

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Trinkbine, Robert Spencer Senator _____

Represented Johnson County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 9 Jul 1828 Offord, Butler County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Rebecca Finch
Rebecca Finch 27 Apr 1852 Offord, Ohio

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was the builder of the Iowa State Capitol Building;
as a contractor he could scarcely be equaled.

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Contractor and builder; farmer

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 10th, 11th General Assemblies 1864, 1866

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 8 Jul 1901 Des Moines, Iowa; buried Woodland Cemetery,
Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

8. Children Charles A.; Edward C.; C. A.; Harry
Walter

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He lived at Olfred, Ohio until 1852 although he made trips to Iowa resolved to settle in Iowa eventually.
- After marriage they moved to Iowa City, Iowa. He had already built a house in anticipation of coming there to live after marriage.
- He engaged in his contractor and lumber business.
- He built the School for the Blind at Vinton, Iowa, elected superintendent of construction of the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. His family moved to Des Moines in 1880 so he could daily oversee the construction of the Capitol. The Capitol was finished in 1886 and he was superintendent of the erection for 13 years.
- When finished he was appointed a member of the board of public works of Des Moines.

BEYOND DOUBT

so Facts Must Convince
Every Des Moines
Reader.

t which follows in the experience of
ident of Des Moines. Incredulity
t exist about the statement be-
It can easily be investigated.

James D. Grace, of 612 West
th street, says: "Mr. Grace suf-
severely from kidney troubles and
atic pains across the loins. These
exceedingly severe after he retired.
he first thing in the morning it was
at effort for him to rise. The se-
ns from the kidneys were scanty
ontained much brick dust deposit.
ctored and doctored but obtained
if any relief. Hearing about Doan's
y pills, I got him a box at Hurl-
di store. He used them as di-
l, and a little over a box produced
arkable change in his condition.
ealth was better after finishing the
nent than it had been for a long

sale by all dealers. Price 50c. Fos-
liburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole
s for the United States.

remember the name — Doan's — and
no other.

titles, of which he was full to the
faded out of sight under the shad-
the habit which enslaved Coleridge
louded his whole life. Many of
idge's poems are little more than
ild dreams of a narcotic fiend, ele-
y and forcibly put, and many of
beautiful in a high degree, but all,
arly all, merely dreams. Coleridge
led to the Chautauqua audience
probably, than any other of the
and novelists Mr. Vincent has lec-
on in this series. Coleridge is not
tractive man to the ordinary read-
le is known chiefly, Mr. Vincent
as the man who took opium and
"Rhyme of the Ancient Mari-
ing the greater part of his
Coleridge struggled against the
th of the habit. In his middle age
s in the habit of taking from two
s a week to a pint a day of lauda-
He went off to the country homes
frequent friends to get away from
ld associations and the influence of
abit, but it was hopeless. He never
ver the habit; and it undoubtedly

DEATH OF R. S. FINKBINE

Builder of the State Capitol Passed
Away Monday, Succumbing
to Paralysis.

Was One of Iowa's Best Men—Stricken
Saturday Evening—Wife and Four
Sons Survive Him.

Robert Spencer Finkbine died at his home,
808 Nineteenth street, at 1:30 Monday morn-
ing. His death was due to paralysis and
was entirely unexpected, as he had been up
and even down town during the past few
days. Saturday afternoon, accompanied by
one of his grandchildren and a companion,
he attended the ball game. He sent the
boys home after the game and himself
stopped at a store to make some purchases,
going home on the car, and appearing per-
fectly well. Upon arriving home shortly af-
ter 6 o'clock he sat down to read while
waiting for supper. Upon being called he
did not respond, and one of the servants
went into the room to see what was the
matter. He had partially arisen from his
chair, but had been taken with a stroke of
paralysis and was in an unconscious condi-
tion. Word was immediately sent to his
children who live in the city, and the doc-
tor was summoned. All aid was futile,
however, and he breathed his last early
Monday morning.

Mr. Finkbine had had two previous strokes
of paralysis, one at the city hall in October
of 1892, and another at his home, February
12, 1896. From the last he never entirely re-
covered, suffering an impediment in his
speech. Of late, however, he had more
nearly recovered, and seemed to be in good
health for a man of his years. Had he lived
until today he would have been 73 years old.

