

## Iowa's Notable Dead ...

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

---

### Recommended Citation

"Iowa's Notable Dead ...." *The Annals of Iowa* 31 (1951), 77-80.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.7226>

Hosted by Iowa Research Online

## *Iowa's Notable Dead . . .*

---

LOUIS HEROLD BROWN, industrialist, economist and soldier, died at Delray Beach, Florida, February 26, 1951, a few days after arrival from his home at Deer Park, Greenwich, Conn.; born at Creston, Iowa, February 13, 1894, son of Lewis Henry and Arminta Cole Brown; attended State University of Iowa and worked as a librarian and research assistant in the State Historical Society to finance his college course; was graduated with A.B. degree in 1915, joined the First Officers Training camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, obtained a commission and served in the A.E.F. in France as a captain in World War I; began business career in the sales department of the Fort Wayne Corrugated Paper Co., in two years becoming assistant sales manager; joined Montgomery Ward & Co. in Chicago, and in eight years became assistant general operating manager of all their plants; upon T. E. Merceles, their president, becoming president of the Johns-Manville Corporation in 1927, he took Mr. Brown with him as his assistant, and upon the death of Mr. Merceles in 1929, Mr. Brown was named president, a post he held until he was named chairman of the board September 10, 1946; as one of the country's leading exponents approved monetary policies was named February 7 last by Eric A. Johnston, economic stabilization administrator, as a member of an advisory committee to aid in solving current stabilization problems; in 1947, at the request of Gen. Lucius D. Clay, then commander of the military government in the United States zone in Germany, Mr. Brown made a tour of inspection in Germany and reported valuable recommendations; during the second World War served as an adviser to Lieut. Gen. Levin Hicks Campbell, Jr., Chief of Ordnance of the United States Army, and received the Medal for Merit for this service.

Mr. Brown was regarded in business circles as one of the leaders among industrial executives who hold that business management is a trusteeship, a principle, which he announced in 1929, embodied by him in a report called "Creed of Management" and presented at the Seventh International Management Congress in Washington in 1938, following which the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania awarded to Mr. Brown in 1939 the Vermilye Medal for "outstanding contribution in the field of industrial management;" was a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; in 1929 was chairman of the Noise Abatement Committee of New York, and in 1930 and 1931 was a member of the President's Emergency Committee for Employment;

also had been a director of the New York World's Fair and at one time was director of the National Conference Board; also general chairman of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth Annual Roll-Calls of the New York Chapter, American Red Cross, and chairman of the Citizens War Relief Committee of the New York Chapter of the Red Cross during its special drive in 1940, and served as a member of the lay council of the New York Academy of Medicine; surviving are his widow, the former Mary A. Allen, and three daughters, Mrs. Roselind B. Townsend of Deer Park, Greenwich, Conn.; Mrs. William H. Sweney, Jr., and Mrs. C. E. Bayliss Griggs, both of St. Paul.

---

LOUIS B. SPINNEY, educator and banker, died at Ames, Iowa, January 25, 1951; born in Bradford, Illinois, May 27, 1869, son of Joseph and Julia Bevier Spinney; moved with the family to Cass county, Iowa, and grew up on a farm there; enrolled at Iowa State college in 1889; was graduated with degree of B.S. in electrical engineering in 1893, and immediately became a teacher in astronomy and mechanical engineering; awarded degree of Doctor of Science in 1948; later in 1893 became a student at Berlin and then at Zurich, Switzerland, and in 1894 in Cornell university, returning to Iowa State in 1895; became head of physics and electrical engineering work there in 1897, the two subjects being given separate departments in 1909 and he remained head of the physics division; had been vice president of the Ames Trust & Savings bank since June 1908, and in 1929 was president of the Ames Kiwanis club; active in Ames community affairs, and in 1916 elected to the city council; in 1926 became the first president of the Ames park commission; married Beryl Anna Hoyt at Carroll, Iowa, August 22, 1904; a member of the American Physics society, the American Institute of Electrical Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Illuminating Engineering society, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, and the Iowa Academy of Science of which he was the past president; served in many positions of trust and honor under the various presidents of the college, and in 1944 was named to receive the Chicago Alumni Merit Award which goes to ISC alumni for distinguished service; survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Beryl Spinney Burns, of Greenwich, Connecticut; and a son, Louis Bevier Spinney, Jr., of Arvada, Colorado.

