

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Merrill, Joseph Henry  
Represented Wapello County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 27 Sept 1827 Plymouth, New Hampshire

2. Marriage (s) date place

Josephelia Burnham 1854

3. Significant events for example:

- A. Business President of the Iowa Savings Bank and the City Savings Bank; vice president of Iowa National Bank; stockholder in Davis Manufacturing Company and Ottumwa Brick and Construction Company
- B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Wholesale grocer; business banker; agent for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company at Mendota, Ill., Iowa

4. Church membership Episcopal

5. Sessions served 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1872, 1874, 1876

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 26 April 1911 Ottumwa, Iowa; buried Ottumwa Cemetery, Ottumwa, Iowa

8. Children Hermon H.; Joseph Burnham; three other children died young

9. Names of parents Stevens and Mehitable (Northley) Wells

Merrill, Joseph Henry

10. Education \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

12. Other applicable information \_\_\_\_\_

- He came to Ottumwa in 1858. Two years later he built the house where he resided until death.
- He was known for his conservative and honorable business methods.
- He founded the J. H. Merrill wholesale grocery houses.
- In 1849 he left Plymouth, New Hampshire for California. He and his father built the first toll bridge across the Sacramento River.
- He returned back to Boston. He married in 1854 and moved to Peoria, Illinois where he was a railroad agent for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad at Mount Pleasant, Iowa.
- He moved to Ottumwa, Iowa where he worked in the wholesale grocery business with C. H. Kittredge until 1861. He was then joined by Major Samuel Mahon until July 1901. He then opened and soon began grocery wholesale business with his son Herman.



DR. BENJ. E. STRICKLER

CHRONIC DISEASE AND PILE

Specialist

105 S. Market St. Upstairs

BURNS, SCALDS, CUTS, WOUNDS  
Old sores and ulcers, bites from animals or insects and the hundred and one other accidents are quickly healed with.

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This good antiseptic deodorant immediately stops putrefaction, destroys germs, checks bleeding, prevents lockjaw, blood poison and proud flesh, heals quickly without pain or leaving a scar. Fine for chronic sores and ulcers. Don't try to keep house without it. 25 cents at druggists or by mail. I-O-DO Medicine Co., Davenport, Iowa.

**DRAIN TILE**

For prices and information write

**OTTUMWA BRICK & CONSTRUCTION CO.**  
OTTUMWA, IOWA

**Tri-Weekly Courier**

**CHANGING ADDRESSES.**

Subscribers wishing their address changed will please give the name of the Postoffice to which the paper has been sent as well as the Postoffice where they desire it to be changed to.

**LOCAL NEWS ITEMS**

Mrs. S. A. Spilman, 123 East Maple avenue, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. A. Brown, in Nebraska City, Neb.

The friends of Father P. J. O'Connor, of Sloux City, will be grieved to hear that he was bitten by a dog in Boone Sunday and is now in a hospital at Iowa City. Father O'Connor has visited here often.

When in need of footwear go to the old reliable Church Shoe Co. Quality better, prices less. 628 Church street South Side.

Ellis Thompson of Mendon, Ill., has accepted the post of assistant foreman of the East End creamery.

C. R. and Curtis Chisman from near Bidwell left today for Van Buren county on a visit.

George Clair, 102 North Sheridan avenue, left today for Mt. Zion on a business trip for the Dain Manufacturing Co. and State Legislators Collection compiled by

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Collingwood returned from a visit in Albia last evening.

# DEATH REMOVES EARLY PIONEER IN J. H. MERRILL

Prominent and Respected  
Citizen Breathed His Last  
At 2:20 O'Clock This  
Afternoon.

**WAS IDENTIFIED  
WITH BANKING HOUSE**

The Community in General  
Mourns Demise of Love-  
able Man; Had Been War-  
Time Merchant of City.

Death removed J. H. Merrill at 2:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his home 227 East Fifth street, after an illness that had lasted for the past year and a half, for the past ten days of which his condition had been quite serious. The death of Mr. Merrill removes one of the pioneers of Ottumwa and one of the older citizens, as well as one of the most-respected and best known men in the city. He was in the eighty-fourth year of his age when death came. Until some ten years ago Mr. Merrill was one of the largest wholesalers and business men in Ottumwa. At the time of his death he was interested in a number of the larger business enterprises of the city and held positions of trust in them. Among the concerns in which he was interested at the time of his death are the Iowa National bank, of which he was vice president. He was also president of the Iowa Savings bank and the City Savings bank and in all of the banking concerns he was a charter member. He was also interested as a stockholder in the Dain Manufacturing Co. and the Ottumwa Brick & Construction Co.

