

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Merritt, William Wallace Senator _____

Represented Cass, Adams and Montgomery Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 20 Aug 1832 Sudbury, Vermont

2. Marriage (s) date place
① Phenora S. Saville Johnson 1860 Red Oak, Iowa

② Julia M. Pomeroy 1893

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1869

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Grange; Odd Fellows

C. Profession Preacher; educator; farmer; civil engineer; lawyer

4. Church membership Universalist, later Congregational

5. Sessions served 13th General Assembly 1870

6. Public Offices

A. Local Clerk of the district court 1863-1869; deputy county surveyor; mayor of Red Oak; postmaster of Red Oak 4 years; Board of Supervisors; school board president

B. State Member of the Board of Regents of the State University of Iowa for 4 years; chairman of the Agriculture State Commission in 1872

C. National _____

7. Death 11 Jan 1922 Red Oak, Iowa; buried Red Oak Junction Cemetery Red Oak, Iowa

8. Children Edwin A. William W.; John Parker; Cora (Mrs. C. A. Miller); Anne (Mrs. C. J. Remmers); Lucy (died in infancy); Darwin R. (died in 1898)

9. Names of parents Doak (father) and Relief (mother) Merritt

10. Education Attended school at Potsdam, New York

11. Degrees Attended the New York Normal School at Albany, New York, and the St. Lawrence Academy - Albany, New York

12. Other applicable information Democrat / later Republican

- His first wife, Plummer, died in 1889
- His second wife, Helen, died in 1911
- He came to Montgomery County in 1857 first settling at Frankfort where he taught school and organized an adult class with 70 members which became known as the Frankfort Academy.
- Military service - Civil War - organized the Home Guard and accompanied them to Missouri to be their chaplain
- He aided in moving the county seat to Red Oak, Iowa from Frankfort, Iowa
- He was an itinerate preacher for a number of years when he first moved to Montgomery County, traveling by horseback. Before coming to Red Oak, he was the pastor of the Universalist Church in Clarinda, Iowa.
- In his early years he taught school in various places in New York.
- He owned a farm of 240 acres near Red Oak, Iowa.

W. W. Merritt



preliminary hearing
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Those who face in
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/ Mrs. Max

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OLDEST PIONEER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS DEAD

W. W. Merritt, Preacher, Politician
and Citizen Dies Peacefully
at His Home Wed-
nesday Morning.

W. W. Merritt is dead. Montgomery county's oldest pioneer citizen died peacefully at his home, 100 Maple street, Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock. Only immediate members of the family who reside in Red Oak were at his bedside when the end came.

Mr. Merritt had been in ill health during the past three years but his store of energy and vitality even at his age of 89 years forbid him to be an invalid. He was active. Wednesday morning he arose as usual and enjoyed his breakfast. Shortly after he complained of not feeling well and reclined to rest. He went into a doze from which he never awakened. The cause of his death was given as cerebral apoplexy.

Mr. Merritt's life was filled with constant activity. His vocations covered a score of unrelated activities and he was equally efficient in all. In the pulpit, the school room, the office, the farm, the legislature, in the saddle and in the lodges he was the dominating figure in the history of Montgomery county for many years. His was a life of public service.

He came to this county when its barren plains were crudely tilled by the Indians, when sod houses were the white man's protection against water blasts and when grasshoppers came by the millions to destroy the grains. It was sixty-five years ago that he first set foot on this soil and it was upon his arrival that he found he was one of the first white men to settle here.

Mr. Merritt came to this county in 1857. For a number of years he was an itinerate preacher, traveling the country by horseback as he went from

CHANGE OF C. B. & Q. DIVISIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Plans for a revision of the division headquarters of the Burlington railway are understood to be a subject of discussion among the officials of the Burlington lines.

Under present methods of rail-roading, the Burlington divisions in Iowa are between Council Bluffs and Creston and Creston and Burlington. Under the new plan it is understood that trains would be routed from the Missouri river to Ottumwa and from Ottumwa to Chicago. By this plan two division points would be eliminated and a saving of a considerable sum would be made. On April 16, 1921, the Burlington division was divided between the Ottumwa and Hannibal, Ill., divisions.

BODY OF "SILENT HERO" ARRIVES AT LONG JOURNEY'S END

Funeral Services Under Direction of
American Legion to be Held
Sunday for Stephenson.

Home again.

More than four years have elapsed since Corporal Maurice Bremner Stephenson bid farewell to friends and loved ones and joined the mighty body of gallant heroes that marched off to war. His departure and his life remain among the happy memories of the citizens of his home city. He died in service.

