Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Parvin, John Abbott Senator Parvin, John Abbott
Represented Muscatine County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 10 Nov 1807 Fairfield, Cumberland County, New Jersey

2. Marriage (s) date place
(1) Bethsheba Harris Rogers 20 Jan 1831 Fairton, Cumberland County, New Jersey
(2) Hannah H. Dunham 29 Sept 1835 Bridgeton, Cumberland County, New Jersey
(3) Mary Lummis Westcott 5 Jul 1863 Muscatine, Iowa
(4) Martha Maynard Hillman 26 May 1866 Boston, Massachusetts

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Teacher; merchant; civil engineer; surveyor; farmer

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 3rd General Assembly - 1850 - House of Representatives
10th, 11th, 12th General Assemblies 1864, 1866, 1868 - Senate

6. Public Offices

A. Local Clerk of the District Court 1844; Mayor of Muscatine 1854.

B. State Member of the Iowa Constitutional Convention 1857; trustee of the Reform School at Eldora; first Superintendent of Iowa Soldiers Orphans Home

C. National

7. Death 16 Nov 1887 Muscatine, Iowa; buried Greenwood Cemetery, Muscatine, Iowa

8. Children By 1st wife Lydia Harris (died 1849): Thomas. By 2nd wife Elizabeth Allison: Ida; Benjamin Dunham; George Washington; Bethsheba Harris; John Jackson; Joseph Allen; Harriet Newell; Martha Ann; Clara

9. Names of parents Daniel and Elizabeth (Sutton) Parvin

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Parvin, John A.

10. Education He attended a private district school in the winter in this neighborhood

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information Democrat, later Republican

- His father was a weaver, but exchanged his trade for a farm. On this farm John helped with the farm work until age 21.
- He then at age 21 traveled the same that he had learned of in school.
- After his marriage he taught school for several years in New Jersey, but in 1837 he had the urge to go west and went to Cincinnati, Ohio. There he taught school for 2 years and then went to Iowa, settling in Bloomington, later called Muscatine. It was a thick, unsettled area at this time with few settlers. A common school was established and he taught in the log cabin school.
- In April 1840 he purchased stock and a business and opened a general store for 4 years.
- He then sold his store and entered official duties becoming Clerk of the District Court followed by civil engineering and surveying.
- He then was elected to the 3rd General Assembly of Iowa in 1850. During this session he prepared and conducted a bill to rename Bloomington as Muscatine, Iowa.
- In May 1855 he left Muscatine and moved to Sweetland Township in the same county.
- He was then elected to the Constitutional Convention in 1857.
- In 1865 he was elected to fill a vacancy in the Iowa Senate for 3 more terms.
- He introduced the bill creating the Reform School at Eldora, Iowa which still operates. He served 16 years as an officer of the school and part time Superintendent of the school as well as trustee later.
- He retired in his later years to his farm.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Parvin, John A.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary - The Muscatine Weekly Journal, Muscatine, Iowa Fri. Mar. 18, 1887, p. 4, col. 3			
- Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa by Stiles, 1916, p. 409			
- Portrait and Biographical Album of Muscatine County, Iowa 1889, p. 271-273			
- familysearch.org (accessed 28 Nov 2010)			
- findagrave.com (accessed 28 Nov 2010)			
- Iowa Grave Records - WPA - Muscatine County, Iowa			
- History of Iowa 1903, p. 209-210			

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

illinery at Mrs. Peck's.

tt g' Meeting.

be a meeting of the old
scatine and vicinity at
Saturday morning at 9
the tribute of the society
of John A. Parvin, P.
l Michael Murphy.
J. P. WALTON, Pres.

ier y and corsets at Mrs.

Gladstone, Goshen's well-
came to Muscatine to-
the celebration of his
birth-day with St. Pat-
ys that his new road up
the Saulsbury bridge
ne as macadam.

d John Ryan an-
ey have quit the saloon

hoes of all descriptions
the Opera House shoe
AUMILLER & ENGEL.

or fancy work, at Mrs.

unty Alliance.

monthly meeting of the
erance Alliance will be
'ourt House, on Saturday
p. m. Let there be a
ut of the friends of tem-
LINDLEY HOOPES.
ox, Pres.

is in hats and furnishing
ri r, the hatter.

ring Jackets.

of all the new things in
ts and wraps, and an
rtment just opened at
LILLY & HUNT'S

DEATH OF HON. JOHN A. PARVIN.

End of a Long and Useful Life.

From Thursday's Daily 17.

Just as the sun was setting on the evening of March 16, 1887, the spirit of John A. Parvin, for nearly half a century a resident of this city and vicinity, took its flight, in the 80th year of his age. This event was not unexpected, as Mr. Parvin had been for some weeks failing from the infirmities of age, attended with some trouble of the heart and disease of the lungs.

The JOURNAL having recently (in September) published a biography with portrait of Mr. Parvin, it would be needless now to repeat all the interesting and instructive incidents then narrated of his long and useful life in this county. Suffice it to say that he was a native of New Jersey, born Nov. 10th, 1807, and when thirty years of age moved west, settling in Cincinnati, in 1837, and coming two years later to this place, landing here April 18, 1839. He lived in this city till 1855, when he removed to his suburban home four miles northeast of the city, where he died.

During his long residence in Muscatine or its immediate vicinity, covering a period of nearly 48 years, Mr. Parvin has held many positions of trust and honor. He was County Clerk in 1844, was member of the House of Representatives for this county in 1850, was Mayor of Muscatine in 1854, was member of the Constitutional Convention of 1857, and a State Senator from 1863 to 1868. The duties of all those positions he discharged with unvarying fidelity and

NEIGHBORHOOD

NORTH BUFFALO,

BY HEPSBY.