Born in New England.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Garaphella B. Merrill, a son, H. W. Merrill and wife, Mrs. Dennison B. Merrill and a grandson, C. Greenleaf Merrill all of Ottumwa; a sister, Mrs. John G. Foote of Burlington and a brother Stephen Merrill of Carthage, Ill. Mr. Merrill was born in Plymouth, N. H., September 27, 1827, and came to Ottumwa in 1858. Two years later had resided since. J. H. Merrill's name has become known throughout Iowa and for years has been a

at a caucus called for 3 p. and which promises to be a fair, while the democratic is considered at a party caucus 10:30 a. m., tomorrow. The republicans insisted before that they had taken good of insurgents and that there chance for the overturning of gram so as to place Senate letter on interstate commere mins on finance and Bristol eign relations, which were of differences which caused est trouble.

Whether the republican flag carried to the senate floor will be determined by a meet insurgents tonight after the ment of the caucus.

**House Rushes Free List**

With a view to pressing tion of the free list bill, the day abandoned proceedings "calendar Wednesday" rule aside the reapportionment it is probable that the last nation will not be taken up u week.

Debate on the free list bill renewed by Representative Ol of Kentucky, who replied to Leader Mann's criticism of ure.

**Mann Attacks Free L**

The democratic free list acterized by the republican ways and means committee cal soothing sirup," was handled in the house of r tives by its political enemy republican side.

Representative Mann o leader of the republican clared that the free list bill by the democrats as the fir tariff measures was drawn i ly, indefinitely, and with su language that it might be to include almost half of th on which the United States lects tariff revenues.

**Example of Its Ambig**

The free list bill puts a implements "of any kind ation" on the free list. Mr. manded to know what a implements would come u provision. He expressed th could be stretched to includ entry of saws, axes, forks hose, bay knives, and alm thing else that a farmer, hor gardener, or tiller of the uses.

He said the bill was so d it would admit free the leat which the farmer's shoes w but would exclude that fro his wife's shoes were made. premium on foreign labor, h permitting these special leather to come in free w were partly made up.

In putting agricultural im on the free list, said Mr. X democrats would let the Inte Harvester company dump into ted States the implements with foreign labor in its fac France, Germany, Russia, and

**Sold Here, but Made Ab**

"These products will be sc the same price, and yet th would be that they would be foreign labor"

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George Clair, 102 North Sheridan avenue, left today for Mt. Zion on a business trip for the Dain Manufacturing Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Collingwood returned from a visit in Albia last evening, and will visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Collingwood, 115 North Willard street.

Henry Adams from near High Point was a business caller in the city today.

W. Thomas of Webster is a business visitor in South Ottumwa today.

Be sure and attend the entertainment at the Plymouth Congregational church tonight.

Mrs. T. E. Orine of Hopkins, Mo., is visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Walker, 207 North Moore street.

R. T. Israel, 206 South Ward street, left today for a short visit near Eldon.

John C. Evans of Albia was in South Ottumwa yesterday demonstrating automobiles.

Miss Maude Jackson who resides on South Moore street wishes to thank the Johnston-Sharp employes for the kindness shown her since she was injured at the shop.

F. J. McManaman, 219 North Hancock street, was a business caller in Albia today.

Mrs. Venetta Gameco of Saline, Mo., returned home this morning after a short visit with Mrs. Frank Hampton, 111 South Cass street.

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Martin of Woodburn returned to their home this morning from Hot Springs, Ark., after visiting friends in this city.

Mrs. Eden Bates of Swan, returned home this morning after a short visit with her daughter, Mrs. Cora McBride, who resides on North Green street.

A license to wed was issued this morning to C. J. E. Reynolds and Miss Nettie A. Durfey.

#### Cured of Piles.

I had PILES and am thankful I went to see Dr. Shallenberger for he has cured me without the knife, and the treatment was mild and practically painless. George Kron, Riverside, Iowa.

Moore Will Again Act as Secretary. Des Moines, April 26.—It was learned today that the state pharmacy commission will reappoint E. J. Moore of

his death are the Iowa National bank, of which he was vice president. He was also president of the Iowa Savings bank and the City Savings bank and in all of the banking concerns he was a charter member. He was also interested as a stockholder in the Dain Manufacturing Co. and the Ottumwa Brick & Construction Co.

#### Born in New England.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Garaphella B. Merrill, a son, H. W. Merrill and wife, Mrs. Dennison B. Merrill and a grandson, C. Greenleaf Merrill all of Ottumwa; a sister, Mrs. John G. Foote of Burlington and a brother Stephen Merrill of Carthage, Ill. Mr. Merrill was born in Plymouth, N. H., September 27, 1827, and came to Ottumwa in 1858. Two years later he built the present home where he had resided since. J. H. Merrill's name has become known throughout Iowa and for years has been a synonym for conservative and honorable business methods. Mr. Merrill's activity in business matters never waned until about ten years ago. In late years he had not been strong nor able to be about very actively. Mr. Merrill has endeared himself to all in this community and the earnest prayer, "May his soul rest in peace" rises in precious pleading from every heart.