In company with several hundred other silent heroes Corporal Stephenson's body was returned to its native land. Monday evening it arrived in Red Oak and was removed to the undertaking parlors of Boileau & Thomas to await burial honors to be bestowed by former buddies and friends.

Funeral services will be conducted at the armory Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Lorraine post of the American Legion. Rev. L. P. [Name] church, will deliver the funeral service.

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After he complained of not feeling well and reclined to rest. He went into a doze from which he never awakened. The cause of his death was given as cerebral apoplexy.

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Mr. Merritt came to this county in 1851. For a number of years he was an itinerate preacher, traveling the plains by horseback as he went from settlement to settlement preaching the gospel. For several years before coming to Red Oak he held the pastorate of the Universalist's church at Clarinda. At that time he was the only minister within a radius of 200 miles.

He first settled in Frankfort settlement where he taught school and organized an adult class with a membership of seventy which was known as the Frankfort academy. Then he farmed. He organized the home guard at the outbreak of the Civil war and accompanied the guard to Missouri to be chaplain for several years.

He served as clerk of the district court for six years following his election in 1863. He aided in moving the county seat to Red Oak from Frankfort in 1865 and for several years he maintained the county clerk's office in his own frame building on Grimes street. The county allowed him \$5.00 a month rent. The first frame building to be moved from Frankfort south of the creek was made under his supervision. Not only was he an efficient clerk but he was equally clever as a civil en-

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Funeral services will be conducted at the armory Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Lorraine post of the American Legion. Rev. L. P. Goodwin, pastor of the Methodist church, will deliver the funeral sermon. Interment will be in the Stephenson family plot in Evergreen cemetery. Services will begin at 3 o'clock. Music for the occasion will be in charge of Mrs. F. J. Brodby.

Six former buddies of Corporal Stephenson who served with him in Company M during the war will act as pallbearers. They are Russell Lewis, Paul Culver, Otto Franzen, Carl Clement, Frank Crowder and Russell Hardwick.

Corporal Stephenson enlisted in the World War in April, 1917. He was a member of Company M, 168th Infantry. He was born in Red Oak, September 12, 1895. At the time of his enlistment he was in the employe of The Thos. D. Murphy Co.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Jennie Stephenson, of Red Oak; a sister, Mrs. George Bremner, of La Grange, Ill.; five brothers, O. E. Stephenson, Pontiac, Mich., O. J. Stephenson, of Minneapolis; C. B. Stephenson of North Branch, Mich., and C. A. and R. V. Stephenson of Red Oak.

Out of town relatives who plan to attend the funeral include Roscoe Craig of Omaha, Mrs. Roy Hazard of Benson, Neb., and Mr. and Mrs. Ed-

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BUREAU FACTION GIVES REASONS FOR RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from Page One)

action of the county committee was for the best interest of the Montgomery county Farm Bureau remains to be seen.

"The gentlemen who served on the committee on resolutions are apparently well satisfied with prevailing agricultural conditions and no doubt take it for granted that the rest of us are or at least should be equally well pleased their resolutions containing scarcely any protest against present day wrongs, as for instance the reckless and extravagant manner in which public funds are spent, by the reason of which our county is bonded for almost a half million dollars without the consent of the taxpayers; they contain in fact very little applicable to local conditions, but instead a lot of fine sounding political phrases and expressions such as are usually adopted at some big political convention rather than at a meeting of farmers who are struggling through a period of the most adverse conditions in the history of agriculture.

"If the resolutions which were adopted are a fair representation of the main objects of the farm bureau, then we are sorry to say that we are very doubtful of any practical benefits resulting from its efforts.

Washington Township Farm Bureau Committee on Resolutions.

The committee on resolutions was composed of P. S. Focht, Arthur Case, George Erickson and C. C. Anderson.

REV. MR. GLOVER HERE SUNDAY

Former Chicago Pastor Coming to Congo Church.

Rev. Carl A. Glover, who has been called to the pastorate of the Congregational church of this city, will arrive in Red Oak tomorrow with his family from Chicago. He will begin his pulpit duties Sunday.

Rev. Mr. Glover, a young man, comes direct from the big city on Lake Michigan where he has been pastor of the Community Congregational church for two and one-half years. He prepared for the ministry in England. Later he was sent to Australia by Cliff college and after three years as home missionary in New South Wales, came to the United States.