Mar

Miss Rebecca Peppers is spendi
so at Mrs. E. Baker's of Illinois
Miss Gracy at her uncle's, C. Cra

The young ladies are still pieci
this way; so be in readiness.

Duck hunting has commenced.
ler and F. Vanatta were out t
them. To see their equippage an
so well laden with grub, &c., one
they were going to stop for a w
they passed people wondered
wouldn't suffer and so they d
suffered them to fly by.

A Miss Mosier, in Andalusia, d
denly, and was supposed not to b
kept her a suitable time and the
Indications of life were red s
cheeks.

Lee Reed, of Ferdinand, spent
H. B. Potter's young folks—a nic
there.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Vanatta
Walter Kimball's.

The North Buffalo youngsters
hibition at Pine Bluff a big boom
tainment was just grand. Much
them, the church being well fille
bition was conducted by their t
ton Gilison.

Mrs. Benjamin Harriman, of
returned home the last of Febr
visit of nine weeks with frie
Buffalo.

Mrs. E. Young, near Illinois
guest of Mrs Benjamin Vanatt
days.

Square Sherwood, of Edging
guest of his son, Wednesday.

At the residence of John Fow
Illinois City, the young folks gat
gave their teacher, Mr. Young, s
it was the last day of school. T
happy evening.

S. and J. Robbins spent a day
ter's, Mrs. Sherwood's.

Orey Sherwood is having quite
ness in his family. His babe of
in a critical condition from pne
Twigg in attendance. Mr. and M
tender their thanks to their ma
North Buffalo for their special
ing their sickness.

Dr. Tyler has returned home a
some months in the west. He
and the popular question of the
will the doctor locate?"

T. Fisher of Ferdinand, is ha
time—only five of his family sick

The Ladies Aid Society met at
near Illinois City, on Wednesday
much surprised to see the Rev.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislature Collection, compiled by the staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa

ringer, the hatter.

ring Jackets.

of all the new things in
s and wraps, and an
rtment just opened at
LILLY & HINE'S.

rrows, plows and cultiva-
r's.

farm and stock scales, at

y man, like an unsteady
go out nights.

or daughter needs a new
for Sunday. Low prices
es, at Thurston & Dol-

and business ditto, at
JACKSON'S U. S.

rs don't know any more
ting than a fly.

made machines cannot
ect satisfaction which the
s.

oor is an acquired taste.
man was born lazy.

mers, Attention!
e best stock of plow shoes
Cheap.
THURSTON & DOLSEN.

woman is a cruel person;
ngs men's bosom.

seeders, stalk cutters,
ns, plows, harrows, etc.,
by A. K. Raff.

shapes.
l goods, at
JACKSON'S U. S.

America Roller Mills are
Chicago prices for choice

need, not mention our
aks for
his city.

0:30 an adjournment was taken
'clock, at which time the open-
tement of counsel will begin.

member of the Constitutional Convention of 1857, and a State Senator from 1863 to 1868. The duties of all these positions he discharged with unvarying fidelity and ability. He was for sixteen years president of the Iowa Reform School, which institution he was instrumental in establishing while a member of the Legislature. In politics, Mr. Parvin was originally a Democrat, but when the crisis came in the controversy over the repeal of the Missouri compromise in 1854, resulting in the organization of the Republican party, he with thousands of others throughout the country left the old party and joined the new.

Mr. Parvin was an earnest and active worker in all educational, Christianizing and benevolent enterprises in the community from the very beginning of his citizenship here, when the conditions surrounding him were in no wise encouraging. He was one the seven original members of the First M. E. church, organized in 1840, in which he remained a communicant up to the day of his death, and was the last remaining male member of the immortal seven—Mrs. Geo. Bumgardner and Mrs. James Hawley being now the only survivors.

Mr. Parvin followed teaching for a number of years. He was also for awhile a merchant. Afterwards he did service as a civil engineer. Subsequently he engaged in farming, but for some years past, having rented his farm, he lived in retirement from the more active duties of life.

He has gone from us full of years and crowned with honors. In a peculiar sense is he one

"Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better [illegible]

It is thought she suffocated them with a pillow.

The Upper Missouri Flood Reports of Loss of Life.

St. Paul, March 28.—The Pioneer

Dr. Tyler has returned home a
some months in the west. He
and the popular question of the
will the doctor locate?"

T. Fisher of Ferdinand, is ha
time—only five of his family sick

The Ladies' Aid Society met at
near Illinois City, on Wednesday
much surprised to see the Rev.
and to learn that there woul
joined as husband and wife—W.
and Miss Sadie Lequatte. They
affair very nicely. They have th
of their many friends for their
ness.

Dr. Bendel has discharged Mrs
atta, sr., of Ferdinand. The si
proving.

Farmers are getting their fa
ments ready for work.

BUFFALO PRAIRIE,

BY H. W.

BUFFALO PRAIRIE, ILL., M

The exhibition was a grand
the pieces were well played and
is due the young folks for their
up a good entertainment. On
parts, was a dialogue by a volu
The dialogue was in three parts
among saints; 2d, You have ma
den of thieves; 3d, The victor b
spoils. The moral of this dialog
be remembered by the young
Prairie.

Mrs. Ann Vanatta presented
with a big fine boy, yesterday.

Mrs. Mattie Sloan has return
braska, where she has been
parents.

There have been a few cases
among children but none fatal.

John Moxon has closed his
and bidden adieu to his scholar
remember with pleasure the
spent in the society of the youn
Prairie.