#### Senior Warden of Trinity.

Senior warden was the church office held by the decedent at the time of his death. Mr. Merrill had been a devoted parishioner of Trinity Episcopal church, and was one of the foremost men in the church in Iowa and the middle west. He had at numerous times represented the Iowa diocese at national meetings. Despite his advanced age, all the services at Trinity found him present when sickness did not prevent.

#### A War Time Merchant.

Mr. Merrill was one of the war time merchants of Ottumwa, having received his first stock of goods when the only transportation facilities were offered by the Des Moines river boats. He was first associated with Col. Kirtledge, and was one of the founders of the J. H. Merrill wholesale grocery house. Upon the retirement of Col. Kirtledge, Major Samuel Mahon entered the business and upon the retirement of Mr. Merrill in 1891 the concern was reorganized into the J. H. Merrill Co., of which Major Mahon today is at the head.

## SENATE FACES HARD COMMITTEE FIGHT

(Continued From Page 1.)

The majority membership of other important committees follows:

Appropriations—Warren of Wyoming, chairman; Perkins of California, Gallinger, New Hampshire; Curtis, Kansas; Gamble, South Dakota; Smoot, Utah; Wetmore, Rhode Island; Dixon, Montana, and probably Bourne, Oregon.

Foreign Relations—Cullom, Illinois, chairman; Frye, Maine; Lodge, Massachusetts; Smith, Michigan; Root, New York; Borah, Idaho; Burton, Ohio; Sutherland, Utah, and one place to be filled.

Interstate Commerce—Clapp, Min-

gardener, or till uses.

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## BURNS BE AT INI

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## A Cloth

Beginning Th Des Moines, Iowa.

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# Weekly Courier

WA, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1911

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## Funeral of J. H. Merrill to be Held Friday at 2:30 At the Family Residence

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The funeral of J. H. Merrill, whose death yesterday afternoon cast the entire city in gloom, will be held Friday afternoon, April 28, at 2:30 o'clock, at the family residence, 227 East Fifth street. The services will be conducted by Rev. W. C. Hengen, rector of Trinity Episcopal church, in which the decedent was one of the most active and a much loved member. Interment will be made in the Ottumwa cemetery.

Mr. Merrill had been a resident of Ottumwa since 1858 and for many years was prominently identified with the banking business. He was a charter member of the Iowa National, City Savings and the Iowa Savings banks, and was also connected with the Phoenix Trust Co. Out of respect for his memory, the banking institutions of the city will close Friday afternoon during the hour of the funeral.

Mr. Merrill will not soon be forgotten by Ottumwans. He was a man whose excellent qualities demanded the respect of all. To many he was a benefactor and to all his acquaintances he was a man whose friendship was greatly honored.

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## Gov. Carroll at Muscatine To Investigate Necessity Of Keeping Troops There

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Muscatine, April 26.—Gov. B. F. Carroll, accompanied by Labor Commission Van Duyn, arrived here at 12:30 o'clock today from Des Moines to investigate the strike situation, with a view to determine the necessity of keeping the troops here.

Muscatine's second night under military rule passed without incident. The street cars ceased running last night at 9 o'clock and the streets were practically empty save for the patrols.

A riot call turned in during the night by a woman who fancied some marauder was prowling about her home, roused Company I of Iowa City from its slumbers at the militia camp and sent the militia-men to the scene on the double quick.

A meeting of the Trades and Labor assembly of Muscatine is called for 8:30 this evening at which time it is likely a protest against the troops remaining in Muscatine will be adopted.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PEACE PLANS ARE PUSHED BY TELEGRAM

Negotiations Proceed  
Between Madero  
and Mexico City; Reyes  
Object to Gen. Reyes.

## MEXICO PROTESTS TO GREAT BRITAIN

The Landing of Marines  
Lower California Ca  
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No Shipping Over Bo

El Paso, Tex., April 26.—It is reported today that peace negotiations proceeding by telegraph between Madero's camp and the city of Mexico order to leave for the commission little but technical work such as wording of the agreement, and the revolutionists view with alarm the announcement that Bernardo Reyes is to return Paris.

It is learned from an authoritative source that the revolutionists fear Reyes will persuade President that Minister Limantour has persuaded the president into granting many concessions in order to about peace. It is stated that Limantour, however, has never been good terms and that the latter, predicted, will pick flaws in anything done by Limantour.

# State of Iowa

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

Des Moines, Nov. 8th, 1871.

Hon. ....

Iowa.