R. S. Finkbine was born at Oxford, But-
ler county, Ohio, July 9, 1823. He lived there
until 1852 almost continuously, although he
had made trips to Iowa and resolved to set-
tle here before that date. April 27, 1852, he
was married to Miss Rebecca Finch, at Ox-
ford. Almost immediately after their mar-
riage they removed to Iowa City, where Mr.
Finkbine had already visited and where he
had built a home in anticipation of his re-
moving there after his marriage. At that
time Iowa City was the capital of the state,
but a very small town. There were no rail-
roads, and it was necessary to make the
journey from Keokuk in wagons. Mr. Fink-
bine began working at his business, which
was that of a contractor and builder. He
was remarkably successful, and by his in-
tegrity and industry commanded the re-
spect and confidence of all who knew him.

It was during his residence in Iowa City
that he was elected to the legislature, and
served two terms. He was first elected in
1863 and re-elected in 1866, serving the win-
ters of 1864 and 1866. Johnson county was at
that time a strongly Democratic county,
which it still remains, but Mr. Finkbine
was elected as a Republican. It is one of
the notable instances of the general respect
in which he was held that he could over-
come the Democratic majority in a county-
like Johnson and be twice elected to the
legislature from that county. His career
in the legislature was an honorable one, and
it was during that time that he became ac-
quainted with the prominent men of the
state. Governor Kirkwood was one of his
best friends, and he never bestowed his
friendship more worthily. Mr. Finkbine
was a leader in the house, being chairman
of the ways and means committee in his
first term. Before his removal to Des Moines, Mr.
Finkbine was at different times employed by
the state, though not in an official way. He
held the main collar for the blind at Vin-

success. No doubt an immense crowd
will be at the park this evening to see
the ascension.

IN THE COURTS.

Judge McPherson will not convene
court here to approve accounts of offi-
cials as was expected. Instead he will
convene court at Council Bluffs July 11
for that purpose.

A petition in bankruptcy was filed
Monday by Henry E. Perry, of Madrid.
His liabilities are \$725, and his asset
\$375.

A notice of appeal was filed Monday in
the case of J. F. Lane against George J.
Wright.

A writ of attachment was issued
against John Latimer in favor of J. I.
Marshall Monday.

F. F. Merriam has sued Elnora M.
Merriam for divorce, alleging desertion.
The case has been agreed to, it is under-
stood. Mrs. Merriam filed an answer
Monday. Ample provision for alimony
is made.

Monday's court record:
10085—Equity. J. F. Lane vs. George J.
Wright, et al. Motion of appeal.
Law—J. F. Marshall vs. John Latimer.
Writ of attachment.

POLITICAL NOTES.

A conference of Cummins managers was
held in the city Sunday to talk over the
general situation, and especially the re-
sults of Saturday's caucuses in Jackson
county. Not a great many of the Cummins
men were here, but among those who were
here were Tom Way, Ed Brown of Council
Bluffs, accompanied by another prominent
Ninth district politician. Several of the lo-
cal Cummins men were also consulted du-
ring the day. The Ninth and Second di-
stricts were the principal topics of the dis-
cussion. Mr. Ed Brown, of Council Bluffs
is said to have charge of the Cummins in-
terests in Pottawattamia county. He is a
prominent lawyer and real estate man there
and has been working in the interests of Mr.
Cummins ever since the campaign began. He
hopes to be able to secure a Cummins dele-
gation from Pottawattamia, or at least one
that will be for him even if it votes for M.
Herriott on one ballot. Whether he will be
able to throw the county to Mr. Cummins
or not is a question. He is not Ed C. Brown
of Sheldon.

Mr. Cummins and Tom Way left for Jack-
son county Monday morning to see what
could be done. Mr. Way was greatly chag-
grined at the turn affairs had taken there
but had not given up hopes of carrying the
county for Cummins. The rest of the cau-
cuses will be held this week and every ef-
fort will be made to carry them for Cum-
mins. The convention will be held Thurs-
day.

It is claimed by the Cummins men that
all of the delegates from Charles City to
the Floyd county convention are for the
candidate. Only one of the wards instruc-
ed its delegates, and, although the other
delegates are said to be Cummins men,
is not known certainly that all of them are
for him. The convention is not to be held
until July 28. Trewin may win out in the
county yet.