Fred Swanson will be a pleasa
the society of the Prairie, this s

Joseph Anderson has had his
in his red bandana the past we

Jack Epperly's family has p
the diphtheria crisis, none of th
proved fatal.

Albert Little has returned fr
where he has been on busine
his wife's parents.

Rev. Jones preached, last Mo
but did not leave any appoi
future. All wait with anxiety
action the church members w
gard to having preaching here.

Joseph Runner will locate
Gossip says that may be Mike w
into that fine house near the ch

They say that Albert is all m
to take a half interest in a hotel

Mrs. John

The Lincolnshire
Wednesday at Lincol
won by Mr. Manto
Renny second, and Is
were twenty starters.

O. M. Richards, a

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PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM

—OF—

MUSCATINE COUNTY, IOWA,

CONTAINING

Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County,

TOGETHER WITH

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE, AND OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO:
ACME PUBLISHING CO.
1889.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

came to America. Both his parents died in England, where the rest of the family still make their home. Samuel received his education in his native land, and was there reared upon a farm. He chose farming as his life work, and remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which occurred Dec. 18, 1866, when he became the husband of Miss Catherine H. Sheild, who was born Aug. 17, 1836, and is a daughter of Robert and Hannah (Smith) Sheild, who were born in Gloucestershire, England. After their marriage Mr. Lea rented a farm, which he continued to cultivate until 1868, at which time he bade good-by to his friends and home, and, accompanied by his wife and little daughter, Annie E., who died shortly after their arrival in this country, embarked for America. Coming directly to Muscatine County, he purchased eighty acres of land on section 17, Lake Township, where he has since continued to reside. He immediately began to improve and cultivate the land, and now has one of the most finely developed farms in the county.

By the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lea four children have been born: Annie E., before memtioned; Jennie E., Catherine E. and Lucy, who were born in Muscatine County. They have an adopted daughter, Bessie. None rank higher in Muscatine County than Mr. and Mrs. Lea. Their Christian lives have won them the respect and esteem of all with whom business or social relations have brought them in contact. They daily endeavor to follow the teachings of Christ, and are ready to aid those in need or distress, and furnish an example that anyone might do well to follow. Mr. Lea always gives his aid and influence to the best interests of the county, though he has never become an American citizen. His sympathy is with the party that best serves the interest of the people.

HON. JOHN A. PARVIN, deceased, was numbered among the honored pioneers of Muscatine County. It will be conceded throughout Iowa that few among her founders crossed the great river to their work with loftier purpose, or to give a truer devotion of their lives and influence to the building and furnishing of a noble Christian commonwealth, than the subject of this sketch. His work was always of the highest and best type. He was the organizer and teacher of the first Sunday-school and grammar school in the territory; was the "temperance Mayor" of Muscatine, under whose administration no saloon was licensed or tolerated; was the founder of the first temperance society in the Territory of Iowa; was an influential member of both Houses of the General Assembly; the author of the bill establishing the Reform School, now the Industrial School of Iowa, and its leading Trustee for eighteen years; was a member of the convention which framed the State Constitution, and was active and prominent in all the public movements of his generation.

Mr. Parvin was born in Fairfield, Cumberland Co., N. J., Nov. 10, 1807, and was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Sutton) Parvin. His father was a mechanic, but exchanged his trade for a farm, the same on which John passed his life until the age of twenty-one. There were no free public schools in those days, but after an arduous service upon the farm during the summer, the future pioneer of Iowa went to a private district school in the winter, and by dint of hard application by candle light and in the morning before the family was astir, he accomplished in the succession of those winter terms a fair mastery of such studies as arithmetic, grammar, surveying, mensuration and navigation. On attaining his majority young Parvin followed the sea for some time, rather to acquaint himself with the practical side of the navigation which he had studied at school than from nautical or romantic tastes.

In January, 1831, Mr. Parvin was united in marriage with an accomplished lady of New Jersey, and by their union two children were born: Lydia, who died in St. Louis of cholera, in 1849, and Thomas, who was left motherless at the age of six weeks. After his marriage Mr. Parvin engaged in teaching for several years in New Jersey, but in 1837 the impulse stirred within him to go West was acted upon, and he landed at Cincinnati. He there followed his chosen profession for two years, when he started for Iowa, landing at Muscatine, then known as Bloomington, April 18, 1839. The embryo city did not present a sight to inspire the

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

enthusiasm of the young Christian scholar and teacher. There was a wilderness of underbrush and forest growth cleared here and there in a torturous fashion, where an ambitious river street was trying to establish its way, and the settlement consisted of scattered frame and log cabins. No school or church graced the life of the community, but the spirit of the young emigrant was soon made manifest. A Sunday-school was opened the month following his arrival, and in July a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized with seven members. The Sunday-school was held in an unfinished building which could be procured for the day, the few teachers going around in the morning and informing the children where the meeting was to be held. The church was in an equally peripatetic condition, meeting by turns at the various hospitable homes of the settlement. Of the seven original members of that first church two survive: Mrs. Jacob Bumgardner and Mrs. James B. Hawley. A common school was soon after established, he teaching in a little log cabin, and Oct. 10, 1840, saw the organization of the first temperance society of the Territory.

