

Both Territorial and State Legislators

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** Smyth, Robert **Senator** Smyth, Robert  
Served Linn, Benton, Cedar, Jones Counties

1. Birthday and place 26 Feb 1814 Eders Parish, County Tyrone, Ireland

2. Marriage (s) date place

Margaret Moffit 2 July 1846 Linn County Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Trustee of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa for 30 years;  
Board of Coe College; he was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1854.

B. Civic responsibilities GAR

C. Profession Farmer; banking business; harvest field laborer; teacher;  
town clerk; real estate business; lawyer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served Territorial Legislature serving Cedar, Jones Linn and Benton  
Counties 4 Dec 1843 to 16 Jul 1844; 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1846; House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1868, 1870 - Senate; 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
1864, House of Representatives

A. Local first postmaster of North's Township in Linn County Iowa; township clerk;  
town trustee

B. State

C. National

7. Death 3 April 1898 Mount Vernon, Iowa; buried Mount Vernon Cemetery, Mount Vernon.

8. Children William A.; John J.; Elizabeth, Anna (Mrs. S.E. Holden);  
four other children predeceased their father in death in infancy.

9. Names of parents Jeremiah and Nancy Ann (McElhenny) Smyth

10. Education He was educated in private schools in his neighborhood in Edin Parish, Tyrone County, Ireland

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

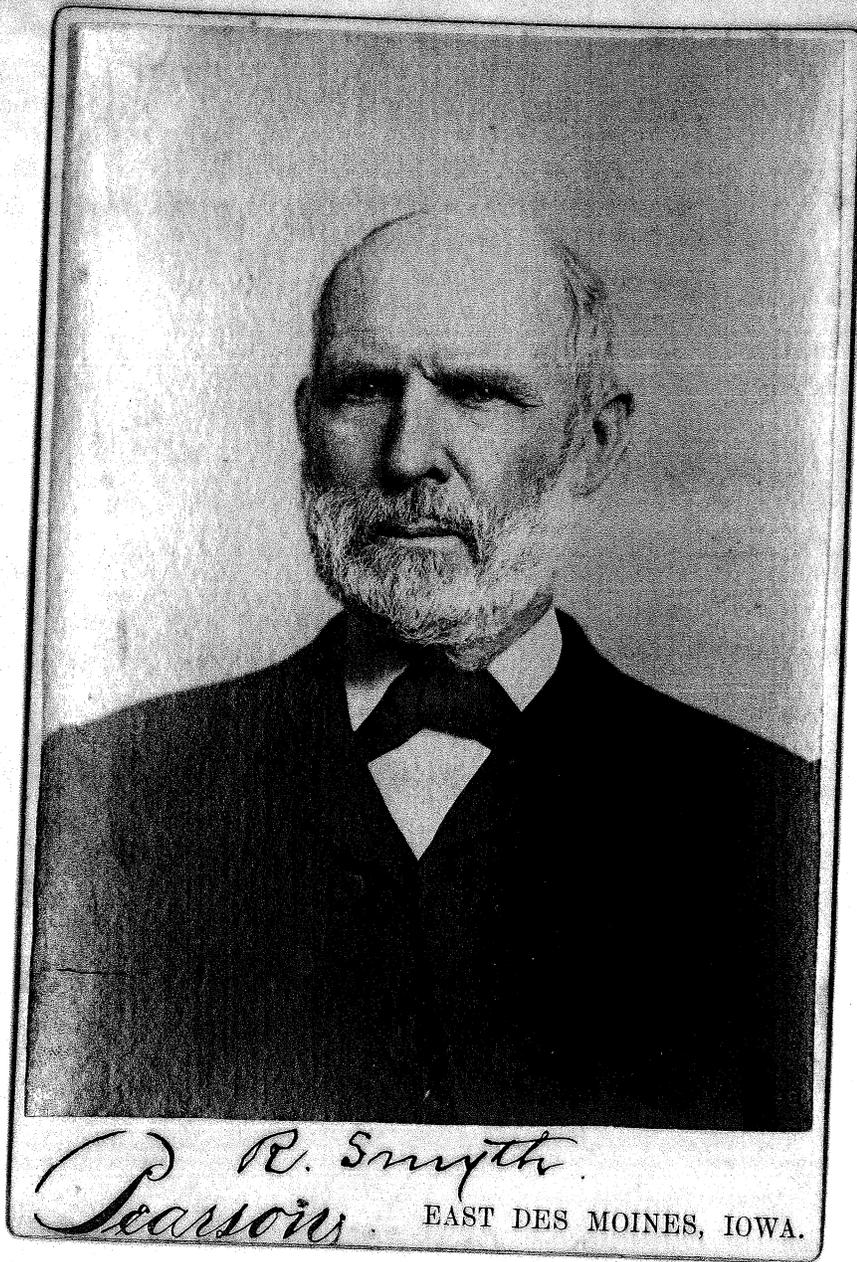
12. Other applicable information Abolitionist, later Republican

- Robert and his brother, John, sailed from Londonderry, Ireland on 24 Apr 1834 for America, arriving in Philadelphia 13 June 1834.
- He went from Philadelphia to Leesburg in Bedford County, PA working as a laborer, later as a teacher and later as a clerk.
- Left his clerking position in 1840 to go to Iowa, settling in Linn County in April 1840 and laid claim to some land.
- His parents and siblings arrived in June 1842 from Ireland.
- He and his wife lived on the farm until moving into Marion, Iowa in 1852
- He engaged in land and banking business with his brother William
- Later he was in law business in firm Smyth, Young and Smyth.
- Military service - Civil War - paymaster in U. S. Army
- He was a member of the law firm Smyth, Young and Smyth.
- The first president he voted for was Martin Van Buren.
- He read law with his brother, William Smyth.

## Sources Log For Legislation Entries

## Applicability

- | Source     | Non Applicable | Applicable | Information obtained   |
|------------|----------------|------------|--|
| - Obituary | -              |            | <u>The Mount Vernon Harbinger, Mount Vernon, Iowa, Fri. Apr. 8, 1898, p. 5, col. 3, 4, 5</u>                                       |
| -          |                |            | <u>The History of Linn County, Iowa 1878, p. 718</u>   |
| -          |                |            | <u>The Biographical Record of Linn County, Iowa 1901, Part 1, p. 459 - 462</u>   |
| -          |                |            | <u>Portrait and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa 1887, p. 400 - 401</u>   |
| -          |                |            | <u>Portrait - The original is located in the archives at the State, Iowa Historical Library, 600 E. Linn St., Des Moines, Iowa</u> |
| - Obituary | -              |            | <u>The Cedar Rapids Weekly Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Wed. Apr. 6, 1898, p. 8, col. 4</u>   |
| - Obituary | -              |            | <u>The Marion Pilot, Marion, Iowa Thurs. Apr. 14, 1898, p. 9, col. 4, 5</u>  |
| - Obituary | -              |            | <u>The Marion Register, Marion, Iowa Wed. Apr. 6, 1898, p. 8, col. 4</u>   |
| -          |                |            | GAR Records  |
| -          |                |            | ancestry.com (accessed 4 July 2010)  |
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**The Passing of a Pioneer.**

In the death of Col. Robert Smyth which occurred at his home in Mount Vernon, Sunday afternoon, the county loses one of its pioneer citizens, widely known and always respected by all who knew him.

In all that was good he took a lively interest and did all that he could for the betterment of society.

He was born in county Tyrone, Ire- rone, Ireland, February 26th, 1814. He came to this country in 1834, arriving in Philadelphia on the 13th of June of that year.

He came to Iowa and Linn county in 1840. He was married to Miss Margaret Moffit, daughter of Wm. Moffit of Cedar county, July 2nd, 1846. He lived on his farm in Franklin twp. until 1852 when he moved to Marion and engaged in the law and banking business. In 1866 he returned to his farm where he resided until a few years ago when he moved to Mount Vernon.

Col. Smyth was a member of the territorial legislature in 1843 and also of the first state legislature.

During the war he served as pay- master in the Union army.

He was elected state Senator in 1867, and a member of the House in 1883.

During all the years of his long and eventful life he was prominent in social, church and public affairs, a wise counsellor and a safe leader.

His wife and four children, Eliza- beth, Anna. (now Mrs. Holden) Wm. A. and John J. survive him.

He was an uncle of Senator Alexan- der and the Smyth brothers, Jay J., Robert and John S. of this city, all of whom attended the funeral services, held at Mount Vernon yesterday at 2 p. m.

**Organized.**

Deputy B. C. Wood has succeeded in organizing a Woodmen Circle, the auxiliary to W. O. W. with 10 ladies.

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I that story, as news  
most daily of like events  
ese olive-skinned people  
on the Florida coast, in  
s, to be sure, but large  
use any amount of grief  
with explosives and the  
a declaration of war,  
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an dailies, are replete  
c talk that has the sin-  
it, says Mr. Poy, and  
uple of the poetry com-  
ublished in the south  
the Spanish issue:

-A Southern Volunteer,  
fought with Stonewall,  
the fight with Lee:  
here Union goes to war,  
more gun for me!  
ink from Sherman  
oped to the sea,  
ere Union goes to war,  
more gun for me!

en at Manassas—  
boys in gray;  
Thunders roarin'  
newall Jackson's way,  
t time this sword of

The way for Lee:  
old nation goes to war,  
more gun for me!

all of fightin',  
a full of fun  
ck in the sixties,  
outlived my old gun,  
but my hair is white—  
'You know, must be  
old Union's in for war,  
more gun for me!

at my raisin'—  
I sixty-two  
ts, with battle shouts,  
the boys in blue:  
I fought with Stonewall,  
of the way for Lee.  
in Union's in for war,  
more gun for me!  
-Atlanta Constitution.

