

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Hopkins John J. Senator _____

Represented Boone County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 4 Oct 1821 Marion County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place
Lepidia Bates 22 Apr 1852

3. Significant events for example:
A. Business Member of the Pioneer Lawmakers Society of Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 13th General Assembly 1870

6. Public Offices
A. Local Board of supervisors - 6 years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 19 Apr 1909 Medial, Iowa; buried Mount Hope Cemetery, Medial, Iowa

8. Children Mrs W. H. Aldrich; Mrs T. J. Nancy; Mrs C. E. Yearnshaw; Mrs Peter Cassel; Robert J. (died 6 Dec 1893)

9. Names of parents Robert

10. Education He attended school during the winter
months and so his educational advantages
were limited

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He was born and reared on a farm in Marion County, Ohio
- In 1849, he was attracted to stories of gold in California
so he went and spent 2 years there where he was fairly
successful in mining as well as the ranching business
in which he also engaged for a time while in California
- After marriage they farmed in Ohio, but then moved to
Boone County, Iowa settling on a farm which he had purchased
in an earlier trip to Boone County.
- His wife, Lydia, died 10 Aug 1901

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Telephone No. 26.

Increased Cost of Living. The hand is heard... the increased cost of necessities of every kind has advanced during the past few years... the strings on many a lyre have been frazzled by continued usage.

It is plain that the days of cheap living never return. We are relying on the heal of the trust that as soon as the government's scalp-lock prices on food and clothing will go down... the days of cheap living are properly to the land, range stock, 30 cent wheat.

The increase of necessities is a penalty upon increased population... thousands more mouths in succeeding months... a population caused by birth rate. Farms have been smaller farms to make homes for the up-boy and girl.

There's a million babies every day but there will be no other foot of corn land.

At least a half a dozen candidates announced for governor... the present governor... the list is not yet closed... the most prominent stand... the one who has occasion to a considerable degree.

J. F. HOPKINS DEAD

Prominent Pioneer Citizen Succumbs After Illness of Five Weeks—Funeral This Afternoon.

Monday night at 11:30 o'clock at his home in Madrid occurred the death of Hon. J. F. Hopkins, one of the county's most prominent citizens and a pioneer who possessed an acquaintance extending over the entire state.

Mr. Hopkins' death was due to the ravishes of age. During his entire illness extending over a period of five weeks he suffered no pain. Like a worn-out machine, his body simply refused to longer perform its functions, and "God touched him with His finger, and he slept." Surrounding his couch at the hour of dissolution were gathered his surviving children, Mrs. H. H. Aldrich of Lemmon, S. D., and Mrs. T. F. Nance of Selby, S. D., arriving Saturday as did his grand-daughter, Miss Helen Hopkins who had been in school at Mt. Vernon. He knew them all up until a short time before his demise evincing a knowledge of their presence a short time before sinking into a slumber which ended in his transition.

"Night came releasing him from labor— When a hand from out the darkness Touched him and he slept."

Considering his advanced years and his long illness his mentality remained wonderfully clear. As his illness became more serious and his dissolution approached, he thought calmly upon transition and gave directions concerning the things which lay most heavily upon his mind. Certain arrangements concerning his funeral were considered, some of the pall bearers who officiated at the funeral this afternoon being selected. He thought of his work in the Sunday school in the M. E. church and of the class which would be left teacherless for the first time during the long period of thirty years. That the work might continue as he had planned, even after his death, he requested that Samuel Hutton, the oldest member of the class in point of attendance, be urged to accept the responsibilities, and on being acquainted with Mr. Hutton's promise to do so he evinced his satisfaction.

Came to Iowa in '54.

Mr. Hopkins has lived in Boone county since 1854, residing all this time on the farm on which his death occurred just south of the incorporate limits of Madrid. He was born Oct. 4, 1821, in Marion county, Ohio, and at the time of his death was 87 years, 6 months and 15 days of age. He was the son of Isaac Hopkins, a prominent citizen of Ohio and a veteran of the war of 1812 and a member of the Ohio

noise his hammer made and he wondered, even, if the strokes could be heard by his father back in Ohio, who was of an equally deep religious temperament.

Mr. Hopkins first purchased two half sections of land, paying \$4.50 per acre, one tract now being located in Boone county and the other in Dallas. With characteristic energy Mr. Hopkins began to fence and to break in his land. The pioneer buildings in time gave way to more commodious structures and his farm was equipped with all modern conveniences. In 1901 he erected the present large and comfortable home, one of the best in the county. He was eminently successful in his business affairs and established a splendid competence.

Bereaved of Wife.