In April, 1840, Mr. Parvin purchased the business and variety stock of Adam Ogilvie, and conducted a general store for four years. At the expiration of that time he sold out and entered upon the discharge of his first official duties. He was appointed Clerk of the District Court, and elected to that office in 1846, when Iowa became a State. In connection with the unrestricted duties of the office in those primitive days, and after retiring from the position, he occupied himself with civil engineering and surveying. While lying a victim of the cholera, which raged with fearful fatality in Muscatine County in 1850, Mr. Parvin was notified of his election on the Democratic ticket to the General Assembly of Iowa. While in attendance at that session he prepared and conducted to its final passage the bill making the town of Bloomington the city of Muscatine. It was also this strong Democratic Assembly that passed the first prohibitory law of the State, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, including wine and beer. In 1854 Mr. Parvin was nominated and elected as the Temperance candidate for Mayor of Muscatine, and by the last of July every saloon in the city was closed under that old Democratic law. Strange that modern Mayors find it so difficult, even when backed by a powerful police, to enforce respect and obedience to the laws of the State.

In the month of May, 1855, Mr. Parvin left the city, where he had done so much to promote the cause of temperance, education and religion, and moved to his country residence in Sweetland Township, three miles from the court-house, but he was not permitted to remain in his rural retirement. The following year he was elected to the Constitutional Convention, which met in 1857 and framed the present constitution of the State. He served as temporary chairman of the convention, and was appointed chairman of the important legislative committee. Among the provisions reported and carried through by him is the one providing for biennial sessions of the Assembly, and its meeting on the 1st of January. In 1863, while on a visit to New Jersey, Mr. Parvin was nominated as candidate for the Senate to fill a vacancy, and in 1865 was elected to the full term of four years. He regarded as the most important of the measures introduced by him the bill creating the Reform School, now known as the Industrial School of Iowa, established at Eldora. As before mentioned he served as one of the leading Trustees for over eighteen years. He also served on the committee for the location of that school and of the Orphans' Home.

After his retirement from the Senate, with the exception of being Trustee, Mr. Parvin lived in comparative retirement from public life. This sketch is but a brief outline of the career of one of Iowa's most illustrious citizens. It leaves out his genial and controlling influence in the social life of Muscatine, and it tells no story of his powerful instrumentality in the local organization of the Republican party, and gives no hint of his voice heard throughout the community in the Fremont campaign, or of the critical canvasses in which he participated leading up to and including the historical issues of 1860; nor does it speak of his active, zealous labor for the Union during the perilous period of the Rebellion, but all these elements

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

in his career are like household words to Muscatine County.

On the 27th day of May, 1866, Mr. Parvin wedded Miss Martha N. Williams, of Boston, Mass., a descendant of a very old New England family, whose founders emigrated from England about 1645. Her cultivated tastes, accomplishments and graces of character adorned with rare beauty the well-known home in Sweetland Township. In this charming companionship, and in the pleasures of a hospitality which delights in bringing "a troop of friends" about its hearth, Mr. Parvin was not permitted to live but a few short months, for the Angel of Death entered that peaceful home and carried away the loving husband. Letters of condolence were sent to the widow by her numerous friends, expressing their heartfelt sympathies for her bereavement, and all who knew Mr. Parvin were shocked by the sad intelligence of his death.

CHESTER LILLIBRIDGE, of the firm of Lillibridge & St. John, grocers, of Muscatine, was born in Muscatine County, on the 7th of October, 1844, and is a son of Amos and Amanda (Beardsley) Lillibridge. His father was a native of Rhode Island, and emigrated from that State to Muscatine County, in 1839. He was married in that county to Miss Amanda Beardsley, a daughter of Aaron Beardsley, who was born in Massachusetts. Four of their children are living at this writing: Caroline, who is the wife of Thomas Moore; Chester, the subject of this sketch; Emma L., who is the widow of James Mahin; Clara, who resides in California.

Amos Lillibridge was a farmer by occupation, and resided in the township of Bloomington, Muscatine County, until his death, which occurred in 1854. Politically, he was a Whig, and held various local official positions. Both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were highly respected and worthy people. Mrs. Lillibridge survived her husband, and soon after his death removed to Muscatine, where she died in April, 1882.

Chester Lillibridge was educated in the city schools, and was graduated from the Muscatine High School in the class of '60. He then engaged with J. A. Bishop as merchants' clerk, and shortly afterward was admitted to partnership with his employer. That connection continued until 1866, when Mr. Lillibridge retired, and formed a partnership with W. Beardsley in the grocery business. A year later he sold out and renewed his connection with Mr. Bishop in the same line, the partnership continuing until 1871, when he sold out, and in the fall of that year bought into the grocery business of James Jackson. That connection was continued until 1884, when he bought out Mr. Jackson's interest, and in September of that year sold an interest to James H. St. John, since which time the business has been conducted under the firm name of Lillibridge & St. John. These gentlemen have a large and fully stocked store in their line of staple and fancy groceries, fruits, flour and provisions, and are doing a business of upward of $35,000 annually, being recognized as the leading grocers of the city.

Mr. Lillibridge was married at Muscatine, Oct. 16, 1872, to Miss Mary C. Jackson, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a daughter of James Jackson. Four children have been born of their union—Cora V., Ralph, Albert and Harvey. Mr. Lillibridge owns the store occupied by himself and partner, and one of the handsomest residences in the city, and is proprietor of an 80-acre farm on Muscatine Island, in Louisa County. In politics he is a Republican, and has been School Director for five years. He is a member of Muscatine Lodge No. 99, A. O. U. W., and is classed as one of Muscatine's most enterprising and reliable business men.

JUSTIN E. COE, bookseller and stationer, of Muscatine, established his present business in 1865. His stock, which is large and complete, consists of a full line of books, stationery, wall paper, toilet and fancy articles, pictures, etc. He is a native of Galesburg, Ill., born Nov. 24, 1840, and is a son of Lewis and Sophia Coe. His father was born in Middlefield, Conn., and was descended from an old New England fam-

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

HISTORY OF IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FOUR VOLUMES

BY BENJAMIN F. GUE

Illustrated with Photographic Views of the Natural Scenery of the State, Public Buildings, Pioneer Life, Etc.

WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN OF IOWA

VOLUME IV
IOWA BIOGRAPHY

SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA

THE CENTURY HISTORY COMPANY
41 LAFAYETTE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

wards a famous Major-General of the Army of the Potomac. Captain Nathan Boone of Company H, was a son of Daniel Boone of Kentucky. Parrott was with the expedition sent through northern Iowa in 1835 to settle Indian troubles. Elsewhere some account of this expedition is given. Sergeant Parrott was discharged from service in 1837 and took up his residence at Fort Madison. He was intimately acquainted with Black Hawk, the famous Sac chief, and an admirer of that great Indian leader. When the Rebellion began Mr. Parrott raised a company which was incorporated with the Seventh Infantry as Company E with him as captain. In the Battle of Belmont he was dangerously wounded. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel of the regiment commanding it in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth, and commanded a brigade in the campaigns of the Army of the Tennessee, under Grant, Sherman and Smith and participated in the battles on Sherman's march to the sea. Colonel Parrott was promoted to the rank of brevet Brigadier-General at the close of the war. He served ten years as postmaster of Keokuk which had long been his home and where he died on the 17th of May, 1898.

MATT PARROTT was born in Schoharie County, New York, in 1837 and, after securing an education, learned the printer's trade. In 1856 he went to Chicago where he obtained a position on one of the daily papers. From there he went to Davenport, Iowa, continuing in the trade of printer. He at one time became the owner of an interest in the *Anamosa Eureka*. In 1869 he went to Waterloo and, in company with J. J. Smart, purchased the *Waterloo Reporter* and printing establishment. In 1879 he secured the office of State Binder which he held for three terms. He was elected to the State Senate in 1885 and served two terms. In 1895 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor and reëlected in 1897. He was twice a candidate before Republican State Conventions for Governor but was defeated. Mr. Parrott, with his sons, converted the *Reporter* into a daily paper of which they became the sole owners. He was at one time President of the State Press Association, and was a life-long Republican. He died at Battle Creek, Michigan, on the 21st of April, 1900.

JOHN A. PARVIN was born at Fairfield, New Jersey, November 10, 1807. He was reared on a farm and after acquiring an education taught for several years. In April, 1839, he removed to Iowa, locating at Bloomington. He served four years as clerk of the District Court and in 1850 was elected to the House of the Third General Assembly. Mr. Parvin secured the passage of a bill changing the name of Bloomington to Muscatine. He was an active supporter of the act passed to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors to be drunk on the premises. In 1854 Mr. Parvin was elected mayor of Muscatine. In 1856 he was a delegate to the con-

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

vention which organized the Republican party of Iowa. In 1857 he was a member of the convention which framed the Constitution of the State and was an active and influential worker in that notable body. In 1863 he was elected to the State Senate where he served six years. He was one of the authors of the bill providing for the establishment of the State Reform and Industrial School and was a trustee and President of the Board for sixteen years. Mr. Parvin was the first superintendent of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home. He died on the 16th of March, 1887.

THEODORE S. PARVIN is a name that has been prominently identified with Iowa history since the first year of the existence of the Territory. He was born on the 15th of January, 1817, in Cumberland County, New Jersey. In 1833 he graduated at Woodworth College, Ohio, and began the study of law, graduating at the Cincinnati Law School in 1837. In 1838 Robert Lucas, who had been appointed Governor of the new Territory of Iowa, selected Mr. Parvin for his private secretary. He accompanied the Governor to Burlington where he was appointed to take charge of the Territorial library. In 1839 Mr. Parvin was appointed District Attorney of the middle District and removed to Bloomington. He served three terms as probate judge. In 1844 he rendered Iowa an enduring service by coöperating with Enoch W. Eastman and Frederick D. Mills in defeating the Constitution which proposed to deprive the State of the counties of the Missouri slope. Upon the organization of the United States District Court in 1846 Mr. Parvin was appointed clerk, a position he held ten years. In 1857 he was nominated for Register of the State Land Office by the Democrats and, notwithstanding the Republican majority of more than 2,000 in the election for Governor the same year, Mr. Parvin was elected. He was one of the first trustees of the State University and was for ten years professor of natural science in that institution. He was one of the organizers of the State Historical Society and served several years as its secretary and as editor of the *Annals of Iowa*, an historical magazine published by the society. Mr. Parvin made large contributions to the library, newspaper files and general collections of that Society, and for more than thirty years was one of the most valued writers of historical and biographical articles for the *Annals of Iowa* and the *Historical Record*. Having been one of the first officials of the Territory and long associated with its public affairs, personally acquainted with prominent men of all parties for more than sixty years, Mr. Parvin was long regarded the highest authority on Iowa history and biography. He was one of the founders of the Masonic Order of Iowa and has been Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State many years. In his capacity as secretary he collected at their building at Cedar Rapids the most extensive Masonic library in the world. He also collected and donated to the library a more complete collection of Iowa books and rare documents than is possessed by any other library. Mr. Parvin's con-

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

Belonging to the First and Second Generations, with Anecdotes and Incidents Illustrative of the Times

By

EDWARD H. STILES

For many years a member of the Iowa Bar; member of its House of Representatives, 1863-1864; member of its Senate, 1865-1866; Reporter of its Supreme Court, 1867-1875; author of Complete Digest of its Decisions from the earliest Territorial period to the 56th Iowa Reports.