## INDID PROGRAM.

committee of the Ma-  
if the city, to whom was  
duty of arranging for  
pendin' of the new tea-  
25th inst., are rapidly  
e preparatory work to  
ust now the invitations  
city and their friends at  
road are being sent out.  
ge for invitations consist  
D. Cogswell, Robert  
E. Clark, James Morton  
aulton. These gentlemen  
ry wide acquaintance  
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sle co-operation assures  
of the event.

belief of the committee  
sure of the evening will  
if no formal program in  
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n. John T. Hamilton, one  
and best known Muscov  
will deliver a short ad-  
dres, which will likely  
e review of the history  
in Cedar Rapids, culmi-  
e erection of this mag-  
nificent.

ements for the amuse-  
are of the crowd who  
ave been made, the work  
I those selected for the  
s are. It is believed, well  
work required of them.  
the season.

etables in the gardens, and trees in  
full bloom. We expect to arrive in  
Baltimore April 5. Regards to all the  
boys. Yours truly, W. L. HOFFER

## A PIONEER GONE.

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon oc-  
curred the death of Col. Robert  
Smyth, at his home in Mt. Vernon,  
at the age of 88 years. The funeral  
arrangements have not been made,  
but the remains of this honored  
pioneer will probably be laid at rest  
Wednesday afternoon.

Patrick, County Tyrone, Ireland, Feb-  
ruary 26, 1811, of Scottish parents who  
settled in Ireland during the time of  
the Catholic-Presbyterian wars, they  
being Presbyterians. He made his  
home with his parents until 1834, and  
on the 24th day of April of that year  
set sail from Londonderry, Ireland,  
on the ship "Edmond" for America,  
arriving in Philadelphia June 15. He  
went directly to Bedford county,  
where he began work as a field hand  
at fifty cents a day. He then taught  
school for about a year, after which  
he accepted a situation at a general  
store at Loysburg, where he remained  
until 1838. In March of that year he  
resigned his position and started for  
what was then the territory of Iowa,  
going by stage to Pittsburg, thence  
by steamboat to St. Louis and from  
thence up the Mississippi to Bloom-  
ington, now Muscatine, and thence  
into Linn county on foot. He stop-  
ped with a countryman named Craig  
for several months, finally purchasing  
a claim in what is now section 8 of  
Franklin township.

On July 2, 1846 Mr. Smyth was united  
in marriage with Miss Margaret  
Moffitt, a native of County Tyrone  
and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wil-  
liam Moffitt of Cedar county. Mr.  
and Mrs. Smyth remained upon the  
farm until 1852, when they removed  
to Marion, Mr. Smyth engaging in  
the banking and real estate business,  
which he followed until 1862, when he  
returned to the farm, erecting some  
fine buildings and making it one of  
the most attractive places in the  
country.

Mr. Smyth was prominently con-  
nected with the early politics of Linn  
county, being the first postmaster of  
Franklin township, township clerk for  
several years, member of the terri-  
torial legislature in 1845, and in 1846,  
when the state was admitted to the  
union, he was one of the first mem-  
bers of the general assembly and a  
state senator in the fall of 1867. In  
1861 he was elected to the lower  
house, being a member of several of  
the important committees.

In the fall of 1861, after the break-  
ing out of the war, Mr. Smyth was  
appointed paymaster in the army. He  
was stationed at St. Louis the por-  
tion of the time and for a while at  
Davenport. In his capacity of pay-  
master he visited the soldiers in dif-  
ferent parts of Arkansas, Mississippi,  
Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky and Ten-  
nessee.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smyth were born  
three children, John J. Smyth, one of  
Marion's most prominent citizens,  
William A. Smyth equally prominent  
at Mt. Vernon and Mrs. Anna Hol-  
den, who for several years was a  
teacher in the public schools of this  
city.

In the death of Col. Smyth Linn  
county loses one of its best and most  
respected citizens. He was always  
active in public matters, ever on the  
side of the right and noted for his  
philanthropy. He was one of the  
sturdy pioneers who made the desert  
territory to the dignity of a state and  
who helped to make its first laws.  
Too much honor cannot be paid to  
the memory of such men, especially  
those like Col. Smyth, who fought  
and had the honor and respect of all.

happens to be in the  
those along the street,  
possible to tell at what  
of the teams will be co-  
nide and leave the street  
walk or front yards of

The ordinances of the  
a heavy penalty, dis-  
the police judge, for  
the streets in any part  
That ordinance is in ac-  
sents law and it is suff-  
a valuable lesson to t  
they are caught. The  
cause for such condue  
us can be learned if  
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disposing of their tea-  
that engage in the pra-

Along with the atte-  
given these fellows,  
watching should be dor-  
cle paths. The ordina-  
city provide that lights  
ried after night, and  
cyclists go over the p-  
either light or bell, and  
Death were after then

In that same connec-  
tion should be given  
men or youths who toll  
the path, dismounting  
lady dismounts, calling  
to the fact that her s-  
in the wheel and make  
generally obnoxious. It  
not take these fellows  
milice of the Good 12  
provide the proper nur-  
it will not be pleasant  
caught.

## MATRIMONY A F

A wife in the lower  
whose husband has do-  
tribute to the support  
little child, was before  
morning with her froun-  
ed that she had tried to  
tain her household, but  
fort is too great. Her  
a fair salary, but that  
troubles in behalf of hi-  
been futile, and she in  
sheer desperation to join  
company with a man  
says he would keep hi-  
She was informed that  
would forever end her  
cure a divorce which  
at present to do because  
of means, and that she  
probably be brought  
city in charge of an off-  
the salary of the officer  
and a position in mind,  
would accept it and pl-  
in the care of the home  
able to care for it.

The state of Minnesota  
provision in its statute  
such cases as this. If  
pleas to support his fa-  
vide means for their sus-  
he is able to do so he  
fall until he makes up  
it is the best thing to

## HE WANTS TO

The following heading  
tion to The Gazette is a  
conded space, and it i  
be read with interest I  
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as well as by his old e  
Editor Gazette: In a  
some one who claims I  
ier of T. Z. Cook past,  
an interview says that  
one hundred and sixty  
that not to exceed thr  
would stand the fatig  
of a soldier. I guess  
through his hat. In t  
I do not believe that  
that many paid up me  
second place, I know of  
dozen who do admit the  
long who are eager to  
go, and who claim that  
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were in '61 and '65 and  
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as they were in that I  
I do not admit that they can  
marching and soldier's  
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## THIS SHOULD STOP.

tional Local

M. E. held in

DEATH OF COL. ROBT SMYTH.

r were where

A Useful and Honored Pioneer Citizen Passed Away.

g Dr. al ben-

The rich and gracious promise "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in its season" is rarely more perfectly realized than in the honored and useful life; decline, and passing away of our esteemed fellow townsman, Col. Robert Smyth. In the truest, fullest sense he fulfilled his days and was gathered to his fathers in peace. In thinking of Col. Smyth we have often recalled the remark made of him by Dr. Kynette at the time his portrait was unveiled in the College Auditorium several years ago, when he said: "Col. Rob't Smyth was twenty years an Irishman, sixty years an American, and eighty years a Christian gentleman."

April Trus-tistine,

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Hon. Robert Smyth came of a long line of honorable ancestry. He was born Feb. 26, 1814, in Eden Parish,



COL. ROBT. SMYTH.

County Tyrone, Ireland. He died April 3, 1898, and was therefor aged 81 years, 1 month and 7 days. He was trained regularly in the practice of the principles of that sturdy and noble stock of Christians, commonly called Covenanters. His forefathers were all of Scotch descent. They were all connected with some branch of the Presbyterian church.

Robert, with his brother John, sailed from Londonderry, Ireland, on April 24, 1834, for America, arriving in Philadelphia June 13 of the same year. He went directly from Philadelphia to Loysburg, in Bedford county, where he was employed as a laborer in the harvest field at 50 cents a day. After harvesting was over he was engaged to teach a subscription school which occupied his time for one year. He was engaged as clerk in a general store afterward. For the first year's service he received \$60 in cash and his board and washing. The next year he received \$80, and \$20 extra for remaining in the position for two years. After that his wages were increased to \$200 per year, and he continued to clerk until 1840.

I dwell upon this part of his career because it belongs to the early history of our country. The annals of his early life possess a peculiar charm, illustrating what can be done where all avenues are open, by a young man with a definite purpose in life, and habits of industry and enterprise.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators College Record, Des Moines, Iowa. Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

monly calculated. He joined himself to whatever was best in his time. He has gone to his reward. He has lived a noble and pure life. He has not been a hero without a blemish, and yet his blemishes are not spots of taint. His faults were weaknesses, not crimes of the soul. He has lived well. He has died well. His virtues will go down after him. Now he is with God.

Col. Smyth was an honored elder in the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian church. His advice was sought in counsel and was always wise and practical. He was simple in his faith and childlike in his trust. In his last days he expressed his anticipations of the future. The Bible that he had studied for so many years now cast its light far on into the valley, until the very gate of heaven flashed upon his vision. He believed in the firm foundation laid for the saints. Such a life is worthy of emulation.

The following sons bear his name: William A., who resides in town, and John J., who resides just west of town on the old homestead. The daughters are: Miss Elizabeth, who resides with her parents and Mrs. S. E. Holden who resides at Napa City, Cal.

Col. Smyth came of a family of 11 children. Of that number but one still survives, Mrs. Susan Alexander, who is well known to us all. All the others, with but one exception, lie resting in the beautiful cemetery that overlooks our village.

"Servant of God, well done; Praise be thy new employ, And while our mortal ages run, Rest in thy Master's joy."

PRESIDENT KING.