Only one convention is to be held today
that of Jones county. Its primaries have
already selected delegates known to be fa-
vorable to Cummins. It is expected that
but that he will have the delegation from
the county.

a week to a pint a day of auda-
n. He went out to the country homes
influential friends to get away from
old associations and the influence of
habit, but it was hopeless. He never
over the habit; and it undoubtedly
ruined his days.

Coleridge was a wonderful talker. He
could talk by the hour, as long as he
was tender, and when he was giving
his justly celebrated lectures on
Shakespeare, he would go on talking
most of his audience had left the
room. His Shakespearean lectures are
fine as any ever written. But his popu-
larity as a lecturer waned before his
bit of disappointing prospective listen-
ers.

He demanded that his audience
give him the closest and promptest at-
tention, but recognized no right of his
listeners to demand promptness and regu-
larity on his own part. Often his audi-
ences waited half an hour or an hour,
then left the hall, the word going
around that "Mr. Coleridge was ill, as
usual."

In 1798 Wordsworth and Coleridge
traveled out to introduce the new poetry
of England. They were to collaborate in
the production of a book of poems, and
"The Ancient Mariner" was to be the
opening poem. Wordsworth helped a lit-
tle and in a few instances Coleridge calls
attention in the poem to lines that
Wordsworth selected; but Wordsworth
saw that he was out of his element,
and gave the work over entirely to Cole-
ridge. Coleridge had a prodigious ca-
pacity to produce, but no will power to
go on with what he had once laid aside.
He constructed the first half of "Chris-
tel," one of the most beautiful poems in
the language, but was absolutely un-
able to complete it. His best friends ad-
vised him not to try, for they knew that
it would only spoil. Procrastination was
his setting sin with Coleridge. His house
was full of bits of work begun but never
finished. He once said he could fill a
volume with the titles and plans of
works that he never brought into being.
The characteristics of this new poetry
that Coleridge and Wordsworth, with
others, introduced, were unconven-
tionality, freedom, freshness, sweetness.
Wordsworth used to pick out the com-
monest, most prosaic subjects, and write
poems on them, to show that there is
no poetry where it is least suspected.

EVENING AT CHAUTAUQUA.
The Imperial Hand Bell Ringers to-
gether with Isabel Garghill Beecher fur-
nished a most enjoyable programme at
Chautauqua Monday evening. A
large audience was present and applauded
both enthusiastically. The bell ring-
ers seem to have captured the Chautau-
qua, and are proving extremely popular.
Isabel Garghill Beecher made a good im-
pression and will prove a drawing card
for her several appearances today
and tomorrow.

Wanted—Early this morning one hun-
dred young men and young ladies to as-
sist the Chautauqua committee. Will
be well paid. Apply early today at room
Youngerman Block.

GOLF CLUB.

The Golf and Country Club has ar-
ranged a social tea for the State Regis-
trars on Monday, July 13. C. H. Martin and W. J.
Idell have been appointed captains,
and they will choose teams of twelve

was a leader in the house, being chairman
of the ways and means committee in his
second session.

Before his removal to Des Moines Mr.
Finkbine was at different times employed by
the state, though not in an official way. He
built the main college for the blind at Vin-
ton, and later the two wings. Other large
contracts, both of a public and private na-
ture, were taken and carried to completion
by him. As a contractor he could scarcely
be equalled, and his estimates on various
works were considered almost infallible.

Mr. Finkbine was appointed a member of
the capitol commission in 1873. The other
members of the commission were Peter A.
Dey, of Iowa City; Maturin L. Fisher, of
Farmersburg; John G. Foote, of Burlington.
Soon after the appointment of the commis-
sion Mr. Finkbine was elected superintend-
ent of construction. This threw practically
the whole work of erecting the building
upon his shoulders. He had to make fre-
quent trips to Des Moines and spent most
of his time here. His family remained in
Iowa City, however, in order that the chil-
dren might have a better opportunity to
secure an education. In 1880 the family re-
moved to Des Moines as Mr. Finkbine's
time all had to be spent here overseeing the
work of constructing the capitol.

