, who survives, with a son, Dr. John Gemmill, a member of the faculty of City College, New York; and three daughters, Mrs. James Davenport, Osceola, Iowa; Mrs. Robert Morris, Des Moines, and Mrs. W. H. Brown, Burlington. Mr. Gemmill was a Republican, a member of the Methodist church, a Mason and an Odd Fellows; also to National Education and Iowa State Teachers Association.

GEIS BOTSFORD, former newspaper man and realty broker, died at his home in Alburg, Vermont, May 20, 1945; born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, April 9, 1869, son of Austin N. Botsford, attorney; spent his entire life in Iowa until removing to Vermont five years ago; educated in the Fort Dodge schools, and in 1890 as a young man became a reporter upon the *Sioux City Journal*; came to Des Moines 46 years ago and first was police reporter upon the *Des Moines Leader*; married Stella VanPelt in 1889; served as secretary of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce from 1908 to 1916; became active in real estate circles and president of the Des Moines Realty Board in 1929 and chairman of the taxation com-

mittee of the Iowa Association of Real Estate boards in 1932; also a member of the Des Moines Board of Adjustment and Review; director of the Home Owners Loan Corporation, but later resigned to become deputy agent of the Federal Farm Loan commissioner for the Omaha district; resided in late years on a farm near Altoona, Iowa. Mrs. Botsford and a niece, Mrs. Ernest Naylor, of Alburg, survive him. Mr. Botsford was a member of the Episcopal church and a Mason.

JAMES I. GIBSON, veterinarian and public official, died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 6, 1945, while sitting in his car in a parking lot; born near Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, January 27, 1865; graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1887; married to Minnie M. Colgrove, at Denison, Iowa, December 31, 1892, who survives with one daughter, Mrs. Linn Culbertson, of Des Moines, and a grandson, James I. Mason of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with whom the deceased was making his home. Dr. Gibson served as Iowa State Veterinarian four terms from 1899 to 1919, after which he moved to Bloomington, Illinois, where he was instrumental in organizing the Illinois State Veterinarian Medical association. In 1922 he served as livestock commissioner at St. Joseph, Missouri; was a past president of the U. S. Livestock Sanitary association; a salesman of the Jen-Sal Laboratories, a distributor of veterinary supplies, of Kansas City for fourteen years until his retirement in March 1944. He was a member of the First Methodist church of Cedar Rapids, the Masonic order and the Shrine, and for many years was active in Republican state political circles.

MICHAEL JAMES TOBIN, lawyer and banker, died at his home in Vinton, Iowa, May 20, 1945; born at Oswego, New York, May 1, 1865, a son of Richard Tobin; educated in Oswego public schools, Cornell college (Iowa) and the New York Law School, New York City; married Lucy Myrtle Dosh at Davenport, Iowa, on July 18, 1889, to whom were born three sons, all of whom survive, and the sons had practiced law many years in Vinton with their father; first read law in the office of Gilchrist & Whipple; in 1893 admitted to the Iowa bar; in 1897 became Benton county attorney; from 1905 to 1913 served as U. S. Collector of Internal Revenue for the northern district of Iowa; in 1910 was elected director and vice president of the State bank of Vinton; a member of the American and Iowa bar associations; a Republican and long active in county and state organizations and a delegate to several Republican national conventions; was an extensive land owner and active in community affairs, but had been in retirement since 1941.

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