Rev. Knox called upon President King, who in behalf of Cornell College spoke substantially as follows:

In the death of Hon. Robert Smyth we have lost an earnest, useful and patriotic citizen, an obliging and sympathetic neighbor, and a true and loving friend and brother. In the few minutes allotted to me it seems befitting that I should speak mainly of his relations to the college. For just thirty years Col. Smyth has been a trustee of Cornell College, and for twenty-eight years of this time he has been very closely identified with the administrative work as a member of the executive committee, thus rounding out nearly a third of a century in valuable service. He not only was thus liberal of his time in behalf of the college, but he was also liberal of his means, especially in the earlier years when his contributions counted for so much in the trying emergencies of those times. He was an admirable counselor, looking carefully into the details of the work, and yet taking a broad view of the scope and work of the college. In respect to the financial policy he was safely conservative, but in regard to the general work he was liberal and progressive. We of the college feel deeply this great bereavement, and shall find it exceedingly difficult to adequately fill his place. His honest and frank character, his considerate and noble spirit, and the fragrance of his many good deeds, will long linger along his pathway to embalm his name.

COE COLLEGE.

It is only the lack of time (no notice of the day and hour of the funeral service having reached us till the last moment) which prevents us from seeking to give some worthy expression to the honor and affection in which Col. Robert Smyth was held by his Brethren and Friends of the Board of Coe College, of which board he was for so many years a member. But in these hurried moments we can only say that we could not willingly be left out among the many witnesses at his funeral, who

can testify to the rare purity, integrity and solidity of this godly Christian character. Col. Smyth was like a granite block, a Gibraltar rock among his fellows. He was calm, wise, patient, well-poised. He was at the same time kind, gentle, warm in his feelings, affectionate in his disposition. It was a pleasure to be associated with him, and no one could know him without being the better for it.

For the Board of Trustees of the Coe College. E. H. BURKHALTER. J. C. BROOKSMIT.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

April 5, 1898.

The funeral services were held at the house Tuesday afternoon at 2:30, conducted by Rev. A. K. Knox his pastor, and Dr. King and his remains were carried to their last resting place in our cemetery attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends, many of whom came a long distance to pay their respects to one who was always greatly admired and esteemed. The business houses of town closed during the hour of services and Cornell College suspended exercises and the faculty and students attended the funeral. The following out-of-town relatives and friends were present: Senator J. S. Alexander and son Tod, Jay Smyth and wife, Robt. Smyth and wife, J. B. Scott, E. A. Vaughn, Chas. and Lizzie Cook, all of Marion. David Smyth of Stockton, Kansas. Major John T. Mollit, Frank Mollit, wife, son and daughter; Robt. Nealy, and wife, Geo. Bealy and wife, all of Tipton, Iowa; Alex. Mollit, wife, two sons and daughter; Mrs. Rebecca Mollit, Mechanicsville, Iowa; William Smyth, Cedar Rapids; William Smyth and two sons, of Rockford, Iowa; Mrs. E. B. Soper, Emmetsburg, Iowa; Mrs. R. D. Stephens, of Chicago; Evans and James Davidson, Stanwood; and Lucilla Chambers, Cedar Rapids.

COL. ROBT. SMYTH.

In behalf of the W. C. T. U. of Mt. Vernon: We tender to our bereaved sisters, Mrs. Col. Smyth and Miss Lizzie Smyth, our earnest and loving sympathy in the loss of the husband and father and our life long friend and co-worker in the temperance cause. This cause which was ever near and dear to his faithful heart. With pride and sincerest pleasure can temperance men and women look upon his record in our legislature for, to his sterling principles, wise and watchful vigilance is due much of the early temperance legislation of Iowa. All true friends of prohibition in Iowa will ever remember and revere the name of Col. Robt. Smyth.

His stalwart courage and stern fidelity, were ever proof against threats and bribery and enabled him always to stand for temperance principles and temperance laws.

The prohibition law found in him a staunch advocate and supporter, and we remember with what feelings of sorrow and condemnation he regarded the enactment of the Muleh Law. In our sorrow at the loss of this true and able worker, we ask who can or will take up the work which he carried on for fifty faithful years.

He has gone to his reward, he is and shall forever be with God. And we can but commend to our Heavenly Father, whose bidding he ever loved to do, the dear ones he left behind. The memory of his works and virtues shall stand to his friends a memorial and an enduring incentive to nobler thoughts and deeds.

MARY F. WILLIAMS  
MARY MOORE  
REBECCA B. IRONS.

Everything in the jewelry line at Stevenson's.

Great SUND

We Shall P. Next Week Ladies Ever

Beautiful than you

Neatly trimmed 20 cts. up, Dra Gowns of g trimmed fr skirts in variety

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H. D. B



son, member, Old Butterfield, Fire, W. Willis, City water Mason.  
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 Moved that Mayor ized to draw a check of Engineer Turner eik above sup-  
 Mayor,  
 A. THOMAS, Mayor,  
 EQUALIZATION.  
 igh, Travis, Butter- resent. Moved that her property exempt \$800, upon account of dow, carried.  
 1 p. m. by motion. ine, Butterfield and ved that Dr. Carson's ed \$1000, carried.  
 C. B. Bemis' assess- ried. Moved that ns be assessed for dy, \$40.00; C. W. r and S. H. Bauman, rrick, \$40.00; J. C. G. Miller, \$30.00; ahl, \$20.00; Geo. E. H. Safely, \$40.00.  
 at W. H. Safely be ehicles at \$5.00 each. hat the portion of d to Geo. Young be assessor's list. Car- journing until 2 weeks y April 18th.

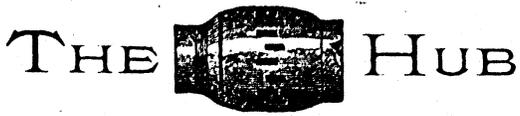
Dr. Stuntz.  
 ening of this week a lecture, "Four e of Parliament," at  
 A good audience r and a half to a eresting "talk," as modestly termed it; ed many a fifty- ou compare at or information, untz.  
 ing himself, as he ent," he said people ne in life when they heir dotage, he was perhaps it might be age.  
 as a short descrip- buildings of parlia- some eight acres of f their great archi- t drew a most un- son between the House transacts n Senate chamber e described some of bers, past and pres- of the house a day, rtant, bewigged, be- ced dignitaries, the  
 An eloquent plea ederation of the two king nations, that ogether against the gress, God and hu- delightful reminis- epts were some \$20 um for the course eds will be turned ster fund.

In March of 1810 he resigned his clerkship and started for what was then the territory of Iowa. He arrived in Linn county early in April of that year. He purchased a claim - the land on which his son, John J. Smyth, now lives. When he first came to Iowa he made his home at Thomas Craig's until July of that year, at which time his sister and her husband, Mr. and Robert Alexander, arrived from Ire- land. He then made his home with them. He continued to make his home with them until June, 1812, at which time his father, mother, six sisters and brother James arrived in Linn county, his brother William having arrived previously. His oldest brother, John, made his home in Philadelphia until 1861, at which time he and his family also came and settled in Linn county.  
 In 1816 he married Miss Margaret Moffit of Cedar county, who still sur- vives him, and who by her frugal and industrious habits helped him in his successful career. She was also born in Ireland. After his marriage they re- mained on the farm near Mt. Vernon till 1852, when they made Marion their home, and in company with his brother William he became engaged in the land and banking business. After- ward he was a member of the law firm of Smyth, Young & Smyth.  
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 He was a man of courage and of fidelity to his convictions. He never

... half-hour from now. Then you may ask me with an easy conscience if it is "HOT ENOUGH FOR ME." Fact is I'm a trifle over heated in my haste to reach

# BAIR & KYLES' FOR A SPRING SUIT

I'm wearing this heavy chevrot when for the small sum of \$5.00, \$6.00, \$8.00, or \$10.00 I might be cool and friendly. Don't detain me. Wait until I get the suit. It only takes five minutes to get fitted out there. He came--and he went away pleased.



Leading Clothiers **Bair & Kyle**

Spring Shoes,  
 Handsome Shoes,  
 Practical Shoes,  
 Ladies Shoes,  
 Men's Shoes,  
 Children's Shoes.

ALL KINDS OF SHOES FOR ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.

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**Death of Col. Robt. Smyth.**

We condense from the Hawkeye the following account of the life and death of Col. Robt. Smyth, of Mt. Vernon. He has been so long identified with the interests of Linn County that his history is intimately woven with that of the whole country:

Hon. Robert Smyth came of a long line of honorable ancestry. He was born Feb. 26, 1814, in Eden Parish, County Tyrone, Ireland. He died April 3, 1898, and was therefore aged 84 years, 1 month and 7 days. He was trained regularly in the practice of the principles of that sturdy and noble stock of Christians, commonly called Covenanters. His forefathers were all of Scotch descent. They were all connected with some branch of the Presbyterian church.

Robert, with his brother John, sailed from Londonderry, Ireland, on April 24, 1834, for America, arriving in Philadelphia June 13 of the same year. He went directly from Philadelphia to Loyalburg, in Bedford county, where he was employed as a laborer in the harvest field at 50 cents a day. After harvesting was over he was engaged to teach a subscription school which occupied his time for one year. He was engaged as clerk in a general store afterward. For the first year's service he received \$60 in cash and his board and washing. The next year he received \$80, and \$20 extra for remaining in the position for two years. After that his wages were increased to \$200 per year, and he continued to clerk until 1840.

In March of 1840 he resigned his clerkship and started for what was then the territory of Iowa. He arrived in Linn county early in April of that year. He purchased a claim—the land on which his son, John J. Smyth, now lives. When he first came to Iowa he made his home at Thomas Craig's until July of that year, at which time his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alexander, arrived from Ireland. He then made his home with them. He continued to make his home with them until June, 1842, at which time his father, mother, six sisters and brother James arrived in Linn county, his brother William having arrived previously. His oldest brother, John, made his home in Philadelphia until 1861, at which time he and his family also came and settled in Linn county.

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children. Of that number but one still survives, Mrs. Susan Alexander, who is well known to us all. All the others, with but one exception, lie resting in the beautiful cemetery that overlooks our village.