The erection of such a building was un-
doubtedly one of the greatest pieces of
work ever entrusted to one man as it prac-
tically was to Mr. Finkbine. He was the
only member of the commission who was
on the ground all the time and knew abso-
lutely everything that was being done.
Strangers have marveled that such a struc-
ture could be built for the comparatively
small sum of \$3,000,000. That it was built
for that sum is largely due to R. S. Fink-
bine. There were no "steals" connected
with its construction. He knew how much
money was required to do a piece of work
and could not be deceived by contractors.
His honesty was never questioned and he
never allowed the state to lose a dollar
which it was possible to save. No poor
work was permitted to go into the con-
struction of the building. It stands today
as solid as it did on the day of its com-
pletion. If St. Paul's in London stands a
monument to Sir Christopher Wren, the
architect; the capitol of Iowa stands a
monument to Hon. R. S. Finkbine, the
builder.

The capitol commission made its last re-
port in 1886, which was approved by the
legislature. For thirteen years Mr. Fink-
bine had given all his time to superintend-
ing the erection of this building. After it
was finished he worked at different things
for a few years until in 1890 he was ap-
pointed member of the board of public
works of Des Moines. In that position he
soon made himself as useful to Des Moines
as he had been to the state in the construc-
tion of the capitol. It was useless for con-
tractors to make bids that were too high.
He would sit down and make estimates
himself and tell them for just how much
the work ought to be done. In every case
the contractors had to come around to his
figures. Since his connection with the board
ceased he has lived a retired life.

Many things happened in his official ca-
reer that were calculated to try the pa-
tience of almost any man. Yet no one
could ever say that he had seen Mr. Fink-
bine angry. He met all men affably and
had a way that was impossible to resist.
Few men attain to it. In his whole official
career no taint of dishonesty ever attached
itself to any of his dealings and the im-
plicit confidence which he inspired in every-
one was deserved. In his death Des Moines
and the state loses one of its best citizens.
His many friends all over Iowa and beyond
its borders will be grieved to hear that he
is no more. All day Monday friends called
to express their sympathy.

Mr. Finkbine's funeral will be held Wed-
nesday at 2:30 p. m. from the family home
where he had lived for the past fifteen
years. It will probably be conducted by
Dr. A. L. Frisbie. He was a member of no
order or organization, but was a member of
he joined the Odd Fellows but his member-
ship had been allowed to lapse. The tender
of the capitol in which his body might lie

that of Jones county. Its primaries have
already selected delegates known to be
favorable to Trewin, and there is no do-
but that he will have the delegation from
the county.

Moerlein's Beer, it's nutritious; 1 for it.

OBITUARY.

J. B. Chadwick, aged 88, died at 5 p.
yesterday at the home of his daughter, M.
P. C. Kenyon, 760 Eighteenth street.

Funeral announcement later.

Died—Mrs. Mary Johnson, aged 71 ye-
at her home, East Third and Race
streets, Sunday, July 12.

The funeral will be held from the ho-
at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday.

Died—Willbur Gordon, aged 5, Mon-
morning at the home of his parents,
and Mrs. Wm. Gordon, of Des Mo-
street.

He had been ill for some time with
pneumonia.

Funeral from parents' residence, 1302
Molnes street, Wednesday afternoon at
o'clock.

Died—Mrs. Becker, Monday at 1 p. m.
the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. M. L-
in Valley Junction.

Funeral services will be held at Char-
Tuesday or Wednesday.

Died—Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Funk, a
77 years, at the home of her daughter, J
Captain V. P. Twombly, East Ninth str-
Sunday at 11 p. m.

The remains were taken to Keosauqua
interment.

Moerlein's Beer, finest in the world.

Herr Kaufmann's Rejection.

Berlin, July 8.—The rejection of
Kaufman, who had been elected sec-
burgmaster of Berlin, is attributed
the Liberal and Radical press to Em-
or William personally. Several news-
pers assert the whole Prussian cab-
was in favor of confirming Herr Ka-
mann's election to this post. The
eral and Radical press tonight annoy
that they will not yield in the matter,
insist upon the unanimous re-elec-
Herr Kaufmann. In this connection
Berliner Zeitung says: "This does
mean opposition to Emperor Will-
but it is an appeal from the badly
formed to a 'better to be informed'
peror." The Vossische Zeitung, refer-
to Herr Kaufmann's rejection, sa-
"Now is the time for Count Von Bue-
the imperial chancellor, to show whe-
or not he possesses backbone."

Train Robbers Got Away.