DEAR SIR:

It has been the custom of each House, at the commencement of every session of the General Assembly, to cause to be prepared and published, a table, showing certain statistics in connection with the names of the members thereof. This is usually done in much haste, hence is frequently incorrect; especially in the orthography of names. In order to prevent errors of this kind, and to have the table in print at the commencement of the session, I transmit you this circular, with a request that you will fill up the blanks found below, and return to this office as soon as practical. You will please give the first name in full, and write plainly.

Name..... Joseph H Merrill  
P. O. Address..... Ottumwa Iowa  
County..... Wapello  
Occupation..... Wholesale Grocer  
Nativity..... New Hampshire  
Married or Single..... Married  
Religion..... Episcopalian  
If in the Service; regiment and rank..... Not in the Service  
Years in Iowa..... Fifteen  
Age..... Forty Two (44)  
Weight..... One Hundred Thirty Five (135)

I send herewith a copy of the rules of last Session of the General Assembly, in which you will see the table above referred to.

Yours truly,

ED WRIGHT,

SECRETARY OF STATE.

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

32873  
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OF THE

THIRTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA

WHICH CONVENEED AT THE CAPITOL AT DES MOINES,  
JANUARY 13, A. D. 1913, AND ADJOURNEED  
SINE DIE APRIL 19, A. D. 1913.

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DES MOINES  
ROBERT HENDERSON, STATE PRINTER  
J. M. JAMIESON, STATE BINDER  
1913

Senator Webber, from a special committee, submitted the following report and moved its adoption:

JOSEPH H. MERRILL.

MR. PRESIDENT—Your committee, appointed to prepare and submit resolutions in memory of Joseph H. Merrill of Ottumwa, Wapello County, Iowa, beg leave to report as follows:

It is but fitting tonight that we should pause for a moment to commemorate the life work and character of Senator Joseph H. Merrill of Ottumwa, who as one of the pioneer lawmakers of Iowa served his district in the State Senate during the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies with honor to himself and distinction to the state.

Senator Joseph H. Merrill was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, September 27th, 1827, and came to Ottumwa in 1862, where he entered the grocery business at a time when Ottumwa was but a thriving village. As a business man he was successful, and when he retired from business ten years ago he was at the head of the wholesale grocery house of J. H. Merrill & Co. of Ottumwa, with branch houses at Creston and Red Oak.

The name of J. H. Merrill was the synonym for conservative business methods and at the time of his death he was president of the Iowa National Bank of Ottumwa, the City Savings Bank of Ottumwa, and of the Agency Savings Bank of Agency, Iowa, and was one of the leading spirits in the Dain Manufacturing Company and the Ottumwa Brick and Construction Company.

He was senior warden in the Trinity Episcopal Church of Ottumwa, and was one of the foremost men of the church in Iowa. He had frequently represented the Iowa diocese at national meetings.

Senator Merrill was of sturdy New England stock, and as such won a place for himself in his adopted state, where he carved his name on our western civilization in a way that time can never efface.

To such as him we owe this splendid civilization we call Iowa.

He endeared himself to all who knew him, and the earnest prayer, "May his soul rest in peace," rises in precious pleading from every heart.

A patriotic citizen, a loving husband and father, a successful business man, a loyal public servant; such was Senator Joseph H. Merrill, whom we mourn tonight; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate join with his neighbors and friends in sorrow and hereby extend to his family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the records of the Senate and that a properly engrossed copy signed by the President and Secretary be sent to the bereaved family.

JOHN F. WEBBER,  
LAMONTE COWLES,  
F. A. HEALD,

*Committee.*

The resolutions were adopted unanimously by a rising vote. Senator Arney, from a special committee, submitted the following report and moved its adoption:

DELOS ARNOLD.

MR. PRESIDENT—Your committee, appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character and public service of the Hon. Delos Arnold of Marshall County, late a member of this Senate, beg leave to submit the following report:

Delos Arnold was born in Chenango County, New York, July 21, 1830. He died at Pasadena, California, August 31, 1909.

He was educated in the common schools of his native state and graduated from the Albany Law School in 1853 and came to Iowa in the fall of the same year and settled in Marshall County. On the day of his arrival he was appointed Prosecuting Attorney of his county, continuing in office four years.

In 1856 he was elected to the House of the Sixth General Assembly from the district formed of the counties of Benton, Marshall and Tama. He was again elected to the Legislature in 1869 and served in the House in 1870 from Marshall County, being chairman of the committee on banking. In 1876 he was elected to the Senate and served during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth sessions. As chairman of the committee on penitentiaries, he introduced the bill which became a law providing for the disposing of the labor of convicts. In his last session he became chairman of the committee on appropriations.

In his service in the Legislature he procured the passage of the law establishing weather service in Iowa.