On Aug. 10, 1901, Mr. Hopkins was called upon to mourn the death of his wife who had been a most faithful wife and helpmate. Mrs. Hopkins was a most estimable woman and the loss to the bereaved husband and children was sorely felt. His only son, Robert J., passed away Dec. 6, 1893. The other four children survive and were with their father during the closing hours. They are Mrs. H. H. Aldrich of Lemmon, S. D.; Mrs. T. F. Nance of Selby, S. D.; and Mrs. C. E. Yearnshaw and Mrs. Peter Cassel of Madrid. A sister, Mrs. N. A. Copeland of LaRue, Ohio, was also present. Another sister survives, Mrs. Elsie McEly of Scott Co., O., but she was unable to be present. With the exception of Mrs. Aldrich all the children were born on the old homestead and all were married there. Mrs. Aldrich was born in Ohio before the family moved to Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Yearnshaw and family have re-



HON. J. F. HOPKINS.

sided on the old homestead during the past few years to make a home for the aged father and to take from his shoulders the management of the large farm. Miss Helen Hopkins, a daughter of Robert J., has made her home with her grandfather since the

Prominent as a Political Leader.

a pleasure for him to make himself helpful. These qualities working in conjunction with an extraordinary mentality always make a man a respected and deserving citizen, a kind neighbor, and a loving friend and father. Without speaking above his due, it can truly be said of him that this community is better because of him having lived in it.

The Funeral.

The funeral was held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the M. E. church conducted by the pastor, Rev. Douglass, assisted by Rev. Golden of Boone a former pastor of the Madrid church. The remains were laid to rest beside those of the wife and son in the Mt. Hope cemetery which is located in one corner of the Hopkins farm. An immense audience was present, testifying of the great respect and reverence the community holds for the memory of the deceased.

Thus endeth a good and noble life. Over half a century has passed since he first located in Boone county. Here he has lived, in peace with his neighbors and his God, tasting life's bitterness and its sweets with equal fortitude. If sympathy can assuage the sorrows of the bereaved ones, they have it from every one who knew the deceased. The race of life has been run, and won. Safe from the storm-tossed and turbulent waters of human activity, his labors have been crowned by a crown not of this world.

"We lingered and wept on the threshold— The threshold each mortal must cross— Then we laid a new wreath down upon it, To mark a new sorrow and loss."

In Memoriam

"FOR THOU AND I HAVE SHAKEN HANDS."

The Tribute of a Friend.

Believing that it will be agreeable to the readers of the Register-News, for a pioneer friend to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of our departed friend, Hon. J. F. Hopkins, the writer of these few lines asks a little space for that purpose.

Mr. Hopkins' long citizenship among us has made an impression that will long be remembered. His life was not one which was warm today and cold tomorrow, but it was one of well discharged duties with a respect for all and malice toward none. The writer never heard him utter a word of disrespect of any one.

He moved to this part of the state in 1854, and for nearly fifty-five years his home has been here. During this long period he has seen the country change from a state of nature to its present improvement. No citizen could better recollect the incidents of pioneer days than he did, and it was both a pleasure to him to talk about those times and incidents, and a pleasure for his friends to hear him talk of them. He took a prominent part in organizing the Old Settlers Association which meets here annually and for a number of years was its chief officer. In these meetings he had the satisfaction of shaking hands and visiting with the

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WOMEN ARRESTED.

Marshals Arrest Boone Saloon Keepers.

Boone saloon keepers were
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Touch of Nature Makes the Whole World Kin.

A rooster finds a big fat
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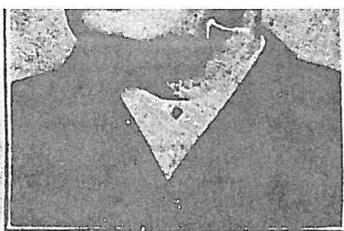
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limits of Madrid. He was born Oct. 4,
1821, in Marion county, Ohio, and at
the time of his death was 87 years, 6
months and 15 days of age. He was
the son of Robt. Hopkins, a prominent
citizen of Ohio and a veteran of the
war of 1812 and a member of the Ohio
general assembly. He was born and
reared on a farm and was the fourth
child in a family of 8. His education-
al advantages were rather limited for
he had the opportunity of attending
school only during the winter months.
He was a great student, however, and
this handicap was overcome by broad-
ened knowledge gained through read-
ing, experience and observation.

In 1849 he was attracted by the
stories of the wonderful gold regions
of California and made an overland
trip to that state and spent two years
there. He was fairly successful in
mining as well as the ranch business
in which he was engaged during a
portion of the time he was in the
west. He had in his possession at
the time of his death a piece of the
first gold he ever discovered, which
he retained as a souvenir of his min-
ing experience and which was valued
at \$28. Upon his return he made his
way down the coast to Acapulco
where he secured horses and rode
across Mexico and thence proceeded
to New Orleans and up the Mississippi
and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati. Only
one member of the company in which
he made his trip west survives. Amos
Lapham now of Florida.