Butte, Mont., July 8.—An Inter-Mo-
tain special from Malta says all hope
capturing the Great Northern train
robbers has been abandoned. One by
the men who accompanied the author-
ities in the chase to the southward
returned, and the general opinion
appears to be that the robbers have
good their escape. The men compo-
the sheriff's posse sent out from Glas-
have despaired of capturing the
and the chase has been given up
this end of the line. Hopes are
tained that the robbers may be ap-
hended while on their way out of
state, by the authorities of the south-
counties of Montana, but it is the be-
that the robbers have scattered and
taken different routes.

Cleveland, O., July 8.—Judge Wing
of the United States circuit court, issue
warrant for the arrest of

England. They were to collaborate in production of a book of poems, and "Ancient Mariner" was to be the long poem. Wordsworth helped a little in a few instances Coleridge calls attention in the poem to lines that Wordsworth selected; but Wordsworth saw that he was out of his element, gave the work over entirely to Coleridge. Coleridge had a prodigious capacity to produce, but no will power to stick with what he had once laid aside. He constructed the first half of "Christabel," one of the most beautiful poems in language, but was absolutely unable to complete it. His best friends advised him not to try, for they knew that could only spoil. Procrastination was settings in with Coleridge. His house full of bits of work begun but never finished. He once said he could fill a volume with the titles and plans of poems that he never brought into being. The characteristics of this new poetry Coleridge and Wordsworth, with others, introduced, were unconventionality, freedom, freshness, sweetness. Wordsworth used to pick out the commonest, most prosaic subjects, and write poems on them, to show that there is poetry everywhere it is least suspected.

EVENING AT CHAUTAUQUA.
The Imperial Hand Bell Ringers together with Isabel Garghill Beecher furnished a most enjoyable programme at Chautauqua Monday evening. A large audience was present and applauded enthusiastically. The bell ringers seem to have captured the Chautauquans and are proving extremely popular. Isabel Garghill Beecher made a good impression and will prove a drawing card for her several appearances today tomorrow.

Early this morning one hundred young men and young ladies to assist the Chautauqua committee. Will sell paid. Apply early today at room Youngerman Block.

GOLF CLUB.

The Golf and Country Club has organized a local team play for next Saturday, July 13. C. H. Martin and W. J. Bell have been appointed captains, they will choose teams of twelve members each, and there promises to be a lively contest for supremacy, and support for the losing team will have to pay the supper at the club house that evening. The contest will be 18 holes, match play; the side winning the greater number of holes winning the match. The names of the respective teams will be announced later, and doubtless each member will be seen by his captain and urged to put himself in the best possible shape for the game. This is the first contest of the kind which they have had this year, and the indications are that it will be very interesting. The usual refreshments will be served at the club house by the ladies' committee, and all those desiring to be present are urged to notify the chairman, Mrs. J. C. Cummins.

DOCTORS' PICNIC.

The Pathological Society and State Legislators will leave the Center street

The erection of such a building was undoubtedly one of the greatest pieces of work ever entrusted to one man as it practically was to Mr. Finkbine. He was the only member of the commission who was on the ground all the time and knew absolutely everything that was being done. Strangers have marveled that such a structure could be built for the comparatively small sum of \$3,000,000. That it was built for that sum is largely due to R. S. Finkbine. There were no "steals" connected with its construction. He knew how much money was required to do a piece of work and could not be deceived by contractors. His honesty was never questioned and he never allowed the state to lose a dollar which it was possible to save. No poor work was permitted to go into the construction of the building. It stands today as solid as it did on the day of its completion. If St. Paul's in London stands a monument to Sir Christopher Wren, the architect; the capitol of Iowa stands a monument to Hon. R. S. Finkbine, the builder.

The capitol commission made its last report in 1888, which was approved by the legislature. For thirteen years Mr. Finkbine had given all his time to superintending the erection of this building. After it was finished he worked at different things for a few years until in 1890 he was appointed member of the board of public works of Des Moines. In that position he soon made himself as useful to Des Moines as he had been to the state in the construction of the capitol. It was useless for contractors to make bids that were too high. He would sit down and make estimates himself and tell them for just how much the work ought to be done. In every case the contractors had to come around to his figures. Since his connection with the board ceased he has lived a retired life.

Many things happened in his official career that were calculated to try the patience of almost any man. Yet no one could ever say that he had seen Mr. Finkbine angry. He met all men affably and had a way that was impossible to resist. Few men attain to it. In his whole official career no taint of dishonesty ever attached itself to any of his dealings and the implicit confidence which he inspired in everyone was deserved. In his death Des Moines and the state loses one of its best citizens. His many friends all over Iowa and beyond its borders will be grieved to hear that he is no more. All day Monday friends called to express their sympathy.