He was one of the leading spirits in the building of the State House at Des Moines, and was on the committee auditing the expenditures of the funds in the erection of the State House as a member of the Board of Capitol Commissioners. The Capitol building is a fitting memorial to the memory of Delos Arnold and his co-workers on the Board of Capitol Commissioners, and today stands as a fitting monument to the character of the men who composed that committee. The debate leading up to the building of the Capitol

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THE  
ANNALS OF IOWA

A HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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VOLUME ELEVEN—THIRD SERIES

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EDITED BY  
EDGAR R. HARLAN  
CURATOR

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PUBLISHED BY THE  
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA  
DES MOINES  
1913-1915

27613

JOHN E. ROWEN was born at Thompsonville, Connecticut, July 26, 1837; he died at his home near Rowan, Iowa, May 1, 1914. As a boy he worked in the woolen and carpet mills and attended school but little, his education being obtained later by extensive reading and observation. At the age of fifteen years he removed with his parents to Cedar county, Iowa, and three years after to Wright county. At the age of twenty-one years he was licensed preacher in the United Brethren church and continued in this work for fourteen years, organizing and establishing twelve churches. He afterward entered the insurance business and for twenty years was a very successful agent. He was elected to the legislature and served as senator in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-sixth Extra General Assemblies. He was United States consul to the Falkland Islands for ten years and to Punta Arenas, Chile, four years. On his resignation from the service he was commended by the department of state for work performed.

JOHN M. GOBBLE was born in Abingdon, Iowa, October 10, 1849; he died at Muscatine, June 9, 1914. His early years were spent in his native town where he received the elements of the business training which afterwards enabled him to build up one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in Iowa. From 1870 to 1880 he engaged in the retail and wholesale grocery business in Fairfield, removing in the latter year to Muscatine where he has since conducted a flourishing wholesale business. He was elected mayor of Muscatine in 1886 and re-elected for a second term, but resigned in order to serve as Senator in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth General Assemblies. He later acted as mayor for a third term.

JOSEPH H. MERRILL was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, September 27, 1827; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, April 25, 1911. He removed to Ottumwa in 1862 and entered the grocery business in which he was very successful and became the head of the wholesale grocery house of J. H. Merrill & Co. of Ottumwa with branch houses at Creston and Red Oak. He was also interested in the banking business and at the time of his death was president of the Iowa National Bank of Ottumwa, the City Savings Bank and the Agency Savings Bank. He served as senator from Wapello county in the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies.

HISTORY OF  
WAPELLO COUNTY  
IOWA

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II

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CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1914

~~WITHDRAWN~~  
IOWA STATE TRAVELING LIBRARY  
DES MOINES, IOWA

In 1858 Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage to Miss Virginia Thome, of Athens, Missouri, a daughter of Arthur and Eliza (Sharp) Thome. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Kentucky. Mr. Thome went to the latter state when a young man and was married there. In 1842 he removed to Missouri. He had been a slave owner in Kentucky and, becoming convinced that the practice of slavery was wrong, he sold out and went to Missouri. There he embarked in the milling business and on one occasion lost eight thousand dollars in the Des Moines river. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Thome were five children, but Mrs. Armstrong is the only one now living. She too was born in Kentucky, although she spent much of her girlhood in Athens, Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were born four children: William, who died November 28, 1902; Mrs. Mary Fetzer, a widow residing in Chicago, her daughter, Mary A., being now a student at the Northwestern University; Paul O., who died March 4, 1872; and Anna Thome, who is at home. There are also two grandchildren: William B. Armstrong and Mary A. Fetzer.

Mr. Armstrong was a prominent Mason and was a charter member of the lodge, chapter and commandery of Ottumwa and also the first treasurer of the commandery. In politics he was a republican. For several terms he was a member of the city council, was also city treasurer for several years and was school director for six years. He took an active and helpful interest in all that pertained to the welfare of his city and county, and his labors were directly beneficial. His many sterling traits of character brought him the high regard of all, and his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His widow resides in Ottumwa, where she owns two fine residences and also valuable commercial paper.

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#### JOSEPH HENRY MERRILL.

Few seemingly care to cultivate the qualities of leadership. They are not willing to enter upon the self-sacrificing effort which brings the individual to the forefront in any field of labor in which he may choose to engage. The great majority of people are content to remain in the stations into which they are born or are willing to follow the paths which others have

made easy. Occasionally here and there, however, are found those men whose initiative spirit carries them far beyond the common-place to the goal of success.