Soon after his arrival home, Apr.
22, 1852, he was united in marriage to
Miss Lydia Bates, also a native of
Ohio. After his marriage he was en-
gaged in farming and raised two
crops in the east. He then moved
west to Iowa and located in Boone
county. The trip was made in cover-
ed wagons, four weeks being requir-
ed. Arriving here he made his home
on the original homestead, having
made a trip to Boone county a few
months before and purchased land.
The country was then thinly settled
and shelter for his family was procur-
ed by an improvised shelter made of
tops of trees and a quantity of tenting
he had brought with him. He im-
mediately went to work and erected
a small log cabin. The cabin was so
necessary that he was forced to work
on Sunday, the only time he ever did,
and in talking of this afterwards he
was wont to mention the great



HON. J. F. HOPKINS.

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the past few years to make a home
for the aged father and to take from
his shoulders the management of the
large farm. Miss Helen Hopkins, a
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home with her grandfather since the
death of her parents.

Prominent as a Political Leader.

Mr. Hopkins was prominent for
many years politically and was a
member of the Thirteenth general
assembly. While a member of this
assembly he was instrumental in se-
curing the appropriation which made
the present state capitol building a
possibility. He was a staunch repub-
lican and cast his first vote for presi-
dent in 1856, voting for John C. Fre-
mont. He was for six years a mem-
ber of the board of supervisors and
was also a delegate to a number of
state, county and congressional con-
ventions. He was a member of the
Pioneer Law Makers Society of Iowa
and enjoyed greatly the annual meet-
ings of the organization. He was a
firm friend of Senator Dolliver, who
always stopped with him on his visits
to this place. He was true to every
trust bestowed upon him and always
acquitted himself with honor and in-
tegrity.

Possessed Deep Religious Nature

Mr. Hopkins possessed a deep reli-
gious nature and his every day life and
walk was an acknowledgement of his
faith in and dependence upon his
maker. He was an adherent to the
Free Baptist faith and was a lead-
er in securing a church of that de-
nomination in Madrid during the
early days. He contributed largely
to the church building, now the resi-
dence of John Luther. After it be-
came an impossibility to longer sup-
port the church in Madrid the build-
ing was rented to the M. E. church
in which this denomination held serv-
ices for many years. Mr. Hopkins,
while not becoming a member of the
latter church, worked with it faith-
fully during all these years, and for
the past thirty years has taught one
class in the Sunday school, occupying
one corner of the church.

Mr. Hopkins was one of the men
whose life seems to stand out prom-
inent from among his fellows. He
engaged in no bickerings, and his re-
lation with his neighbors was always
pleasant. An injurious sentence nev-
er passed his lips unless a rebuke was
warranted. Controlled entirely by
noble thoughts and impulses, it was

which was warm today and cold tomor-
row, but it was one of well discharged
duties with a respect for all and malice
toward none. The writer never heard him
utter a word of disrespect of any one.

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1854, and for nearly fifty-five years his
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collect the incidents of pioneer days
than he did, and it was both a pleasure
to him to talk about those times and
incidents, and a pleasure for his friends
to hear him talk of them. He took
a prominent part in organizing
the Old Settlers Association
which meets here annually and for a
number of years was its chief officer.
In these meetings he had the satisfaction
of shaking hands and visiting with the
early settlers which afforded him much
pleasure. In the future meetings of the
Association his place will be vacant and
his absence lamented.

Mr. Hopkins has held a number of
official positions and has filled each of
them to the entire satisfaction of the
people who elected him. For a number
of terms he was township assessor and
for six years was a member of the county
supervisors.

Although he was a life long republi-
can he was liberal in his poli-
tical views and seldom engaged in con-
troversies with any of his neighbors.

This liberality is evidenced by the
fact, that in 1869 he was elected to the
legislature on an independent ticket in
opposition to the regular republican
nominee. He was also liberal in his
religious views, and when the denomina-
tion of his choice had no organization
in his own town he attended other
churches and took a part in their devo-
tional exercises. Although he was 87
years of age at the time of his death, but
up to the time of his recent sickness he
taught a class in the Sunday school of
the M. E. church. It is very doubtful if
a parallel case to this can be found in
this or any other state.

Mr. Hopkins was also a member of
the Pioneer Law-makers Association of
the state, and a member of the Octogen-
arian Association of the state. About
three years ago the writer attended one
of the meetings of the last named asso-
ciation by invitation of Mr. Hopkins.
It was a very pleasant meeting and we
enjoyed it well. He was held in very
high esteem by his fellow members and
at their next meeting appropriate re-
solutions of respect will be offered and
adopted.

But his loss will be most keenly felt
in and around home where he has so
long been known. He has made friends
by the hundreds, but it is not known
that he leaves an enemy behind. There
are indeed few men about whom this can
be said. Although he has gone from
among us his good deeds and his exem-
plary life will not soon be forgotten.

As Robert Emmet has said: The man
dies but his memory lives.

C. L. Lucas.