---

THOMAS P. FAIRWEATHER, city official and sportsman, died January 25, 1951, at Des Moines, Iowa; born April 23, 1879, on a farm near Naperville, Illinois, the son of John Fairweather; moved when five years old with the family and a group of Scotch neighbors to Cherokee county, Iowa; attended rural

school, Cherokee high school, and a term in college; taught school near Cherokee four years, and later spent two years as an instructor in a business college in Sioux City; became secretary of the Sioux City Western League baseball club in 1907, and was part owner of the club in 1909 through 1911; bought into the Des Moines Western League club in 1912 and also served as its secretary 1912 through 1920; graduated from Drake university law school in 1915 as president of his class; elected to the Des Moines city council in 1916 and mayor in 1918; became a traveling representative of A. J. Reach & Co., Philadelphia, in 1921 continuing through 1935; became president of the Western baseball association in 1934, serving through 1949; served also as president of the Three I baseball league from 1937 to the past year when he retired; owned and operated several farms near Des Moines, devoted to raising livestock; never married and was active in a number of fraternal orders; organized and drilled a military company in the Highland Park section of Des Moines from which twenty-seven enlisted in the armed forces of World War I; served on draft and ration boards, and active in community affairs; was vice president of the former Euclid Avenue State bank and for a time taught a business course in Highland Park University of Commerce, and was its vice president.

---

ELMER J. MURPHY, public relations and newspaper man, died April 14, 1951, at St. Louis, Missouri; born at Bellevue, Iowa, in 1879, and graduated from Catholic university at Washington, D.C.; first worked as Washington correspondent for the old *New York Herald*, but joined the United States Chamber of Commerce public relations staff in 1923, after having for many years written a monthly Washington news letter for the Irving Trust Co. of New York; during a long career had written numerous articles for magazines and was one of the authors of "The Mirrors of Washington;" a charter member and active in the National Press club; retired from the public relations work in 1942, and since 1949 made his home at St. Louis, where funeral services were held, followed by burial there; surviving are his widow, Mrs. Patrice Egan Murphy, daughter of the late Maurice Francis Egan, once Minister to Denmark; a daughter, Mrs. Katharine M. Cramer of St. Louis, and a son, Jerome Murphy of Los Angeles.

---

C. V. FINDLAY, educator and legislator, died at Fort Dodge, Iowa, March 3, 1951; born at Paw Paw, Illinois, September 12, 1866, and came with his parents, James A. and Olive Goodyear Findlay, to Clay county, Iowa, in 1871, in a covered wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen, afterwards moving to Webster county, Iowa, in 1877; attended the rural schools and taught several years be-

fore he entered Highland Park college at Des Moines, becoming one of the members of its first graduating class in 1891; became county superintendent of schools of Webster county the following year; became president of Tobin college there in 1900 and headed the school for thirty years; elected mayor of Fort Dodge in 1923, holding that office ten years; served as president of the League of Iowa Municipalities a part of that period and chairman of the organization's legislative committee eight years; served as state representative from Webster county from 1917 to 1921, and was state senator from the Webster-Calhoun county district serving from 1941 to 1949; a political leader many years, and author of a textbook, "Parliamentary Law Made Easy;" married June 29, 1899, to Mabel Southwick of Lake Mills, who survives with one son, Dr. James F. Findlay, president of Drury college, Springfield, Missouri; a member of the Congregational church, the Masonic order, a Republican, and a member of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa.

---

ELLISON ORR, archeologist and scientist, one of Iowa's leading authorities on Indian mounds and relics, died at Waukon, Iowa, January 25, 1951; born June 14, 1857, in a log cabin near McGregor, Iowa, and received his education in the Postville, Iowa, schools; served as clerk of the Allamakee county district court at Waukon from 1899 to 1903; a member of the board of trustees of the Iowa State college at Ames for several years, and was general manager and superintendent of the Waukon exchange of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company until his retirement in 1931; supervised Indian mound excavations in various parts of Iowa, and during the depression years planned and took charge of excavation by the old WPA administration along the Mississippi river from southern Iowa to the Minnesota border; earned a doctor of science degree from Cornell college, Mount Vernon, Iowa, through his archeological surveys, conferred August 16, 1949; found by the Iowa Conservation commission officials to be an inexhaustible source of information on Indian mounds in Iowa; married Mary Belle Makepeace November 2, 1881, who survives, with one daughter, Mrs. Florence Carter, at home, and three sons, Harry Orr, an Allamakee county engineer, who formerly surveyed with his father, and Fred, both of Waukon, and James, of Los Angeles.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.