Such a one was Joseph Henry Merrill, founder and promoter of one of the most important commercial enterprises of Ottumwa—the extensive wholesale business which bears his name. He was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, on the 27th of December, 1827. One of his brothers and the brother's seven sons were in the southern army and none of the number ever suffered even a scratch, although frequently in the thickest of the fight. When a young man, in his twenty-second year, Joseph Henry Merrill started across the plains for California in 1849, traveling by ox and mule team. After many weary months the journey was ended at Sacramento, and he and his father built the first toll bridge across the Sacramento river. He made his return to the east by way of the Isthmus route to Boston. Throughout practically his entire business life he was engaged in the wholesale grocery business. In 1854 he was married and the following year removed to the middle west. He was employed for one or two years in Peoria, Illinois, and was acting as agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company at Mount Pleasant at the time of the birth of his son Herman. Leaving that city, he embarked in the wholesale grocery business in Ottumwa in connection with C. W. Kittridge, with whom he continued until 1861. During the period of the Civil war he was alone in business and following the close of hostilities he was joined by Major Samuel Mahon and the partnership continued until July, 1901. He then withdrew and in connection with his son Herman opened an office in the Electric building, starting a business which was developed into a colossal wholesale grocery business, recognized as one of the most important commercial enterprises, not only of Ottumwa but of this section of the state. Not only did he figure prominently in commercial circles but also became widely known in financial connections as president of the Iowa National Bank and as president of the City Savings Bank. He early became familiar with the fact that success tauntingly plays before the dreamer but yields its prizes to the man of persistent, earnest effort, whose activities are guided by honorable purpose. It was along such lines that he advanced until he reached the position of leadership accorded him.

In early manhood Mr. Merrill was united in marriage to Miss Garaphelia Burnham, who was born in Bradford, Ver-

mont, September 13, 1831, and who reached the age of eighty-one years when called to her final rest. In their family were five children. One son, Denison Burnham, left at his death a widow and one son, Charles Greenleaf. The surviving member of the family is Herman W. Merrill, his father's successor in business at Ottumwa. The death of Mr. Merrill occurred in 1911, while his wife passed away in 1912. He did much to mold public thought and action along many lines, was always deeply interested in matters of citizenship and was a member of the state legislature from 1871 until 1874, inclusive, his re-election coming in recognition of his faithfulness, capability and loyalty during his first term. In every relation of life in which he was active his influence was felt as a factor for good and for progress.

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#### JACOB W. JORDAN.

The honorable life record of Jacob W. Jordan makes his example one well worthy of emulation. His memory is cherished by many who knew him and most of all by those who knew him best, for they learned to know his many excellent traits of character and to respect him for the honorable motives which guided his life. He was born in Lancaster, Keokuk county, Iowa, April 9, 1849, and died on the 31st of May, 1910. For forty years he had been identified with the business circles of Ottumwa, being associated with his father, the late W. A. Jordan, and his brothers in the well known firm of W. A. Jordan & Sons. The father, W. A. Jordan, was a native of Columbus, Ohio, born on the 20th of August, 1820, and, moving westward, he became one of the pioneer settlers of Iowa. His parents were in moderate circumstances, but were of eminent probity, and under the parental roof the son learned lessons of industry and integrity that proved of untold value to him in later life. His educational training was that of the common schools and when eighteen years of age he started out in the business world on his own account, making his way to Keokuk, Iowa, when that city was but a small village. He started in business as a dealer in dry goods and groceries with but a small capital at his command. His careful and systematic business habits, his thrifty disposition and his unflinching diligence soon brought their reward. He prospered in his undertaking and from time to time increased his stock in order to

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

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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.

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"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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He has one son by his first marriage, Philip Hammond Waterman, who is General Manager of the Ogden Consolidated Coal Company, and lives in Boone, Boone County, Iowa. His present wife, whom he married in 1879, is a daughter of my early friend, Newton C. Hill, who died many years ago, one of the noblest and most useful of the pioneers of Wapello County, and as upright and lovable a man as the Lord ever made. He was a North Carolinian of Quaker stock.

*Joseph H. Merrill* came to Ottumwa a few years after I came, I think, in 1861 or 1862. With him came Charles W. Kittredge, and together they opened quite an extensive grocery store under the name of Kittredge & Merrill. This firm continued until Kittredge was commissioned and became the Colonel of the Thirty-Sixth Iowa Infantry. Mr. Merrill subsequently entered upon the wholesale grocery business, under the firm name of J. H. Merrill & Company, which became and has continued one of the largest wholesale grocery firms in the State. In the course of time it had branch houses at several different places, the principal store still remaining at Ottumwa under the original name. Major Samuel K. Mahon, after his return from the army, became and continued a member of the firm for many years and until his death. Mr. Merrill was a leading man of affairs, public spirited and dominant. I knew him intimately for more than fifty years. As a citizen, he was an exemplar, zealous in the advancement of all measures tending to promote the welfare of the City and County. He was a potent factor in shaping the early policies and affairs of Ottumwa. Without desiring office, his quiet influence had much to do in the selection of public officials. His character was without a blemish, his integrity perfect, his word as good as his bond. We served together as vestrymen of the Episcopal Church, and I knew him thoroughly. I feel it my duty to say in this connection, that as a vestryman, I was only a sort of lay member, while Mr. Merrill and Mr. Daggett devoted much of their time and attention to the affairs of the Church. Later in life he was induced to officially participate in politics and was elected to the State Senate and served in the Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies. I need hardly say that his services were efficient, his counsel wise, the measures he favored calculated to promote the public good. As a business man and successful wholesale merchant, he ranked with the first of the State. He amassed a comfortable fortune through legitimate means. He became President of the Iowa National Bank, the City Savings Bank, the Savings Bank of Agency City, one of the leading spirits in the Dane Manufacturing Company, and the Ottumwa Brick and Construction Company. As will be seen, he was a man of versatile talents. He was a New Englander by birth, born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, in 1827, and lived to a great age, dying only two or three years ago.