Mr. Glover was in Bangor Semina-

OLDEST PIONEER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEAD

(Continued from Page One)

gineer. It was in 1869 that he was admitted to the Iowa State bar.

His political career outside the limits of his county began in 1870 when he was elected to serve in the state legislature. He failed in a race for United States congressman in 1872 against Judge McDill of Creston. During those days he was a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. It was not until Bryan advocated free silver that he turned his support to the Republican party.

Among his foremost contributions to the peoples of this county is an early history of the pioneer days which was written by his own pen and from his own experiences.

Mr. Merritt was born at Sudbury, Vt., August 20, 1832. He attended school at Potsden, N. Y. and the state normal school at Albany. He was ordained in the ministry of the Universalist's church at the age of 24 and then was forced to come to the west on account of his health.

He was married to Plumma C. Johnson in 1860 at Frankfort. To this union seven children were born, four of whom survive. They are, Dr. Ed. Merritt, of Washington, D. C., Will, of Red Oak, Dr. John of Tekamah, and Mrs. G. A. Milner, of Red Oak. Mrs. O. F. Remmert, and Lucy, daughters, preceded their father in death. Darwin, a son, was killed in 1898 when the Maine was blown up in Havana harbor. Mr. Merritt's wife died in 1889. He was again married to Helen Pomroy in 1892. She died in 1911. Mr. Merritt was pastor of the Congregational church of this city for a number of years.

Mr. Merritt was the last charter member of the Red Oak chapter of Masonry. He had been a Mason for more than sixty years. During that time he had been admitted to all the bodies of Masonry.

Funeral services will be held from from the Congregational church Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Geo. H. Wood will officiate. The body will be buried in Red Oak Junction cemetery. The Masonic lodge will have charge of the ceremonies at the grave. The pallbearers, all Knight Templars, will be, J. T. Keckley, J. C. Fryant, Dr. W. S. Reiley, W. Focht, H. C. Hager.

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*Its History and Its Foremost
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VOLUME II

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1916

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made his way to Wisconsin, where he spent a few years. In 1856 he arrived at Fort Dodge, which was then a military post on the western frontier. For several years he engaged in teaming between Fort Dodge, Dubuque and Davenport at a period which antedated the building of the railroads. At length he abandoned that business and took up his abode upon a farm west of the city, known now as the Highland Park Farm. For several years his attention was given to agricultural pursuits but later he sold his property and returned to Fort Dodge, where he took up the trade of shoemaking, which he had learned in early life. He was the first to engage in that business at Fort Dodge and he also opened the first shoe store of the city, conducting the business with growing success for many years. He erected a store building and continued his mercantile interests, meeting substantial success as the years went by.

Mr. Crosby was married twice. In Brewster, New York, he wedded Miss Delia A. Meade, on the 28th of August, 1854. She died some years later. On the 1st of December, 1872, Mr. Crosby wedded Mrs. Emma A. Hull, who by a former marriage had one son, W. I. Hull. Her maiden name was Steele and her early life was spent in St. Louis. She belonged to one of the early Virginia families that was established in St. Louis in the first part of the nineteenth century. Mr. and Mrs. Crosby became the parents of a son, Harry M., who is now living in Rockford, Illinois.

Mr. Crosby's life was actuated by high and honorable principles. He was a strong advocate of the cause of temperance and his influence was always on the side of moral progress. He assisted in organizing the first Methodist Episcopal church of the city and in building its first house of worship. He ever contributed generously to its support and did everything in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. He was indeed one of the most active men in behalf of the city's upbuilding and advancement and his labors were fraught with good results. He possessed considerable poetic talent and was the author of a number of fine poems. There was a strong friendship between Mr. Crosby, Major Williams, Governor Carpenter and J. F. Duncombe and they spent many pleasant hours together. Mr. Crosby was a man of marked cordiality, always courteous, pleasant and agreeable and those who knew him entertained for him warm regard. The circle of his friendship was extensive and all with whom he came in contact spoke of him in terms of the highest respect and goodwill.

WILLIAM WALLACE MERRITT.

Many lines of activity have felt the stimulus of the cooperation of William Wallace Merritt, now living retired at Red Oak. He has done much to further public progress in his section of the state and in the evening of his days can look back over the past without regret. He was born in Sudbury, Vermont, on the 20th of August, 1832, a son of Noahdiah and Relief (Parker) Merritt. The paternal grandfather, Noah Merritt, served as a soldier under General Putnam in the Revolutionary war, while the mother was a lineal descendant of John Rogers, a martyr of religious intolerance who was burned at the stake.