"In old age alone we are masters of a treasure of which we cannot be deprived, the only treasure we can call our own. The pleasures of memory and the retrospect of the varied images which in an active life have floated before the mind, compensate, and more than compensate, for the alternate pleasures and cares of active life."—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

"Personal anecdotes, when characteristic, greatly enliven the pages of a biography."—SAMUEL SMILES.

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National Congress in 1884; appointed United States Consul to Maracaibo, Venezuela, and resigned in 1890; Judge of the Municipal Court of Muscatine, 1895-6.

Samuel McNutt had a nephew, William Hazlett, who was born in Muscatine County, studied law with Jerome Carskaddan, of Muscatine, graduated from the law department of the State University, and was for a number of years one of the most prominent lawyers of Pocahontas County and that part of the State. For six years he was District Attorney of that district, and was a partner of J. H. Allen for some time, under the firm name of Hazlett & Allen. He removed some years ago to California, resides in South Pasadena, with offices in Los Angeles. He is ranked both in Los Angeles and Pasadena, as one of the ablest members of the Bar. He is a highly exemplary citizen, takes a leading part in public affairs, and is held in the greatest esteem as a man of worth and influence.

John A. Parvin and myself first met as members of the State Senate in 1866. His tall form, rather clerical dress, grave manner and rigid morals, always reminded me of a Puritan. He was a man of high character, self-willed, strong and useful. He was born in Cumberland County, New Jersey, November 10, 1807, where he spent the years of his minority. After coming of age, he emigrated to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he engaged in teaching school. In April, 1839, he removed to Muscatine (then called Bloomington), where he organized and taught the first school. At the end of a year he discontinued teaching and engaged in the mercantile business for four years. He was next appointed Clerk of the District Court. In 1850 he was elected Representative to the General Assembly, and served in the session of 1850-51. He was elected Mayor of Muscatine in 1854. In 1857 he was a member of the State Constitutional Convention, and in 1863 he was elected to the State Senate and served six years. While a member of the Senate he drew up and introduced the bill for the establishment of a State Reform School for juvenile offenders under sixteen years of age. The bill became a law, and the school was temporarily located at Salem, in Henry County. Mr. Parvin served sixteen years as an officer, part of the time as Superintendent and part of the time President of Trustees. The Legislature finally located the School at Eldora, in Hardin County, for boys, and a department at Mitchellville in Polk County, for girls, and changed the name to Iowa Industrial Schools. Mr. Parvin's public life ended with his service as one of the trustees of this reformatory school. He retired to the seclusion and quiet of his farm, three miles from the city, and there his last years were spent. In all his relations, public and private, he was very highly esteemed for his gentlemanly manners and his well-known integrity. He was an earnest worker in all educational and benevolent enterprises in his community, even when surrounding conditions were not encouraging, and was one of the original seven members who organized the First Methodist Church in Muscatine in 1840. He died in 1887, in the eightieth year of his age.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Individual Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

John Abbott PARVIN (AFN: 2046-B2F)

Pedigree
Family

Sex: M

Event(s)

Birth: 10 Nov 1807
Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Death: 16 Mar 1887
Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

Parents

Father: Daniel PARVIN (AFN: 2046-9SS) Family
Mother: Elizabeth ABBOTT (AFN: 2046-9QD)

Marriage(s)

Spouse: Bathsheba Harris ROCOP (AFN: 2046-NWB) Family
Marriage: 20 Jan 1831
Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Spouse: Martha Maynard WILLIAMS (AFN: 2046-PP8) Family
Marriage: 26 May 1866
Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts

Spouse: Mary Lummis WESCOTT (AFN: 2046-PLM) Family
Marriage: 5 Jul 1860
Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Spouse: Hannah W DUNHAM (AFN: 2046-P7C) Family
Marriage: 29 Sep 1835
Bridgeton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Submitter(s)

Details

About Ancestral File

Ancestral File is a collection of genealogical information taken from Pedigree Charts and Family Group Records submitted to the Family History Department since 1978. The information has not been verified against any official records. Since the information in Ancestral File is contributed, it is the responsibility of those who use the file to verify its accuracy.

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Family Group Record

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Husband's Name
John Abbott PARVIN (AFN:2046-B2F) Pedigree

Born: 10 Nov 1807 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 16 Mar 1887 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Married: 20 Jan 1831 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Father: Daniel PARVIN (AFN:2046-9SS) Family
Mother: Elizabeth ABBOTT (AFN:2046-9QD)

Wife's Name
Bathsheba Harris ROCOP (AFN:2046-NWB) Pedigree

Born: Oct 1810 **Place:** Of Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 26 Jan 1833 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Married: 20 Jan 1831 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Father:
Mother:

Children

1. **Sex Name**
F Lydia H PARVIN (AFN:2046-NXJ) Pedigree

Born: 1831 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 1849 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

2. **Sex Name**
M Thomas Sutton PARVIN (AFN:2046-NZQ) Pedigree

Born: 1832 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 18 Apr 1902 **Place:** Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

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Family Group Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

Husband's Name
John Abbott PARVIN (AFN:2046-B2F) Pedigree

Born: 10 Nov 1807 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 16 Mar 1887 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Married: 29 Sep 1835 **Place:** Bridgeton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Father: Daniel PARVIN (AFN:2046-9SS) Family
Mother: Elizabeth ABBOTT (AFN:2046-9QD)

Wife's Name
Hannah W DUNHAM (AFN:2046-P7C) Pedigree

Born: Jul 1812 **Place:** Of Bridgeton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 1 Oct 1859 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Married: 29 Sep 1835 **Place:** Bridgeton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Father:
Mother:

Children

1. **Sex Name**
F Bathsheba Harris PARVIN (AFN:2046-PC6) Pedigree

Born: Abt 1843 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: Abt 1850 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

2. **Sex Name**
M John Jackson PARVIN (AFN:2046-PDD) Pedigree

Born: Abt 1845 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: Abt 1850 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

3. **Sex Name**
M Joseph Chew PARVIN (AFN:2046-PFL) Pedigree

Born: Abt 1847 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: Abt 1849 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

4. **Sex Name**
F Harriet Newell PARVIN (AFN:2046-PGS) Pedigree

Born: Abt 1849 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: Abt 1851 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

5. **Sex Name**
F Martha Ann PARVIN (AFN:2046-PH1) Pedigree

Born: Abt 1852 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: Abt 1852 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

6. **Sex Name**
F Elizabeth Allison PARVIN (AFN:2046-P8K) Pedigree

Born: 1836 **Place:** Bridgeton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 1841 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

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7. **Sex Name**
M Benjamin Dunham PARVIN (AFN:2046-P9R) Pedigree

Born: 1838 **Place:** <Bridgeton, Cumberland, New Jersey>
Died: 1839 **Place:**

---

8. **Sex Name**
M George Washington PARVIN (AFN:2046-PB0) Pedigree

Born: 1839 **Place:** <Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa>
Died: 1840 **Place:**

---

9. **Sex Name**
F Clara Effie PARVIN (AFN:2046-PJ7) Pedigree

Born: 1853 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: 1859 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa

---

10. **Sex Name**
F Ida PARVIN (AFN:K4TT-9F) Pedigree

Born: 6 May 1841 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Died: 7 Sep 1900 **Place:** Weeping Water, , Nebraska

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Family Group Record

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Husband's Name

John Abbott PARVIN (AFN:2046-B2F) Pedigree

Born: 10 Nov 1807 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 16 Mar 1887 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Married: 5 Jul 1860 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Father: Daniel PARVIN (AFN:2046-9SS) Family
Mother: Elizabeth ABBOTT (AFN:2046-9QD)

Wife's Name

Mary Lummis WESCOTT (AFN:2046-PLM) Pedigree

Born: 1819 **Place:** Of Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 15 May 1865 **Place:** Farmington, Van Buren, Iowa
Married: 5 Jul 1860 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey

Father: Ephraim WESCOTT (AFN:2046-PMT) Family
Mother: Mrs Ephraim WESCOTT (AFN:2046-PN2)

Children

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Family Group Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

Husband's Name
John Abbott PARVIN (AFN:2046-B2F) Pedigree

Born: 10 Nov 1807 **Place:** Fairton, Cumberland, New Jersey
Died: 16 Mar 1887 **Place:** Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa
Married: 26 May 1866 **Place:** Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts

Father: Daniel PARVIN (AFN:2046-9SS) Family
Mother: Elizabeth ABBOTT (AFN:2046-9QD)

Wife's Name
Martha Maynard WILLIAMS (AFN:2046-PP8) Pedigree

Born: 21 Jul 1821 **Place:** Of Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts
Died: 13 May 1902 **Place:**
Married: 26 May 1866 **Place:** Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts

Father:
Mother:

Children

1. **Sex Name**
M Abbott Williams PARVIN (AFN:2046-PQG) Pedigree

Born: 1868 **Place:** <Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts>
Died: 1868 **Place:**

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John Abbott Parvin

Birth **10 NOV 1807**

Death

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Timeline (View details)

1807 10 Nov	Birth
1831 20 Jan **Age: 23**	Marriage to Bathsheba Harris Rocap Fairton,Cumberland,NJ
1835 29 Sep **Age: 27**	Marriage to Hannah W. Dunham Bridgeton,Cumbelrand,NJ
1860 5 Jul **Age: 52**	Marriage to Mary Lummis Westcott Muscatine,Muscatine,Iowa
1866 26 May **Age: 58**	Marriage to Martha Maynard Williams Boston,MA

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

Add a comment

Family Members

Parents

Daniel Parvin
1770 –

Elizabeth Sutton
1772 –

Show siblings

Spouse & Children

Bathsheba Harris Rocap
1810 – 1833

Lydia Harris Parvin
1831 – 1849

Thomas Sutton Parvin
1832 – 1902

Other Spouse & Children

Hannah W. Dunham
1812 – 1859

Elizabeth Allison Parvin
1836 – 1841

Benjamin Dunham Parvin
1838 –

George Washington Parvin
1839 –

Ida Parvin
1841 – 1900

Bathsheba Harris Parvin
1843 –

John Jackson Parvin
1845 –

Joseph Chew Parvin
1847 –

Harriet Newell Parvin
1849 –

Martha Ann Parvin
1852 –

Clara Parvin
1853 –

Other Spouse & Children

Mary Lummis Westcott

Other Spouse & Children

Martha Maynard Williams

Family group sheet

Source Information

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Parvin, John A. Mlae white
Age: 79 years
Date of death: Mar 16, 1887
Married
Born: New Jersey
Place of death: Muscatine County
Cause: Senile Pneumonia
Buried: Mar 19, 1887 in Muscatine

Filed: Mar 31, 1887 Record 1 page 120

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John Abbott Parvin

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Birth: Nov. 10, 1807
Fairfield Township
Cumberland County
New Jersey, USA