**Washington Letter.**

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., April 8, 1898.  
President McKinley postponed sending his Cuban message to Congress until next week, simply because there was nothing else to be done, after he was notified by Consul General Lee that it would be impossible to get the several thousand Americans then there all out of Cuba before about Sunday and that their lives would be in danger if they remained in Cuba after the message recommending intervention was made public. As impatient as Congress has been to take the action that will result in the end of Spanish control of Cuba, it had no objection to the postponement when it was made acquainted with the reason for the delay. Nothing can possibly be of greater importance than the preservation of the lives of American citizens. Nothing will be lost by the postponement. On the contrary, it will enable the administration to make the naval and military demonstration, which is to follow the action of Congress on the President's message, more formidable, and to make the first blow, if it comes to blows, more disastrous to the Spanish.

Meanwhile, there is a possibility that Spain may make the sending of the message to Congress unnecessary by humbly backing down and meeting every demand that President McKinley has made concerning Cuba, including the withdrawal of its soldiers and its flag from Cuba. This possibility, however, would not have resulted in the postponement of the message, as the President is too well acquainted with Spanish trickery to accept any promises contingent upon further diplomatic negotiations in answer to the ultimatum which was unsatisfactorily answered by Spain last week. The position of this government has been fully stated to Spain and will not be changed in the slightest degree. That was made plain to representatives of European nations when they sounded this government to ascertain how an offer to mediate would be received; and further they were told in the plainest of English that this government was fully determined to maintain its position by force, if necessary. Since then they have been bringing pressure to bear on Spain to compel it to comply with our demands. The Pope has not directly attempted to influence this government, and his attempt to arrange a truce between the Spanish and the Cuban insurgents has been productive of more harm than good to Spain, because it has been perfectly plain from the first that his object was to save Spain from the wrath of this country. Spain can give up Cuba peaceably if it will, but it has got to give it up. That is as certain as anything can be.

The following statement by Assistant Secretary Vanderlip, of the Treasury, is especially interesting at this time: "When war comes new influences operate upon the public revenues. The first boom of cannon is a call for increased resources, and is likely to be followed by a sharp decrease in ordinary receipts. Fortunately at no time since the civil war has the government been in a position as strong as it does now, with the exception possibly of the surplus

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In the fall of 1841 he was elected by the citizens of Cedar, James, Linn and Benton counties a member of the house of representatives of the territorial legislature. In 1846 he was elected by the people of Linn and Benton counties a member of the house of representatives of the First Gen'l Assembly of the state. In 1867 he was elected by the people of Linn county a member of the state senate for four years. He was also again elected by the people of Linn county a member of the house of the 20th Gen'l Assembly in the fall of 1883, just 49 years from the time first elected, where he served on important committees, among these the committee on constitutional amendments, which was then considered as of first importance.  
Col. Smyth was a honored elder in the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian church. His advice was sought in counsel and was always wise and practical. He was simple in his faith and childlike in his trust. In his last days he expressed his anticipations of the future. The Bible that he had studied for so many years now cast its light far on into the valley, until the very gate of heaven flashed upon his vision. He believed in the firm foundation laid for the saints. Such a life is worthy of emulation.  
The following sons bear his name: William A., who resides in town, and John J., who resides just west of town on the old homestead. The daughters are: Miss Elizabeth, who resides with her parents, and Mrs. S. E. Holden, who resides at Napa City, Cal.

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The following statement by Assistant Secretary Vanderlip, of the Treasury, is especially interesting at this time: "When war comes new influences operate upon the public revenues. The first boom of cannon is a call for increased resources, and is likely to be followed by a sharp decrease in ordinary receipts. Fortunately at no time since the civil war has the U. S. Treasury occupied so strong a position as it does now, with the exception possibly of the surplus days of 1855-90. The circulation statement just issued shows that we have an enormous stock of gold in the country, almost \$730,000,000. Of this amount the U. S. Treasury holds \$175,000,000. We are \$75,000,000 above the traditional reserve maintained for redemption of U. S. notes, and the reserve is increasing \$200,000 a day. But, notwithstanding the strong financial position of the government, and of the moneyed institutions of the country, there would, in any sort of a conflict, soon be a necessity for additional revenues. This has given grave concern to those charged with the administration of the finances of the government. Unquestionably, if war should come, our first victory should be the placing of the National Treasury upon a war basis." Mr. Vanderlip points out numerous ways by which our revenues could be speedily increased, but that is a matter to be determined by Congress alone.  
Gen. Schofield made a strong argument before the House committee on Military Affairs in favor of the Volunteer Reserve bill, which he said would, when put into effect, give the U. S. government an army of 1,600,000 trained men who could be called out to meet any emergency. Although it is too late for the idea to be utilized in the present emergency, it is being well received in Congress, and the bill will doubtless in time become a law. Although on the retired list, General Schofield is at the War Department every day, giving Gen. Alger the benefit of his extensive knowledge and experience.  
Secretary Alger this week approved the recommendation of Brigadier General Graham, commanding the department of the South, that Chickamauga National Park, near Chattanooga, Tenn., be used as one of the rendezvous for the concentration of troops; also that the Twenty-fifth Infantry, which was brought from Fort Missoula, Montana, should go into camp at Chickamauga and remain there until the station at

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THE UNITED STATES  
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

AND

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OF

EMINENT AND SELF-MADE MEN.

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IOWA VOLUME.

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CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:  
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1878.

on county and town organization, private corporations, the penitentiary at Anamosa and the hospital for the insane.

Mr. Chapman was originally a whig, and joined the republican party at its formation; is quite active and influential in local politics, and often attends the state conventions. He is a Master Mason and an Odd-Fellow, having represented the latter order in the grand lodge four or five times.

On the 17th of February, 1852, Mr. Chapman mar-

ried Miss Susan E Potts, of Colesburgh, and they have had nine children, all living except two. Ida May is the wife of James Balsinger, of Colesburgh; the others are single. William P., the eldest son, is a hardware merchant in Colesburgh. The youngest of the four sons living, Morris, was a page of the house in the seventeenth general assembly.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman attend the Congregational church, with which the latter is connected. They are among the pillars of pure-toned society.

## HON. ROBERT SMYTH,

MOUNT VERNON.

AMONG the Covenanters of Scotland who fled to the north of Ireland at the time of the persecution, was the Smyth family from which the subject of this sketch descended. He was born in Tyrone county, near Londonderry, Ireland, on the 26th of February, 1814, his parents being Jeremiah Smyth, a farmer, and Nancy McElhenny. The family on the mother's side were also Covenanters, and driven out of Scotland. Robert was reared on a farm, with ordinary common-school education; at twenty came to this country, and was employed as a clerk six years in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. On the 1st of April, 1840, he settled on land in Franklin township, one and a-half miles west of Mount Vernon, Linn county. He bought a claim of a quarter-section, and three years later, after his parents had come to this country, the land was entered and divided, and Robert had one fourth, eighty acres, of it. Here his parents lived until their death, the remains of both lying in the Mount Vernon cemetery. They were most estimable people.

Robert Smyth has added to his lands from time to time, and the original farm now embraces two hundred and eighty acres, most of it under superb cultivation. He has also another farm of a little more than one hundred acres, in Linn county, and other lands in Story, Calhoun and Woodbury counties, all in this state. Though a resident of Linn county since 1840, he has not been on the farm all of that time. From 1852 to 1866 he was a resident most of the time of Marion, the county seat, the greater portion of it being in a land, banking and law office. On going into the real-estate and banking business, he commenced reading law with his younger brother, the late Colonel William Smyth, who came to this

country in 1838. On the 22d of December, 1870, Senator Harlan, of Iowa, pronounced a brief and well-merited eulogy on Colonel Smyth in the United States senate, and from his remarks on that occasion we make the following extracts:

His rapid advancement in his profession, and his early elevation to the highest positions of honor and trust in the various departments enumerated, notwithstanding the severe competition and earnest rivalry which must always be encountered by a young man without wealth or family influence in a new and vigorous community in a frontier state, sufficiently attest his capacity and sterling qualities of head and heart. These qualities did not attract attention so much on account of striking brilliancy as for the harmonious blending of superior mental capacity, moral force, and purity of character, resulting in a high order of practical ability, which crowned his efforts with almost uniform success. His great qualities and marked success seemed to be more the fruits of correct early training, honest industry, severe study, careful reflection, and persistent effort, than of extraordinary native endowment. Hence the contemplation of his career may be more useful to the youth of the country than that of men of unequalled genius and native brilliancy. The former are self-made, the latter God-created; the former invite, the latter forbid, imitation. . . .

He was modest and retiring almost to a fault; he did not think of himself more highly than he ought; and yet he had that self-respect and confidence in his own capacity which prompted him to undertake to do whatever was necessary to be done without much regard for the character of the obstacles in his pathway. But this confidence seemed to be the outgrowth of an abiding faith in the capacity of humanity, as a common endowment of the individuals of the race, rather than self-esteem. He seemed to expect a large degree of personal success as the legitimate reward of persistent and well directed effort, and the confidence and approval of mankind as the just reward of merit.

He was not inordinately ambitious, nor yet was he insensible to the good opinion of his fellow-men and the public honors which marked his career. It is said that he expressed in his boyhood an earnest desire one day to obtain a seat in congress. He, however, seemed rather to accept than to seek preferment, and more on account of the wider field for usefulness which it afforded than on account of a desire for personal distinction. We have no evidence that unchaste desire for preferment among his fellow-men ever illured him from the pathway of virtue, or caused him to swerve a hair-breadth from the line of duty. He reached the goal of his youthful ambition in the meridian of life;

his neighbors had freshly crowned him with honors more desirable to an American than a royal diadem, when he was cut down in the midst of his years and usefulness.

I knew him in his boyhood; I watched his upward career during his manhood, and rejoiced in witnessing his every triumph. He was my friend and neighbor. It was my privilege to sit by his bedside and converse with him when the icy fingers of death were feeling for his vitals. I knew him to be a faithful friend, a generous neighbor, a confiding husband, a tender parent, an upright citizen, an able advocate, a just judge, a brave soldier, a learned counselor, a wise legislator, and a devoted christian. God has called him to a higher life. While we drop a tear at his grave, may we cherish his memory, imitate his virtues, and be able to meet the great conqueror with the christian fortitude which marked his closing hours when the Supreme Ruler shall call us hence.