William Wallace Merritt pursued his education in St. Lawrence Academy at Potsdam, New York, and in the normal school at Albany, New York. In early life

he engaged in public-school teaching and also entered the ministry of the Universalist church. He engaged in preaching in various places in the Empire state, spending considerable time as a representative of the ministry in Albany. He afterward held two short pastorates in Iowa, devoting two years to preaching at Clarinda, Iowa, and one year in Red Oak. For a long time he was the only Universalist preacher within a radius of two hundred miles. While he taught school at Frankfort he made the school virtually a county academy, which was attended by from sixty to seventy young men and women. In 1869 he was admitted to the bar and in law practice displayed marked ability, his strong intellectual force enabling him to readily solve intricate and involved legal problems. His investments have been confined almost entirely to agricultural interests and he is now the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred acres near Red Oak, from which he derives a very gratifying and substantial annual income.

Business activities, however, have constituted but one phase of life for Mr. Merritt. At all times he has readily recognized his public duties and obligations and has met them with a consciousness and courage that comes from a right conception of things and a just regard for what is best in the exercise of human activities. At one time Mr. Merritt was a member of the Southern Border Brigade. He was one of the original abolitionists and when the republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks, supporting its first presidential candidate, Fremont, and afterward voting for Lincoln in the campaigns of 1860 and 1864. In 1872 he supported Greeley. He voted for Cleveland and when the monetary standard became the chief issue in the political campaign he supported Mr. McKinley and later gave his allegiance to Theodore Roosevelt. He is now an advocate of the principles of the progressive party and the sincerity of his motives and of his intentions has never been called into question. At different times he has served in public office. He acted as clerk of the county and district court in Montgomery county from January, 1863, until 1869. He served as deputy county surveyor during that time and for some years afterward and in 1875 he was elected mayor of Red Oak Junction, now Red Oak. In 1870 he became a member of the thirteenth general assembly of Iowa, representing Montgomery, Cass and Adair counties, and during his connection with the legislature gave careful consideration to the various questions which came up for settlement. He was elected a member of the board of regents of the State University and served in that office for four years, and he was also postmaster of Red Oak for four years under the administration of President Cleveland. He was the defeated candidate for congress and while making the race for the office held twenty-six joint debates with Judge J. W. McDill. He was also a defeated candidate for state senator in the eighth district. He has held other offices, including that of a member of the board of supervisors and of president of the school board. During the Civil war he was the organizer of the Loyal League in Red Oak and during the period of hostilities he served as government collector of internal revenue in Montgomery county. He was chairman of the liberal republican state convention in 1872 and of the democratic state convention when S. J. Tilden was made the standard bearer of the party in 1876. He has written an interesting history of Montgomery county.

Mr. Merritt was a most active factor in the Grange movement and he has been identified with several fraternal organizations. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a prominent Mason. He became a charter member of

the lodge at Red Oak, became identified with the chapter and has served as eminent commander of Bruce Commandery, No. 34, K. T. He was prelate of Bruce Commandery for thirty-four years and for one year was prelate of the Grand Commandery of Iowa.

In 1860, in Red Oak, Mr. Merritt was married to Miss Pluma Savilla Johnson. Her parents were early settlers from the Western Reserve of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Merritt were born the following children: Mrs. Annie R. Remmers, deceased; Lucy, who died in infancy; Mrs. Cornelia Milner; William W., an attorney at law residing in Omaha, Nebraska; Lieutenant Darwin R. Merritt, who went down on the United States Battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor; Edwin A., a physician of Council Bluffs, who married Dessa Rathbone; and John Parker, a physician residing in Tekamah, Nebraska, who married Lulu Carpenter. For his second wife Mr. Merritt chose Mrs. Helen M. Pomeroy, who was born in 1839 and died in September, 1911.

Mr. Merritt is today one of Red Oak's venerable citizens, being now in the eighty-third year of his age. The activities of his life have been varied and beneficially resultant. His labors along business and professional lines have been prompted by laudable ambition. His public service has been characterized by devotion to the general good and at all times he has endeavored to conform his actions to the high ethical principles which are recognized as the governing forces of the world.

HARRISON H. WOODROW.