Death: Mar. 16, 1887
Muscatine County
Iowa, USA

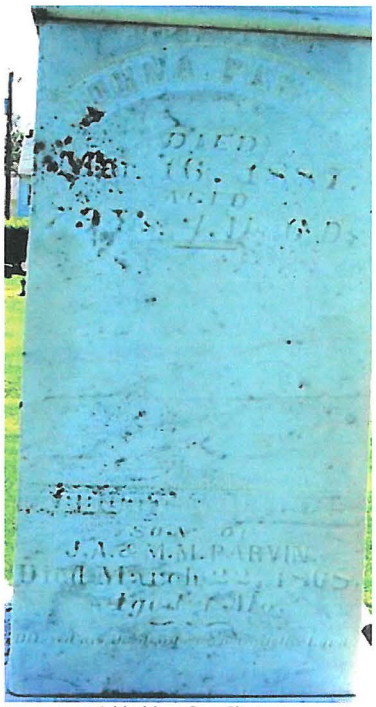
79 years, 4 months, 6 days

... John A Parvin was born in Fairfield, Cumberland Co., N. J., Nov. 10, 1807, and was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Sutton) Parvin. His father was a mechanic, but exchanged his trade for a farm, the same on which John passed his life until the age of twenty-one. There were no free public schools in those days, but after an arduous service upon the farm during the summer, the future pioneer of Iowa went to a private district school in the winter... On attaining his majority young Parvin followed the sea for some time, rather to acquaint himself with the practical side of the navigation which he had studied at school than from nautical or romantic tastes.

In January, 1831, Mr. Parvin was united in marriage with an accomplished lady of New Jersey, and by their union two children were born: Lydia, who died in St. Louis of cholera, in 1849, and Thomas, who was left motherless at the age of six weeks. After his marriage Mr. Parvin engaged in teaching for several years in New Jersey, but in 1837 the impulse stirred within him to go West was acted upon, and he landed at Cincinnati. He there followed his chosen profession for two years, when he started for Iowa, landing at Muscatine, then known as Bloomington, April 18, 1839... A Sunday-school was opened the month following his arrival, and in July a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized with seven members... A common school was soon after established, he teaching in a little log cabin, and Oct. 10, 1840, saw the organization of the first temperance society of the Territory.

In April, 1840, Mr. Parvin purchased the business and variety stock of Adam Ogilvie, and conducted a general store for four years. He was appointed Clerk of the District Court, and elected to that office in 1846, when Iowa became a State. In connection with the unrestricted duties of the office in those primitive days, and after retiring from the position, he occupied himself with civil engineering and surveying.

While lying a victim of the cholera, which raged with fearful fatality in Muscatine County in 1850, Mr. Parvin was notified of his election on the Democratic ticket to the General Assembly of Iowa. While in attendance at that session he prepared and conducted to its final



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Added by: Anonymous

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passage the bill making the town of Bloomington the city of Muscatine. It was also this strong Democratic Assembly that passed the first prohibitory law of the State, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, including wine and beer. In 1854 Mr. Parvin was nominated and elected as the Temperance candidate for Mayor of Muscatine, and by the last of July every saloon in the city was closed under that old Democratic law...

In the month of May, l855, Mr. Parvin left the city... and moved to his country residence in Sweetland Township, three miles from the court-house. The following year he was elected to the Constitutional Convention, which met in 1857 and framed the present constitution of the State. He served as temporary chairman of the convention, and was appointed chairman of the important legislative committee... In 1863, while on a visit to New Jersey, Mr. Parvin was nominated as candidate for the Senate to fill a vacancy, and in 1865 was elected to the full term of four years. He regarded as the most important of the measures introduced by him the bill creating the Reform School, now known as the Industrial School of Iowa, established at Eldora... After his retirement from the Senate, with the exception of being Trustee, Mr. Parvin lived in comparative retirement from public life...

On the 27th day of May, 1866, Mr. Parvin wedded Miss Martha N. Williams, of Boston, Mass., a descendant of a very old New England family, whose founders emigrated from England about 1645... Mr. Parvin was not permitted to live but a few short months, for the Angel of Death entered that peaceful home and carried away the loving husband.

Family links:
Children:
Elizabeth Allison Parvin (1837 - 1841)*
Benjamin Dunham Parvin (1838 - 1839)*
George Washington Parvin (1839 - 1840)*
Joseph Chew Parvin (1844 - 1849)*
John Jackson Parvin (1845 - 1849)*
Harriet Newell Parvin (1850 - 1851)*
Bathsheba Harris Parvin (1851 - 1856)*
Martha Anna Parvin (1852 - 1852)*
Clara Effie Parvin (1854 - 1859)*
Abbott Parvin (1865 - 1865)*

Spouses:
Bathsheba H *Rocap* Parvin (1809 - 1833)
Hannah W *Dunham* Parvin (1812 - 1859)
Mary Lumiss *Wescott* Parvin (1819 - 1865)

*Point here for explanation

Burial:
Greenwood Cemetery
Muscatine
Muscatine County
Iowa, USA

Created by: Geo Clinton
Record added: May 27, 2010
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PARVIN, Bathsheba

Born:	23Y 3M -D
Died:	26 JAN 1833
Cemetery:	GREENWOOD
Location:	MUSCATINE, BLOOMINGTON TWP
County:	MUSCATINE CO. - IOWA
Record Notes:	W/O J.A.

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PARVIN, Hannah D.

Born:	47Y 2M 7D
Died:	01 OCT 1859
Cemetery:	GREENWOOD
Location:	MUSCATINE, BLOOMINGTON TWP
County:	MUSCATINE CO. - IOWA
Record Notes:	W/O J.A.

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PARVIN, Mary

Born:	45Y 10M -D
Died:	15 MAY 1865
Cemetery:	GREENWOOD
Location:	MUSCATINE, BLOOMINGTON TWP
County:	MUSCATINE CO. - IOWA
Record Notes:	W/O J.A.

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