Robert was admitted to the bar about 1854, but did only office business. From 1861 to 1866 he was paymaster in the United States army, with rank of major. Near the close of the civil war, some time in 1864, he was breveted lieutenant-colonel. No paymaster left the army with a cleaner record. He received for more than ten million dollars.

He was a member of the territorial legislature in 1843-44, and of the first general assembly of the state in 1846-7. During both of his terms there was an extra session of the legislature which he attended. He has also been a state senator during one term, attending the sessions of 1868 and 1870. In this body he was chairman of the committee on banks, and was on the committee on public offices, acting as chairman of that committee, also, part of the time, the chairman proper being absent. He did a good

work in both branches of the legislature, his industry cropping out there as everywhere, else.

In politics, Mr. Smyth has been a strong republican since the party had an existence. Originally, on becoming naturalized, he was democrat with anti-slavery proclivities, and joined the free-soil party in 1848. In 1875 his friends persisted in bringing his name before the republican state convention as a candidate for gubernatorial honors, and he had a strong support in that body, the popular old war governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood, becoming the nominee. Mr. Smyth has the ability to fill almost any chair in the gift of the people of Iowa.

He is a Presbyterian in religious belief, and an elder in the Mount Vernon Church. The character of no man in the county stands fairer. He was a delegate from the Cedar Rapids presbytery to the last general assembly of the Presbyterians held in Chicago. He is a wise counselor on an ecclesiastical as well as a political body. The answer to Sir William Jones's sonnet, "What Constitutes a State?" would be, "just such men as Robert Smyth."

On the 2d of July, 1846, Miss Margaret Moffitt, a native of north Ireland, but at that time a resident of Cedar county, Iowa, became his wife, and has been the mother of eight children, four of whom are now in the other world. One daughter, Anna, is preceptress of a collegiate institute, Napa City, California; the other three children are at home.

## ALEXANDER CLARK,

### MUSCATINE.

ALEXANDER CLARK, Most Worthy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted York Masons (colored) for the State of Missouri and its jurisdiction, popularly known as the "colored orator of the west," was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of February, 1826, his parents being John Clark and Rebecca *nee* Darnes. His father was born a slave, yet the son of his master, an Irishman, who emancipated both him and his mother, who was a mulatto. The mother of Alexander Clark, who still lives, at the age of seventy-one years, is a full-blooded African, consequently our subject is two-thirds African and one-third Irish. To his relationship to the last named nationality is due in a great measure the genius and brilliancy which so much adorn his charac-

ter, for it must not be supposed that because the Irish element in his composition is comparatively small that its influence in the formation of his character is not very considerable. Scientific men are familiar with the fact that the potency rather than the quantity of an ingredient in any mixture determines the general effect; and we have no doubt that to the circumstance alluded to is mainly due the existence of those elements of character which have led to the success to which Mr. Clark has attained.

On his mother's side he comes from a robust and long-lived stock. His grandfather, George Darnes, died at the age of seventy-three, and his grandmother, Leticie, lived to the age of one hundred and one, and her sister, Penda, lived to the age of one hundred and four.

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THE  
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CONTAINING

A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.,

A Biographical Directory of its Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Linn County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c.

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ILLUSTRATED.  
Historical Department of Iowa.

CHICAGO:  
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY.

1883

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- owns 220 acres of land. He has held the office of Town Trustee and Treasurer of School Fund for this district. He married Lucy McLaughlin in 1846; their children are William, Myron, Eliza, Charles and Siegel. William enlisted in the 24th I. V. L. and was taken prisoner at Atlanta and confined in Andersonville nine and a half months.
- Schantz, G. W., teamster, Lisbon.
- Schug, W. C., laborer, Lisbon.
- Scott, D. D., far., S. 18; P. O. Mt. Vernon.
- Scott, Jas. K. P., far., S. 18; P. O. Mt. Vernon.
- Scott, P. B., far., S. 18; P. O. Mt. Vernon.
- Sessions, C. M., hardware and groceries, Mt. Vernon.
- Shaler, Henry, hotel keeper, Lisbon.
- Shaler, M., retired, Lisbon.
- SHANTZ, M. L.**, blacksmith, Mt. Vernon; born in Montgomery Co., Penn., in 1844; came to this county in 1857; has worked at his trade thirteen years. He married Miss Mary J. Yount June 27, 1867; she was born in Indiana; has two daughters—Genevia A. and Nellie A.; lost one son—Adelbert R.; born Oct. 7, 1869, and died March 15, 1879.
- SILL, D. T.**, retired, Lisbon; born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1811; after leaving New York, he lived some years in Ohio, and in 1839 removed to Illinois, where he lived twenty six years, coming to this county in 1865. He married Miss P. A. Messenger in 1832; she was born in Vermont; has seven children—Elizabeth, Ann Eliza, Olivia L., John D., Marietta, Harriet N., Carrie B.; lost two.
- Simonds, J. L., pump mfr., Mt. Vernon.
- Smith, A. J., confectioner, Lisbon.
- SMITH, JAMES**, dealer in dry goods, notions, etc., Mt. Vernon; born in Belmont Co., Ohio, in 1826; came to this county in 1874. Holds the office of Mayor of the city. He married Miss Mary R. King in 1847; she was born in Morgan Co., Ohio; has three children—William King, Caroline N. and Charles T.
- Smith, James J., speculator, Mt. Vernon.
- Smith, H. H., carpenter, Mt. Vernon.
- SMITH, INCIDENT**, far., S. 9; P. O. Mt. Vernon; born in Ohio in 1831; came to this county in 1848; owns 500 acres of land. Has held office of School Director eight years. Married Miss M. L. Hamilton in 1855; she was born in Indiana; has five children—Alice C., Mary E., William H., Nellie M. and James R.
- Smith, William M., merchant, Mt. Vernon.
- SMYTHE, JAMES**, farmer, Sec. 7; P. O. Mt. Vernon; born in Tyrone Co., Ireland, in 1812; came to this county in 1842; owns 288 acres of land. Has served as School Director. He married Elizabeth Gormly in 1849; she was born in Ireland; has five children—Samuel J., Jeremiah G., Mathew A., Maggie A. and Mattie.
- SMYTHE, H.**, farmer, Sec. 8; P. O. Mt. Vernon; born in Tyrone Co., Ireland, in 1814; he left Ireland April 21, 1834, and came to America, settling in Pennsylvania, where he remained until his removal to this county in 1840; owns 300 acres of land. Has held the offices of Postmaster, Town Clerk, Town Trustee, and was elected to the Territorial Legislature of 1843-4; he was also elected to the first General Assembly of the State of Iowa in 1846, and in 1867 was elected to the State Senate and served four years; he was appointed a Paymaster in the U. S. service in 1861, and remained in the service until July, 1866. He married Miss Margaret Moffit in 1846; she was born in Ireland; has four children—Lizzie, Anna, William and John; lost four.
- Spadt, D. R., far., Sec. 1; P. O. Lisbon.
- Spadt, Israel, far., S. 11; P. O. Lisbon.
- Spadt, Peter, far., Sec. 1; P. O. Lisbon.
- Spangler, John, retired, Mt. Vernon.
- SPARRIE, WARREN**, retired, Lisbon; born in Maryland in 1807; came to Johnson Co., Iowa, in 1839, and to this county in 1869; previous to his removal to Iowa, he lived twenty eight years in Ohio. Holds the office of Mayor of the city, and has held the office of President of the School Board four years. He married Miss Mary Hoops in 1828; she was born in Ohio, and died May 28, 1832. He married Harriet Ballow March 27, 1838; has two children by first marriage—Asenath, born Aug. 28, 1828; Samuel, born March 28, 1831; by second marriage—Mary, born Feb. 4, 1839; M-

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*Keuler*

*S. C. Matson Viola Keuler Iowa 10-27/92*

PORTRAIT AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL

ALBUM

— OF — 733a

LINN COUNTY, IOWA, PL. I

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 IOWA, AND  
OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

*Published by*

CHICAGO:

CHAPMAN BROTHERS,

1887.

graduated from the literary department of Lietmaritz College at the age of sixteen, and then entered the medical college of Goethen, remaining there until twenty-two years old. After graduating from this institution he turned his steps toward the New World.

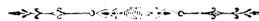
After reaching the United States, Dr. Martinitz proceeded to Minnesota and settled in Rochester, that State, where he remained for eight years, and built up a fine practice. He was studious and very anxious to become a proficient in his profession, and not satisfied with the advantages he had already received, he determined to still further advance himself in the intricacies of his chosen profession. He had great faith in the methods of instruction pursued in the colleges of his native land, and he accordingly returned there and took another course of study in the University of Prague. He was well pleased with the result of this experience, and returning to America again sought the State of Minnesota, this time settling in Northfield, where he engaged in practice and remained until 1881. From there he removed to Grand Forks, Dak., and resolving for a time to rest from his professional duties, he became interested in the real estate business. He was occupied in this for five years, then proceeded to Chicago, took a course of lectures in the Chicago Medical College, and prepared to resume his old practice.

In March, 1886, Dr. Martinitz came to Cedar Rapids and opened an office in the Carpenter Block. Although his stay here has been brief, he has reason to feel greatly encouraged at the prospect before him. His fine education and native talent can not fail to open up to him a successful future, while his qualities as a man and a citizen will further aid him in the pathway of prosperity.

In 1874 Dr. Martinitz was united in marriage with Miss Amelia Weber, daughter of Bernard Weber, Esq., of Casselton, Dak. Mrs. M., like her husband, is a native of Bohemia, and came with her father to America in 1868. They first settled in Owatonna, Minn., where the father purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1878, and then removed to Casselton, Dak., where he is engaged in the same occupation.