Mr. Finkbine's funeral will be held Wednesday at 2:30 p. m. from the family home where he had lived for the past fifteen years. It will probably be conducted by Dr. A. L. Frisbie. He was a member of no secret organizations. When a young man he joined the Odd Fellows but his membership had been allowed to lapse. The tender of the capitol in which his body might lie in state was made by the executive council. The family was deeply grateful for this mark of respect but felt compelled to decline, for various reasons; Mrs. Finkbine, who is not well, desiring that the body remain at the home, her wish was respected.

Besides his wife Mr. Finkbine is survived by four children, Charles A., Edward C., C. A. and Harry. All except the latter are residents of this city. Harry lives at Atlantic. Mr. Finkbine was interested in the Green Bay Lumber Company and had other property. He was not a wealthy man in the recent sense, but was well to do. His children are all grown and in the lumber business for themselves.

Pioneer Law Makers of Iowa; Robert S. Finkbine, one of our honored members, died July 8, 1901. The funeral service will be held at his late residence, 308 Nineteenth street, July 10, at 2:30 p. m. Members of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association are requested to meet at the office of Des Moines Savings Bank on the corner of Fifth and Walnut streets at 2 o'clock p. m. to attend the funeral in a body. Street cars will leave promptly at 2:10. Isaac Brandt, chairman.

For Over Fifty Years
Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for

Died—Mrs. Becker, Monday at 1 p. m. at the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. M. Lan in Valley Junction.

Funeral services will be held at Charity Tuesday or Wednesday.

Died—Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Funk, age 77 years, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Captain V. P. Twombly, East Ninth street Sunday at 11 p. m.

The remains were taken to Keosauqua for interment.

Moerlein's Beer, finest in the world.

Herr Kaufmann's Rejection.
Berlin, July 8.—The rejection of Herr Kaufmann, who had been elected second burgomaster of Berlin, is attributed to the Liberal and Radical press to Emperor or William personally. Several newspapers assert the whole Prussian cabinet was in favor of confirming Herr Kaufmann's election to this post. The Liberal and Radical press tonight announce that they will not yield in the matter, and insist upon the unanimous re-election of Herr Kaufmann. In this connection the Berliner Zeitung says: "This does not mean opposition to Emperor William but it is an appeal from the 'badly informed' to a 'better to be informed' emperor." The Vossische Zeitung, referring to Herr Kaufmann's rejection, says: "Now is the time for Count Von Buelow the imperial chancellor, to show whether or not he possesses backbone."

Train Robbers Got Away.

Butte, Mont., July 8.—An Inter-Mountain special from Malta says all hope of capturing the Great Northern train robbers has been abandoned. One of the men who accompanied the authorities in the chase to the southward has returned, and the general opinion appears to be that the robbers have made good their escape. The men composing the sheriff's posse sent out from Glasgow have despaired of capturing the men and the chase has been given up for this end of the line. Hopes are entertained that the robbers may be apprehended while on their way out of the state, by the authorities of the southern counties of Montana, but it is believed that the robbers have scattered and taken different routes.

Striking Molders Enjoined.

Cleveland, O., July 8.—Judge Wing, of the United States circuit court, issued a sweeping injunction today against striking molders on the application of the Otis Steel Company of this city. The injunction local No. 218, of the Iron Molders' Union of North America, from picketing the premises or interfering in any manner whatsoever with the business of the employees of the Otis Company. The court holds that picketing is unlawful. Commenting on the claim of the molders to the effect that their efforts had entirely been confined to persuasion, the court said: "Persuasion, itself, long continued may become nuisance and unlawful."

Miss Gilman Insane.

New York, July 8.—A sheriff's jury of the supreme court of Brooklyn, today decided Miss Anna King Gilman, the sister of the late millionaire tea merchant, George F. Gilman, insane. The particulars have been taken in order that her interest in the estate of her husband, the Society of New York, Des Moines, Iowa. Gilman, who is now 63 years of age, is confined in a private sanitarium in England. She disappeared from Brooklyn in 18

Finkbine family built stellar reputation in Iowa

Family played critical role in the construction of Iowa State Capitol and University of Iowa, then opened its wallet.

By RENDA LUTZ
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

The Finkbine family was known in Iowa for its skill in the lumber business and its generous contributions to education.