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# IOWA

*Its History and Its Foremost  
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Judge Hobson is a member of the following among other societies: Iowa State Bar Association, of which he was vice president until June, 1915, when he was elected president; State Historical Society of Iowa; West Union Lodge, No. 69, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Unity Chapter, No. 62, Royal Arch Masons, late of Elgin now of Postville, Iowa; Langridge Commandery, No. 47, Knights Templar, West Union, of which he is a charter member; Zarephath Consistory, No. 4, Davenport, Iowa, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masons southern jurisdiction of the United States; and West Union Lodge, No. 124, Knights of Pythias, West Union, of which he is a charter member. Judge and Mrs. Hobson and their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. None of the able judges called to preside over the courts of the counties comprising the thirteenth judicial district has had a wider experience on the bench than has the subject of this sketch. None was better prepared for the position prior to elevation thereto.

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JOSEPH HENRY MERRILL.

The true worth of Joseph Henry Merrill was evident to all who came in contact with him. He was never an idle sentimentalist but a worker and he therefore became the head of large business interests which he managed successfully, founding the Merrill Wholesale Grocery Company and directing its interests with marked ability and enterprise. He was a native son of New England, his birth having occurred at Plymouth, New Hampshire, December 27, 1827. He had a brother, who with his seven sons were soldiers in the Confederate army during the Civil war and although participants in many of the most hotly contested engagements theirs was the remarkable record of never having suffered an injury.

Joseph H. Merrill remained a resident of New England until he attained his majority, after which he started across the plains for California in 1849, traveling by ox and mule team. He proceeded by slow stages across the hot, sandy plains and through the mountain passes until he reached Sacramento, where in connection with his father he built the first toll bridge over the Sacramento river. The return journey was made by way of the Isthmus route to Boston. The year 1855 witnessed his removal to the middle west and for a brief period he resided in Peoria, Illinois, while later he became station agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company at Mount Pleasant, Iowa. On coming to Ottumwa he established a wholesale grocery business which he conducted in partnership with C. W. Kittridge until 1861. Through the period of the Civil war he was without a partner but later was joined by Major Samuel Mahon, with whom he was associated until July, 1901. Their enterprise grew steadily, becoming one of the foremost commercial undertakings of this part of the state. Upon retiring from that partnership Mr. Merrill was joined by his son Herman and opened an office in the Electric building, starting a business which developed into a colossal wholesale grocery store. Into other fields of labor Mr. Merrill also extended his efforts, figuring prominently in financial circles as president of the Iowa National Bank and of the City Savings Bank of Ottumwa. He ever displayed a well defined purpose which he carried forward to successful completion, brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by earnest, persistent and honorable effort. He was a man of well balanced

mind, capable of mature judgment of his own capacities and of the people and circumstances that made up his life contacts and experiences and out of the struggle with small opportunities he came finally into a field of broad and active influence and usefulness.

In early manhood Mr. Merrill was united in marriage to Miss Garaphelia Burnham, who was born in Bradford, Vermont, September 13, 1831, and who had reached the age of eighty-one years when called to her final rest. In their family were five children. One son, Denison Burnham, left at his death a widow and one son, Charles Greenleaf. The surviving member of the family is Herman W. Merrill, his father's successor in business at Ottumwa.

Mr. Merrill passed away in 1911, while his wife survived only until the following year. With him his family was always first but public interests were very near his heart and he cooperated earnestly in support of matters relating to the general welfare. His value as a citizen was recognized by his fellow townsmen, who elected him a member of the state legislature, in which he served for two terms, beginning in 1871. His entire life balanced up with the principles of truth and honor and he occupied a central place on the stage of activity in Ottumwa. Not seeking honor but simply endeavoring to do his duty, honors were yet multiplied to him and prosperity followed his undertakings.

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JAMES A. HENDERSON.