Dr. and Mrs. M. are earnest adherents of the Catho-

lic faith, and the supporting pillars of that church in this community. Politically he is a Democrat, and socially is a popular member of the community. He is the possessor of a fine property, and has an interest in 640 acres of land near Grand Forks, Minn., which is undergoing improvements, and is the possessor of other real estate, a large dwelling-house and lots in the same town. He is also a stock-holder in a gold mine in Colorado. His life promises to be a busy one, and his energy and perseverance are apparently equal to the occasion.



**HON. ROBERT SMYTH**, of Franklin Township, comes from a long line of honorable ancestry, and was born in Eden Parish, County Tyrone, Ireland, Feb. 26, 1814. He is the son of Jeremiah and Nancy (McElhenny) Smyth, who were descendants of a part of the family of Scottish ancestry, and who removed from their native country and settled in Ireland during the time of the Catholic-Protestant wars, they being Presbyterians.

The father of Robert Smyth was a farmer by occupation, and Robert was educated in the private schools common in those days. He made his home with his parents until 1834, and on the 24th day of April of that year set sail from Londonderry, Ireland, on the ship "Edmond," and after a safe voyage landed in Philadelphia on the 13th day of June. He went directly to Bedford County, Pa., and engaged as a laborer in the harvest-field at fifty cents a day. After the harvest was over he engaged in teaming two months, and in the fall commenced teaching a subscription school, in which he was occupied about a year. He then went to Loysburg, in Bedford County, and engaged as clerk in a general store. For the first year's labor he received \$60 in cash and his board and washing; the next year he received \$80, and \$20 extra for remaining in the position for two years. After this his wages were increased to \$200 per year, and he continued to clerk until 1840. In March of that year he resigned his position and started for what was then the Territory of Iowa, going by stage from Hollidaysburg to Pittsburgh, thence by steamboat to St. Louis, and from thence up the Mississippi

to Bloomington, now Muscatine, and thence into Linn County on foot. His first stopping-place was at the house of Mr. Craig, a countryman of his, where he remained three or four months. He had, in the meantime, purchased a claim adjoining the farm of Mr. Craig, on section 8 of what is now Franklin Township. There was a log cabin on the place, and eight acres had been broken. He put in a crop of wheat, potatoes and corn that year. In July his sister and brother-in-law, Robert Alexander, came and settled on this claim, each owning one-half, and Mr. Smyth lived with them for two years, when his parents came over, and after establishing them comfortably in a home, he went to live with them. The land in this region was not surveyed until some time after Mr. Smyth came here, and when it did come into market he was detailed as bidder for all the land in this township; this was in 1843. His father entered the northwest quarter of section 8, which he divided among his children, his son Robert securing forty acres. The nearest markets at this time were Muscatine and Dubuque. St. Louis was a better market, and for several years he loaded his produce upon flatboats and shipped it there. For two years he did all his farm work, with the exception of plowing corn, with oxen, and drew his grain to Muscatine with them.

Mr. Smyth remained with his parents until his marriage, which occurred July 2, 1846, the lady of his choice being Miss Margaret Mollitt. She was a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, and the daughter of William and Bessie (Armstrong) Mollitt, of Cedar County, this State. Previous to this our subject had built a log house on the site of his present home, in which the young couple commenced housekeeping, and remained there until 1852.

Mr. Smyth and his faithful helpmeet had been industrious and frugal, and had accumulated considerable means as the reward of their labors. In the year above mentioned, Mr. Smyth abandoned farming, and, going to Marion, engaged in banking and real estate business, and was thus occupied for ten years. He had retained possession of his farm, and erected a fine brick dwelling upon it in 1866, to which he retired with his family, and has made

it his home since that time. The homestead is one of the attractive features of the landscape in Franklin Township, and everything in and about it indicates the existence of ample means and cultivated tastes, with all the comforts of life and a large share of its luxuries.

Mrs. Margaret Smyth was born in 1826, and came to America with her parents in 1840. After reaching American shores they came directly to Iowa, going into Cedar County at the time of its earliest settlement. They located in Mason's Grove, which is now in Cass Township, and there passed the remainder of their lives.

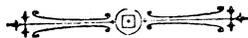
Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Smyth have been born the following children: John J. married Miss Elia W. Warren; she was born in Franklin Township, and is the daughter of William Warren, also an early settler; he was a soldier in the late Civil War, and died in the service. John J. Smyth is a farmer, his land adjoining that of his father; he has two children, Helen and Anna. William A. has a farm on section 17 of this township. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, is at home with her parents; Anna married Mr. S. E. Holden, of Napa City, Cal., and resides at that place, having gone there as preceptress of Napa College. Mrs. Holden taught several terms in the Cedar Rapids public school, and stood very high in her profession. She has three children, named Robert Smyth, Harold E. and Grace E. Mr. Holden is a native of New Hampshire, and a graduate of Middleton College; he is dealing in tanning and wool.

The enterprising and energetic qualities in the character of Mr. Smyth were recognized very soon after his arrival in this vicinity, and he was marked out as destined to be a leader in his community. After the organization of the township, and when it became necessary that some one should fill the minor offices, he was selected as one of the first incumbents. He was the first Postmaster in Franklin Township, which remained the only office in this section for some time, and he was Township Clerk soon after it became necessary to have such an official. He advanced, step by step, and in the fall of 1843 was elected as a member of the Territorial Legislature, and in 1846, after the State was admitted into the Union, he was one of the members of the First

General Assembly, and a State Senator in the fall of 1867. In 1883 he was elected to the Lower House, and served on the important committees of the session, among them the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, which then was considered as of the first importance. At this time, also, he was Chairman of the Committee for the Suppression of Intemperance, and engineered the bill through the House.

The first Presidential vote of Mr. Smyth was cast for Martin Van Buren. He was an Abolitionist from the start, and in 1852 voted for J. P. Hale. At the organization of the Republican party, in 1856, Mr. Smyth voted for Gen. Fremont, and has been a staunch Republican since that time. In the fall of 1861, after the breaking out of the late Civil War, he was appointed Paymaster in the army. He remained in this position, and was engaged in other duties connected with the service until the year after the close of the war, and in his department served creditably and with satisfaction to all concerned. He was at St. Louis the greater part of three years, and afterward at Davenport, and in his capacity of Paymaster visited the soldiers in different parts of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The family of Mr. Smyth is one of the most prominent in Franklin Township. In their habits of life and general character they are true and worthy descendants of their good old Scottish ancestors. They have assisted in advancing and maintaining the position of Franklin Township as one of the best sections of Linn County, in point of morality, intelligence and education. To such men as Hon. Robert Smyth is due the present importance of the Hawkeye State.



**S**AMUEL A. KURTZ, one of the enterprising young citizens of Lisbon, which is his native place, was born Dec. 15, 1854, and is the son of John E. and Esther (Hershey) Kurtz. He received his early education in the public schools, and when he had graduated there attended three terms at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon. When not in school, he assisted his father as

clerk, and became so familiar with business details, that in 1878 he decided to establish a business for himself. He formed a partnership with his brother, H. C. Kurtz, and the firm has since continued successfully, and with a growing trade. They are active, enterprising young men, genial and obliging, and making many friends both in a business and social way.

Samuel A. Kurtz and Miss Ella Auracher were united in marriage Feb. 21, 1878. Mrs. K. is the daughter of Gottlieb and Elizabeth Auracher, and by her union with our subject has become the mother of three children—Clara, Bessie and Esther.

Politically Mr. Kurtz is a solid Republican, and is rapidly becoming a leader among the younger men of his community. The firm of H. C. and S. A. Kurtz have of late entered into a contract with the C. & N. W. R. R. to furnish ties, piles and wood. They are industrious and ambitious, and whenever they can take in any additional branch to an already extensive business, are always ready to do so, preferring to have their hands more than full rather than spend any valuable time in idleness.



**C**H. RANK is the well-known proprietor of one of the favorite livery stables of Marion. In addition to this he also carries on a feed and sale stable and billiard hall, and by his genial disposition, and fair and square dealing has become well and widely known throughout the city. The subject of our sketch is a native of the Prairie State, being born in Carroll County, Ill., in 1861. His parents were Samuel and Elizabeth (Hollinger) Rank. The father was born in Franklin County, Pa., from which State he emigrated some years ago, and is now a resident of Cedar Rapids. The mother was also a native of Pennsylvania, and departed this life at Minneapolis, Minn., in 1884.

Mr. C. H. Rank came to Iowa in 1868, and two years later removed to Cedar Rapids. He was engaged as a passenger brakeman of the B. C. R. & N. R. R., two years. The exposure during the winter season proved very severe, and the labors

THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

OF

LINN COUNTY

IOWA.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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*"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations."—MACAULAY.*

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
1901.

Part 1

for some years continued to make most of his professional calls in that way as there were very few good roads in this part of the county at that time. For several years he was the only physician at Springville, and his practice has always been as large as he could conveniently attend to. A man of progressive ideas he has always kept posted on the latest theories and discoveries made in the science of medicine and surgery, and has taken several postgraduate courses, spending three winters at the Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, and a part of two at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. He is acknowledged to be one of the best and most successful physicians in this part of the state. He is a member of the Iowa Union Medical Society, Iowa State Medical Society, and American Medical Association.

Dr. Love was married in Linn county, September 28, 1865, to Miss Alice Stone, a daughter of Joshua D. Stone, who came to this county from New York at an early day. She was born and reared here, and was educated at Cornell College. She died June 22, 1872, and was laid to rest in Springville cemetery.

The Doctor has not only met with success professionally but has also prospered financially during his residence in Springville, and has built and still owns six good residences in the village, besides a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He is a man of good business ability and practical sound common sense. During his vacations he has made a number of trips to the Pacific slope, and has also visited the east several times. Socially he is a member of Springville Lodge, No. 139, A. F. & A. M., and Marion Chapter, No. 10, R. A. M. At one

time he was also connected with Patmos Commandery, No. 27, K. T., of Marion, but is now dimitted. Although not a member of any religious denomination he attends the Presbyterian church and gives to its support, having been reared in that faith. There is probably no man in this part of the county more widely known or universally respected than Dr. Love.