Roger Spencer Finkbine was one of the last members of the family to live in Des Moines. He and his wife, Helen, resided in a large home at 3314 S.W. 24th St. for many years.

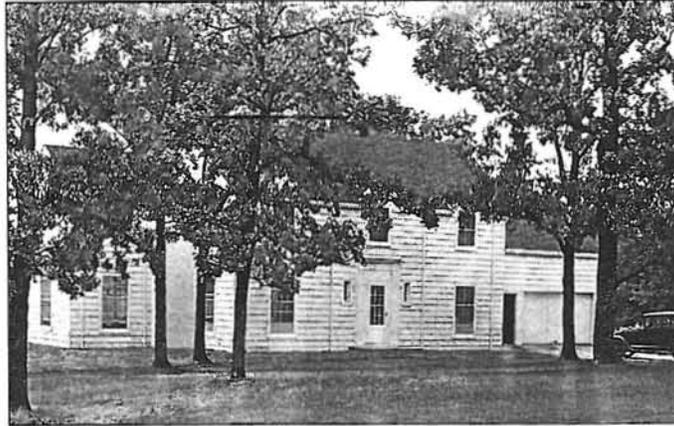
Roger was born in Des Moines on Oct. 26, 1896, to Charles and Blanche Finkbine. Roger's grandfather, Robert Spencer Finkbine, played an important role in the construction of the State Capitol building.

Robert S. Finkbine arrived in Iowa City in 1850. He constructed many buildings at the University of Iowa, as well as the College for the Blind at Vinton and other public buildings around the state. He also served two terms in the Iowa Legislature.

Robert S. was appointed construction superintendent of the Capitol building in 1871. His innovations included the construction of a dirt ramp that wound up to the dome, allowing mule teams to pull the massive building stones to the top of the building. The west drive to the Capitol was named Finkbine Drive in his honor.

Robert S. soon moved to Des Moines. His four sons — Edward, Walter, Charles and Harry — developed three of the largest lumber companies in the Midwest.

Wisconsin Lumber Co., a wholesale lumber firm, was founded in the late 1800s and headed by Charles. Green Bay Lumber Co. was founded in Odebolt in 1879. The home office moved to Des Moines in 1884,



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Family home: This is the home of Roger Spencer Finkbine in 1938 as it neared completion.

where the family controlled more than 40 retail lumber yards across the state. The family also ran Finkbine Brothers Lumber.

Roger graduated from Des Moines' West High School and Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., before joining his father in running the Wisconsin Lumber Co. Roger also served as a Naval Reserves commander during both world wars.

Roger founded Tip Top Distributing Co., a wholesale building material company, in 1930. Tip Top Distributing, Wisconsin Lumber and Finkbine Brothers shared building space at 204 Fifth St. for many years before the distributing company and the wholesale lumber firm moved to 300 S.W. Ninth St.

Roger grew up visiting his Uncle Edward in one of Des Moines' finest homes. The Finkbine Mansion at 1915 Grand Ave. was built in 1895. The mansion was passed to Roger's cousin, Robert H. Finkbine Sr., in 1943. Robert H. succeeded his father, Edward, as president of the Green Bay Lumber Co. The Finkbine Mansion was converted to office space after Robert H. died in 1958.

Roger married Helen Spencer in September 1921. They never had children. They built their large

home in 1938 on nearly three acres of land.

The Finkbines were known for their philanthropy and made many donations to the University of Iowa. Roger's uncles, Edward and Walter, donated a 180-acre farm to the university. The site is now the Finkbine Golf Course.

Roger Finkbine presided over Wisconsin Lumber Co. until the mid-1960s, when the company went out of business. Roger's wholesale distributing company was his sole concern until his death in 1971.

When his wife, Helen, died 10 years later, her will outlined more Finkbine family donations. Helen gave \$50,000 to her alma mater, Grinnell College, and \$356,000 in memory of herself and Roger to Living History Farms. At the time, the donation was the largest the farms had ever received.

Living History Farms is located on the former homestead of Iowa pioneer Martin Flynn. Helen was a childhood friend of Marian Flynn and attended social events at the Flynn Mansion in the early 1900s.

The Finkbine money allowed Living History Farms to start planning for the visitors center

This article was taken from the Wednesday, June 26, 2002 issue of The Des Moines Register, Des Moines, Iowa.