Harrison H. Woodrow is a retired farmer living at Malvern and deriving a substantial annual income from a farm of which he has been the owner since 1868. He was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, September 28, 1839, a son of Hugh Woodrow, and a grandson of Richard Woodrow, who was a resident of New York and removed from that state to Pennsylvania, where he lived until 1823, when he made his way to the middle west and took up his abode in Illinois. He was married in Pennsylvania to Sarah Carmichael, and their children were four in number, William, Sarah, Hugh and Samuel.

Of that family Hugh Woodrow was born in Pennsylvania, December 28, 1794, and became a resident of Illinois in 1823, being indeed one of its early pioneers. He served as a major in the Thirty-eighth Illinois Regiment during the Black Hawk war, receiving his commission from Governor Reynolds in August, 1832, at Vandalia, then the capital of the state. He took an active part in subduing the red men and thus reclaiming the great state for the purposes of civilization. On arriving in Illinois he entered land in the vicinity of Pekin, Tazewell county, and there carried on general farming throughout the remainder of his life. On the 11th of June, 1831, in Tazewell county, he married Miss Amanda Swingle, who was born February 20, 1810, and was a daughter of John and Mary Swingle, who lived for some time at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and afterward removed to Illinois, John Swingle having been a companion of Daniel Boone in the former state.

Harrison H. Woodrow was reared upon the old home farm in Illinois, where he remained until he reached the age of sixteen years, when he came to Iowa in September, 1855. He settled first in Mills county, securing land on sections 3 and 4.



You searched for **William W. Merritt** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name:	William W Merritt	
Birth Year:	abt 1833	
Birth Place:	Vermont	
Gender:	Male	
Marital Status:	Married	
Census Date:	1885	
Residence state:	Iowa	
Residence County:	Montgomery	
Locality:	Red Oak	
Roll:	IA1885_238	
Line:	20	
Family Number:	11	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	William W Merritt	52
	Pluma S Merritt	42
	Cornelia E Merritt	18
	William W Merritt Junior	15
	Darwin R Merritt	12
	Edwin A Merritt	4
	John P Merritt	2
	Lucy M Johnston	66
	Karl W Remmers	0
	Fred Ahlstrom	24
	Ida Johnquist	15

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [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.

Description:

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. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **William W. Merritt** in **Iowa**

1910 United States Federal Census		
Name:	William W Merritt	
Age in 1910:	77	
Estimated Birth Year:	1833	
Birthplace:	Vermont	
Relation to Head of House:	Head [Self (Head)]	
Father's Birth Place:	Massachusetts	
Mother's Birth Place:	Massachusetts	
Spouse's Name:	Helen M Merritt	
Home in 1910:	Red Oak Ward 3, Montgomery, Iowa	
Marital Status:	Married	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	William W Merritt	77
	Helen M Merritt	70
Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Red Oak Ward 3, Montgomery, Iowa; Roll: 7624_415; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0114; Image: 269; FHL Number: 1374428.		
Source Information:		
	Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.	
Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: NARA		
Description:		
This database is an index to the head of households enumerated in the 1910 United States Federal Census, the Thirteenth Census of the United States. In addition, each indexed name is linked to actual images of the 1910 Federal Census. The information recorded in the census includes: name, relationship to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, color or race, whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, and more. Learn more...		

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William W. Merritt

Memorial

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Birth: Aug. 20, 1832
 Death: Jan. 11, 1922

Add a photo for this person



Request A Photo



William Wallace Merritt, b.Sudbury, Rutland Co.,VT. - d.Red Oak, Montgomery Co.,IA., s/o Noahdiah Merritt & Relief Parker

Leave flowers and a note

Family links:

Spouse:
 Helen Merritt (1838 - 1911)*

[*Point here for explanation](#)

Burial:
[Evergreen Cemetery](#)
 Red Oak
 Montgomery County
 Iowa, USA

Created by: [David Bartlow](#)
 Record added: Nov 12, 2010
 Find A Grave Memorial# 61520347

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FIND A GRAVE



Actions

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- [Red Oak](#)
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William W. Merritt

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Birth: Aug. 20, 1832
 Death: Jan. 11, 1922

William Wallace Merritt, b.Sudbury, Rutland Co.,VT. - d.Red Oak, Montgomery Co.,IA., s/o Noahdiah Merritt & Relief Parker

Family links:

Spouse:
 Helen Merritt (1838 - 1911)*

*[Calculated relationship](#)

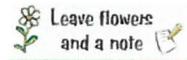
Burial:
[Evergreen Cemetery](#)
 Red Oak
 Montgomery County
 Iowa, USA

Created by: [David Bartlow](#)
 Record added: Nov 12, 2010
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