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#### HON. ROBERT SMYTH.

Among the Covenanters of Scotland who fled to the north of Ireland at the time of the persecution was the Smyth family from which the subject of this sketch was descended. He was born near Londonderry, in County Tyrone, Ireland, February 26, 1814, his parents being Jeremiah and Nancy (McElhenny) Smyth, farming people. The family on the mother's side were also Covenanters and were driven out of Scotland.

Robert Smyth was reared on a farm, receiving an ordinary common-school education. At the age of twenty he came to this country, and was employed for six years as a clerk in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. On resigning that position March 4, 1840, he started for the territory of Iowa. The journey was made by stage from Hollidaysburg to Pittsburg, thence by steamer to St. Louis, and up the Mississippi to Bloomington, now Muscatine, Iowa, whence he came to Linn county on foot. For about four months he made his home with Mr. Craig, who was also from Ireland, and during that time he bought a farm near that gentleman's place, on what is now section 8, Franklin township. A log house had previously been built upon the place and eight acres of the

land had been broken. The first year Mr. Smyth planted a crop of wheat, potatoes and corn. In July, 1840, he was joined by his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alexander, who owned a half interest in the farm, and with them he resided for two years. His parents crossed the Atlantic in June, 1842, accompanied by six daughters and their son James, and the family also located in Linn county. William, another son, had previously settled here, and John, the oldest son, after residing in Philadelphia for some time, removed to this county with his family in 1861. After establishing his parents in a comfortable home our subject went to live with them. The land in this region was not surveyed for some time after he located here, and when it came into market in 1843, he was detailed as a bidder for all the land in Franklin township. His father had entered the northwest quarter of section 8, which he divided among his children, Robert securing forty acres of this. Their nearest markets at that time were Muscatine and Dubuque, and for several years Mr. Smyth floated his farm produce down the Mississippi river on flatboats, as he could obtain a much better price for his grain in St. Louis. For two years he did all his farm with oxen, except plowing corn, and he also hauled his grain to Muscatine with them.

Mr. Smyth made his home with his parents until he was married, July 2, 1846, to Miss Margaret Moffitt, of Cedar county, Iowa, who was also born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1826, and was fourteen years of age when she came to the United States with her parents, William and Bessie (Armstrong) Moffitt. Coming direct to Iowa, the family located at Mason's Grove, now Cass township, Cedar county, where Mr. and

Mrs. Moffitt spent the remainder of their lives.

Of the eight children born to our subject and his wife, four died in infancy, while the others are as follows: (1) John J., born in Marion, Iowa, in 1857, was principally educated in the public schools of this county, but attended Cornell College a short time. He is now engaged in general farming and stock raising on the old homestead farm on section 8, Franklin township. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian. He was married in 1879 at Mt. Vernon, to Miss Ella W. Warren, who was born in Franklin township, her parents, William and Rosina (Neal) Warren, being early settlers of this county. Her father was a carpenter by trade. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Thirteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and died in the service at Vicksburg when about forty-five years of age. Unto John J. Smyth and wife were born four children: Helen, Anna and Robert, all living; and Warren, deceased. (2) William A. is a retired farmer now residing in Mt. Vernon. (3) Elizabeth was educated in the public schools of Marion and at Cornell College, and resides with her mother at their pleasant home in Mt. Vernon. (4) Anna is the widow of Samuel E. Holden, who died in Napa City, California, December 31, 1900, leaving three children, Robert S., Harold E. and Philip S. Mrs. Holden taught for several terms in the public schools of Cedar Rapids and stood very high in her profession, and was also preceptress of Napa College.

Mr. and Mrs. Smyth began their domestic life in a log house which he erected prior to his marriage on the site of his son John's present home. His wife was to him a true helpmate, and to her encourage-

ment and support he owed not a little of his success. From 1852 to 1866 he was a resident of Marion most of the time, the greater portion of it being spent in a land, banking and law office. On going into the real estate and banking business, he commenced reading law with his younger brother, the late Colonel William Smyth, who came to this country in 1843. In 1854 he was admitted to the bar, and later became a member of the firm of Smyth, Young & Smyth, but he engaged only in office practice. In 1866 he returned to his farm, on which he erected a fine brick residence that year and which he made one of the most attractive places in Franklin township. He was a man of excellent business and executive ability, was industrious, enterprising and progressive, and to these characteristics may be attributed his success in life.

Mr. Smyth was one of the most popular and influential men of his community, and as his fellow citizens recognized his ability he was called upon to fill a number of public positions of honor and trust. He was the first postmaster of Franklin township, which was the only office in this section for some time, and was made township clerk soon after it became necessary to have such an official. In the fall of 1843 he was elected to represent Cedar, Jones, Benton and Linn counties in the lower house of the territorial legislature, and in 1846 became a member of the first general assembly of the state, being elected from Benton and Linn counties. In 1867 he was elected to the state senate by the people of Linn county for a term of four years, and was again elected to the lower house of the twentieth general assembly in the fall of 1883, just forty years from the time he was first elected. He was a member of several important committees,

including the one on constitutional amendments, which was considered the first of importance at that time. He was also chairman of the committee for the suppression of intemperance and engineered the bill through the house. It was said that to his sterling principles, wide and watchful diligence was due much of the early temperance legislation of the state. He always stood for temperance principles and temperance laws, and the prohibition law found in him a staunch advocate and supporter.

Mr. Smyth cast his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren. He was an abolitionist from the start, and in 1852 voted for J. P. Hale. On the organization of the Republican party in 1856, he joined its ranks and always remained a staunch supporter of its principles. In the fall of 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln as paymaster in the United States army, and held that position until May, 1866, with headquarters at St. Louis and Davenport, his payments being made in Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi. During this period he disbursed from the government treasury the vast sum of over ten million dollars, and furnished satisfactory vouchers for every dollar paid out. His public and private life were alike above reproach, and he had the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact either in business or social affairs. It was said of him that he "was twenty years an Irishman, sixty years an American, and eighty years a Christian gentleman." He died on Sunday, April 3, 1898, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was a Presbyterian in religious belief and an elder in the Mt. Vernon church. His advice was sought in church councils, as it was always wise and practical, while he was simple in

his faith and childlike in his trust. For thirty years he was a trustee of Cornell College; with the exception of two years he was closely identified with the administrative work as a member of the executive committee. Not only was he liberal of his time in behalf of the college, but also gave freely of his means to its support in early years when contributions were especially needed. He was also a member of the board of Coe College for many years. It is but just and merited praise to say of Mr. Smyth, that as a business man he ranked with the ablest; as a citizen he was honorable, prompt and true to every engagement; as a man he held the honor and esteem of all classes of people, of all creeds and political proclivities; as a husband and father he was a model worthy of all imitation; unassuming in manner, sincere in his friendships, steadfast and unswerving in his loyalty to the right. Throughout his career of continued and far-reaching usefulness, his duties were performed with the greatest care, and during a long life his personal honor and integrity were without blemish.

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#### JOHN M. REDMOND.

John M. Redmond, mayor of Cedar Rapids and a leading attorney of that place, is a man whose worth and ability have gained him success, honor and public confidence. He was born in Syracuse, New York, on the 8th of April, 1859, his parents being Edward and Adelia (Dowd) Redmond. The father is a native of Dublin, Ireland, and was a child when he came alone to the United States, about 1846, locating in Syracuse, New York, where he followed the saddler's trade. There he married Adelia Dowd, who

was born in Kells, Ireland, and they continued to make their home in Syracuse until coming to Mt. Vernon, Iowa, in 1866. There the father engaged in the harness and saddlery business for two years, and later followed the same pursuit in Cedar Rapids for six years; but in 1895 he returned to Syracuse, New York, where he is now living a retired life. The wife and mother died May 14, 1891, leaving a family of six children, of whom John M. and George are still residents of Cedar Rapids.

The common schools of Mt. Vernon afforded John M. Redmond his early educational privileges, and later he was a student at Cornell College, in the same place. He then entered the law department of the State University, and was graduated in the class of 1881, with the degree of LL. B. The same year he was admitted to the bar, and began practice in Cedar Rapids in January, 1883, as a member of the firm of Smith, Powell & Redmond, his partners being Milo P. Smith and J. J. Powell. This connection continued about a year, since which time he has been alone and has successfully engaged in general practice before all the courts, making for himself an enviable reputation in his chosen profession. His practice is now quite large and lucrative. He is interested in a number of different business enterprises, and is now a director of the Peoples Savings Bank of Cedar Rapids.

On the 20th of February, 1895, Mr. Redmond married Miss Channie J. Porter, of Cedar Rapids, a daughter of J. S. Porter. They have a fine home on First avenue in one of the best parts of the city. Mr. Redmond attends and supports the Christian church, of which his wife is a member, and has taken an active part in supporting the charitable institutions of the city.

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# HISTORY OF IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES  
TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FOUR VOLUMES <sup>22</sup>/<sub>35</sub>

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

surgeon of the Board of Enrollment for the Sixth Congressional District and served through the draft of 1864, being stationed at Fort Dodge. He served as mayor of Sioux City, was one of the incorporators of the First National Bank, also of the Sioux City & St. Paul and other railroad companies. In 1878 he was appointed by Governor Gear one of the Commissioners to the Paris Exposition. He was a member of the Cobden Club of England and deeply interested in tariff reform. Dr. Smith was one of the founders of the First Unitarian Church of Sioux City and an active member of the Iowa and Western Conferences of that denomination. In politics he was an independent Republican of the George William Curtis stamp and always acted up to his convictions of right, regardless of party platforms. He served for thirteen years as Receiver of the United States Land Office at Sioux City and as such had the custody of millions of dollars of the public money during the sales of public lands.