James A. Henderson, an attorney of Jefferson, who has also been identified with various business and public interests, was born in Johnson county, Iowa, August 3, 1862, a son of Daniel W. and Susan (Campbell) Henderson. The father was born in Brownsville, Tennessee, December 15, 1830, and passed away August 6, 1906, while the mother, who was born in Rush county, Indiana, in 1832, still makes her home in Jefferson. Mr. Henderson engaged in milling and merchandising at what is known as Henderson Mills in Jefferson township, Johnson county, Iowa, having been a pioneer miller of that locality, where he continued in the business until 1857, and also operated a farm. Following the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in September, 1862, as a member of Company H, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, which company he assisted in organizing in connection with Captain Schrader. He was wounded at Port Gibson. He went to the front as second lieutenant and was advanced to the rank of first lieutenant, but physical disability compelled him to return home. He served from September, 1862, until 1864, when he resigned. He was afterward appointed by Governor Merrill captain of the Home Guards. Following the war he engaged in farming, living for a time in Linn county, and in 1873 removing to Greene county, where he again devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He was a republican in politics and was elected clerk of the courts, serving for three terms. After 1884 he devoted his life to preaching the gospel as a Methodist minister and filled various conference appointments in Carroll and Greene counties. At the time of his death he was living retired in Jefferson. He had long been an active Mason, and was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic.

James A. Henderson attended the public schools of Johnson, Linn and Greene



You searched for **Joseph H. Merrill** in **Iowa**

### Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name: **Joseph H Merrill**  
 Birth Year: **abt 1828**  
 Birth Place: **NH**  
 Gender: **Male**  
 Marital Status: **Married**  
 Census Date: **1885**  
 Residence state: **Iowa**  
 Residence: **Wapello**  
 County:  
 Locality: **Ottumwa**  
 Roll: **IA1885\_270**  
 Line: **13**  
 Family Number: **30**  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

| Household Members: | Name                                 | Age |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|
|                    | <a href="#">Joseph H Merrill</a>     | 57  |
|                    | <a href="#">Garaphelia B Merrill</a> | 54  |
|                    | <a href="#">Dennison B Merrill</a>   | 24  |
|                    | <a href="#">Mary Hardsoeg</a>        | 26  |
|                    | <a href="#">Paul Gobat</a>           | 30  |

**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 **Joseph H. Merrill** in **Iowa**

### 1900 United States Federal Census

Name: **Joseph H Merrill**  
**[Joseph Merrill]**

Home in 1900: **Center, Wapello, Iowa**  
**[Wapello, Iowa]**

Age: **23**

Birth Date: **Dec 1827**

Birthplace: **New Hampshire**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

Relationship to head-of-house: **Head**

Father's Birthplace: **New Hampshire**

Mother's Birthplace: **New Hamp**

Spouse's Name: **Garaphelia Merrill**

Marriage year: **1854**

Marital Status: **Married**

Years married: **46**

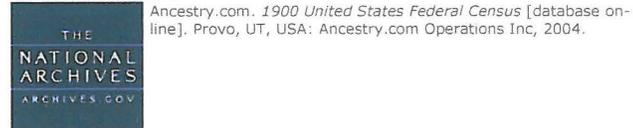
Occupation: [View on Image](#)

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

| Household Members: | Name                               | Age |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
|                    | <a href="#">Joseph H Merrill</a>   | 23  |
|                    | <a href="#">Garaphelia Merrill</a> | 68  |
|                    | <a href="#">Fannie Merrill</a>     | 40  |
|                    | <a href="#">Charles G Merrill</a>  | 12  |
|                    | <a href="#">Kate Gallagher</a>     | 22  |

**Source Citation:** Year: 1900; Census Place: Center, Wapello, Iowa; Roll: T623\_462; Page: 164; Enumeration District: 120.

**Source Information:**



Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

**Description:**

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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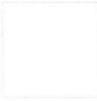
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Owner: charlotte\_zinski



**Joseph H. Merrill**

Birth **abt 1827** in [New Hampshire](#)  
Death **1885** in [Ottumwa, Wapello, Iowa, United States](#)

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[View his family tree](#) [View family members](#) [More options](#)

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**Media Gallery**

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

**Timeline** ([View details](#))

**1827**  
abt [Birth](#)  
[New Hampshire](#)

**1885**  
Age: 58 [Death](#)  
[Ottumwa, Wapello, Iowa, United States](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Spouse  
1871

**Comments**

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**Family Members**

**Parents**

[Stevens Merrill](#)  
1790 - 1863

[Mehitable Worthley Wells](#)  
1797 - 1880

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**Spouse & Children**

No Spouse or Children

[Family group sheet](#)

**Source Information**

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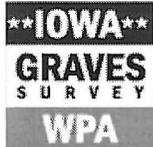
There are no weblinks available for this person.

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**MERRILL, Joseph Henry**

**Born:** 1827  
**Died:** 1911  
**Cemetery:** OTTUMWA  
**Location:** OTTUMWA  
**County:** WAPELLO CO. - IOWA  
**Record Notes:**

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