ROBERT SMYTH, one of the pioneers of Linn County, was born in Ireland, February 26, 1814. He came to America in 1834 and located in Linn County, Iowa, in 1840. Here he became an extensive dealer in real estate and afterwards engaged in banking. He was a member of the Sixth Territorial Legislature in 1843-4 and of the State Legislature in 1846-8. Mr. Smyth was again a member in 1868, serving four years in the Senate. In 1884 he served in the House of the Twentieth General Assembly forty years after he first became an Iowa lawmaker. Colonel Smyth was one of the paymasters of the United States army for several years, disbursing more than \$10,000,000 during his term. He died at Mount Vernon April 3, 1898.

WILLIAM SMYTH was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, January 3, 1824. He came with his parents to America when about fifteen years of age and in 1840 located in Linn County, Iowa. Mr. Smyth studied law at Iowa City and in 1848 opened a law office in Marion. In 1853 he was appointed judge of the Fourth Judicial District, serving until 1857. In 1858 he was chosen by the Seventh General Assembly one of three commissioners to revise and codify the laws of the State. Their work was accepted by the Legislature and became the Code of 1860. Judge Smyth was then appointed on the Commission of Legal Inquiry. In 1861 he was one of the commissioners appointed to negotiate the bonds issued by the State to provide a war defense fund. In August, 1862, he was commissioned colonel of the Thirty-first Iowa Infantry and served in the field until December, 1864, when he resigned on account of failing health. In 1868 he was elected to Congress and served until his death in 1870.

FRANCIS SPRINGER was born in the State of Maine, April 15, 1811. He worked on a farm in boyhood and attended district school

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

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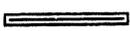
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Belonging to the First and Second  
Generations, with Anecdotes and  
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

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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of raising funds to put the State on a war footing. In 1862 he was commissioned Colonel of the Thirty-First Regiment of Iowa Infantry. Of this appointment, Stuart, in his *Iowa Colonels and Regiments*, page 467, says, "At the time he entered the service he had no military knowledge or training; he was made Colonel on account of his worth." He was an efficient and gallant officer, and participated in many engagements incident to Sherman's famous March to the Sea. On the arrival of his regiment at Savannah, he was obliged to resign, in December, 1864, on account of ill health resulting from his arduous service and the hardships to which he had been exposed, from the effects of which he never fully recovered, and which led to his death a few years afterward. He resumed the practice, however, and in 1868 was elected to represent his district in Congress. At the end of that term he was re-nominated without opposition, by the Republican Convention of his District, but died before his election.

In person, he was large and portly. His address was pleasing, dignified, but kindly on all occasions. It was a pleasure to meet him. Of him Stuart says, "His merit as a soldier consisted in his kind care for his men, and in his great bravery." As illustrating his coolness in battle, Stuart says further, "I am told he would sit quietly on his horse under a sharp fire of the enemy, while determining upon the proper command to be given to his regiment for some designated movement."

He died in the prime of life, at the age of forty-six, leaving the heritage of a brave and noble life.

*Robert Smyth* was an elder brother of Colonel William Smyth, and was one of the early settlers of Iowa while it was a Territory. He was born in Ireland, where his brother was born, in 1814, and when he was twenty years of age, came to America and located in Linn County. He was one of the Territorial, as well as one of the State Legislators. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1843, and of the First General Assembly of the State, in 1846, and of the extra sessions attendant upon both those assemblies. In the fall of 1867 he was elected to the State Senate from Linn County and served with efficiency in the Twelfth and Thirteenth General Assemblies. In 1875 he was a prominent candidate for the nomination of Governor in the Republican State Convention, which nominated the popular old War Governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood.

He was early admitted to the bar, but the principal portion of his life was devoted to large business interests, in which he was highly successful. During the Civil War he was appointed Paymaster in the United States Army, and served in that position from 1861 to 1866. He handled vast sums of money and left the army with a clean record. In enumerating his services as a Legislator, I failed to mention that in the fall of 1883 he was elected to the House of the Twentieth General Assembly, and served in that body just forty years after he had first served in

that capacity in the Sixth Territorial Legislative Assembly. He died at his home in Mt. Vernon, Linn County, in 1898, at the age of eighty-four.

*Isaac Cook* was one of the earliest, as well as one of the ablest lawyers of Linn County. He was a relative of my wife, and both belonged to the Quaker stock of Chester County, Pennsylvania. He came west in the early forties, locating at Marion while Iowa was still a Territory. He later removed to Cedar Rapids. In 1850 he was the Whig candidate for Secretary of State, while William H. Seevers, afterward a Judge of the Supreme Court, was a candidate for Auditor of State on the same ticket. It was in that election that Stephen Hempstead was elected Governor on the Democratic ticket. During the same year Judge Cook was elected the first City Attorney of Cedar Rapids. In 1857 he was made the District Judge of that District, succeeding Judge William Smyth, and served with marked ability and general satisfaction. He was a deeply learned lawyer, and his learning was happily compounded with an even temper, great common sense, and a character of the highest order. He was respected by all classes of people and his death, which occurred in 1878, was widely and sincerely lamented.

*George Greene, Algernon Sidney Belt, Dr. S. D. Carpenter, J. J. Childs, Ellsworth N. Bates, Ezra Van Meter, Donald McIntosh.*

*George Greene* was a man of varied talents and accomplishments, who figured more prominently perhaps, in the upbuilding of Cedar Rapids than any other man of his time. He was a native of Staffordshire, England, where he was born in 1817. When but two years of age, he emigrated with his parents, to the United States, settling in western New York. He was well educated in the schools and academies of that State and was what might be properly termed a scholarly man. Soon after attaining his majority he entered upon the study of medicine, but soon abandoned this pursuit for that of the law. He entered the office of one of the ablest lawyers of the Erie County Bar and was, in due time, admitted to practice. When Iowa was organized as a Territory, in 1838, he came West, stopping at Davenport, Iowa, for a while, where he made the acquaintance of David J. Owen, and for several months became his assistant in making geological surveys. In 1840 he settled in Marion, Linn County, and there entered upon the practice. His superior attainments and high character at once attracted the public attention, and in the fall of that year he was elected to the Third Territorial Legislative Assembly, which convened at Burlington, in November, 1840. This was the last session of the Legislature held at Burlington. He represented the Counties of Linn, Jones and Cedar. In the Fourth Territorial Legislative Assembly, which convened at Iowa City in December, 1841, he again represented the same Counties in the Council. This was the first session held at the new capital of Iowa City. He must have been among, if not the youngest member of that body, for in the Council of 1840 he was but twenty-three years of age, and in that of 1841, but twenty-four. Not-

Smythe, Robert

Paymaster United States  
Army

B Feb. 26, 1814 Eden  
Parish, Tyrone Co.,  
Ireland

D Apr. 3, 1898  
Mt. Vernon, Iowa  
Bur Mt. Vernon Cem.  
Mt. Vernon, Iowa

Hahn-Howard Post #480 Mt.  
Vernon, Ia. H. E. Wright  
(over) Index only

Father: Jeremiah

Mother: Nancy McEhenny

Wife: Margaret Moffit

Children:

Ely (Elizabeth)

Anna

John

William



You searched for **Robert Smyth** in **Iowa**

### 1870 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>Robert Smyth</b>	
Birth Year:	<b>abt 1811</b>	
Age in 1870:	<b>59</b>	
Birthplace:	<b>Ireland</b>	
Home in 1870:	<b>Franklin, Linn, Iowa</b>	
Race:	<b>White</b>	
Gender:	<b>Male</b>	
Value of real estate:	<a href="#">View image</a>	
Post Office:	<b>Mount Vernon</b>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<b>Robert Smyth</b>	<b>59</b>
	<b>Margret Smyth</b>	<b>42</b>
	<b>Elizabeth Smyth</b>	<b>42</b>
	<b>Anna Smyth</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>William Smyth</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>John Smyth</b>	<b>13</b>

**Source Citation:** Year: 1870; Census Place: Franklin, Linn, Iowa; Roll M593\_405; Page: 177A; Image: 394; Family History Library Film: 545904.

**Source Information:**  
 Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data:

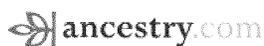
- 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
- Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

**Description:**  
 This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Robert Smyth** in **Iowa**

### Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name:	<b>Robert Smyth</b>	
Birth Year:	<b>abt 1815</b>	
Birth Place:	<b>Ireland</b>	
Gender:	<b>Male</b>	
Marital Status:	<b>Married</b>	
Census Date:	<b>1885</b>	
Residence State:	<b>Iowa</b>	
Residence County:	<b>Linn</b>	
Locality:	<b>Franklin</b>	
Roll:	<b>IA1885_219</b>	
Line:	<b>22</b>	
Family Number:	<b>43</b>	
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<b>Robert Smyth</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>Margaret Smyth</b>	<b>56</b>
	<b>Elizabeth Smyth</b>	<b>37</b>
	<b>William A Smyth</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Source Information:</b>		
Ancestry.com. <i>Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925</i> [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.		
<b>Description:</b>		
This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration. <a href="#">Learn more...</a>		

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

See Pedigree View

**Robert Smyth**  
**Born:** 26 Feb 1814  
 Tyrone, Eden Parish, Ireland  
**Died:** 9 Apr 1892  
 Mt Vernon, Linn, Iowa, USA  
 View person's info

Jeremiah Smyth

Jeremiah Smyth

Craig

Nancy Ann McElhenny

James McElhenny

Nesbit

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Family Historical Records Family Facts

Family Groups

Spouse

**Margaret Moffit**  
**Born:** 21 Oct 1826 in Inniskillen, Ireland  
**Died:** 28 Mar 1904 in Mt Vernon, Linn, Iowa, USA

**Marriage:** 1846 [View Info](#)

Children	Sex	Birth
Anna Smyth	F	
Anna Smyth	F	
Elizabeth Smyth	F	
John Smyth	M	
Lizzie Smyth	F	
Will Smyth	M	
John J. Smyth	M	23 May 1857

HISTORICAL RECORDS

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