

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Woolson,
John Simpson - Represented Henry County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 6 Dec 1840 Tonawanda, Erie County, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place

Mira T. Bird 9 Apr 1867 Mount Pleasant Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1866, Henry County Board of
Commissioners of Insanity 1870 until death; presided at the inquest of George
J. H. Bear

B. Civic responsibilities Loyal Legion, G.A.R., Mason, Exton Master

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 16th, 17th, 18th General Assemblies 1876, 1878, 1880

6. Public Offices 21st, 22nd, 23rd General Assemblies 1886, 1888, 1890

A. Local Henry County Attorney Public 1866 and 1876; Board of education

B. State Honors appointed chairman of the Judiciary Committee; chosen
President pro tempore of the Senate

C. National Appointed a federal judgeship 17 Aug. 1891

7. Death 4 Dec 1899 Des Moines, Iowa; buried Mount Pleasant Cemetery Mount Pleasant, Iowa

8. Children Paul Bird; Ralph Jerome; Miriam; Grace S.; Ruth S.

9. Names of parents Theodore Heltz and Clarissa (Simpson) Woolson

10. Education He was educated in his native town at Sonoma, Ia.,
Emery County, New York

11. Degrees Wilson College, Ia., Sonoma, New York;
Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa
graduating in June 1860

12. Other applicable information Republican

- In 1856 he came to Mount Pleasant with his parents
where they lived for a year and then moved to
Des Moines

- Military Service - Civil War - U. S. Navy - later a
pharmacist appointed in Mar 1862 in the South Atlantic Squadron

- After the war he returned to Mount Pleasant and
finished studying law

- He formed a partnership with his brother-in-law
Washington L. Pratt

- In the Civil War he was aboard the Housatonia when it was
sunk in Charleston Harbor by the Hunley submarine. He was
saved.

- His wife, Maria, born 21 July 1844 in Jackson Town, Knox County,
Ohio, died 23 Nov 1933 in Montclair, New Jersey, was buried
in Forest Home Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-	Obituary -	The Mount Pleasant News Press, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Thurs. Dec. 7, 1899, p. 1, col. 1 & 2	
-	Obituary -	The Daily Progress, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Thurs. Dec. 7, 1899, p. 8, col. 2 & 3	
-	Obituary -	The Mount Pleasant Journal, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Fri. Dec. 8, 1899, p. 1, col. 1 & 2	
-	Obituary -	The Mount Pleasant Weekly News, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Wed. Dec. 13, 1899, p. 1, col. 3, 4, 5	
-	Obituary -	The Waterloo Daily Courier, Waterloo, Iowa, Tuesday Dec. 5, 1899, p. 4, col. 5	
-	Obituary -	The Dubuque Daily Herald, Dubuque, Iowa, Sat. Dec. 9, 1899, p. 2, col. 2, 3	
-	Obituary -	The Daily Iowa Capitalist, Des Moines, Iowa, Thurs. 7 Dec 1899, p. 1, col. 6	
-		ancestry.com (accessed 13 Sept 2009)	
-		rootsweb.com (accessed 12 Sept 2009)	
-		familysearch.org (accessed 13 Sept 2009)	
-		History of Henry County, Iowa 1879, p. 408-409, 424, 527, 558, 662	
-		Portrait and Biographical Album of Henry County, Iowa 1888, p. 327-328	
-		History of Henry County, Iowa 1879, p. 588	
-		Reconstruction and Soldier of Notable Leaders and Public Men of Early Iowa p. 169-170	
-		Annals of Iowa Volume II, 3rd Series 1899-1901, p. 317-318	
-		findagrave.com (accessed 9 June 2009)	

Portrait
10621

WOOLSON, JOHN S. (JUDGE)



John Woolson
MT. PLEASANT

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JUDGE WOOLSON IS DEAD.

Noted Jurist Dies Yesterday After- noon at Des Moines.

Des Moines, Dec. 5.—At three o'clock yesterday afternoon Judge Woolson of the United States court of the southern district of Iowa, passed away. His death was due to overwork and a general breaking down of his physical system. He was taken sick several weeks ago while at Keokuk, where he was holding court, and was brought to his home in this city, where he has since been under the treatment of the ablest physicians of the state. He had a similar attack to the one which was the cause of his death last summer, and he spent several months in Texas in the hope of a complete recovery. He came home feeling better but not entirely cured. The second attack was regarded by the physicians from the start as apt to be fatal, and the prediction has proven true. No arrangements have yet been made for the funeral.

The news of Judge Woolson's death will be a shock to all the people of Iowa. The deceased was widely known and respected wherever known. He has literally worked himself to death as judge of the United States district court. Judge Woolson had hosts of friends and admirers throughout the state. He possessed a genial, sunny disposition that endeared him to all. He was the soul of honor and despised a mean thing in anybody. He was an industrious, painstaking lawyer of excellent ability. As a judge he ranked high. The whole state will mourn his death, and all hearts will go out in sympathy to the bereaved wife and their son and daughters who survive. Judge Woolson was under 60 years of age and from early manhood made his home at Mt. Pleasant. For several terms beginning in 1878 he represented Henry county in the state senate where he had unusual influence. He was once accorded the republican nomination for congress in his district and was defeated after a memorable fight. Upon the death of Judge Love about ten years ago Judge Woolson was appointed to the federal bench whereon he has been a terror to evil doers. During the civil war he served in the navy. He was a life-long friend of the late Hon. James Harlan.

The funeral will take place at 3 o'clock on Wednesday from the residence in this city. The interment will take place at Mt. Pleasant at 3 o'clock on Thursday.

COUNTY ASYLUM SCANDAL.

Superintendent W. A. Elliott, of

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JUDGE WOOLSON.

The news of the death of Judge Woolson on Monday, Dec. 4th, was a great shock, not only to his large circle of personal friends in southern Iowa, and especially in Mt. Pleasant, but to many in all parts of the state who have known him through the years of his faithful service as senator and more recently as a noble example of a wise and conscientious judge. His funeral in Mt. Pleasant on Thursday will be one of the saddest occasions for years.

Some say that the democrats will help the saloonists in the coming legislature to establish the manufacture of liquors in Iowa on a firm basis. The democrats as a party will do nothing of the kind. We know our representative, Campbell, a democrat, will fight it from the word go, and no doubt other democrats will help him. Saloon republicans and saloon democrats will help the liquor dealers, and anti-saloon democrats and republicans will oppose them as they have done in the past.

Those sending their sons to the State University, surrounded as it is by twenty saloons, ought to take note of the self murder of young Bissell, which is the fruit of permitting saloons to run near institutions of learning. We would no more send a son of ours to such an institution than we would think of encouraging him to frequent the race track or gambling dens. For Bissell is only one student out of thousands in the course of time, have come a loom far worse than death by sending them to institutions of learning where they are led

laws could and would be made more liberal relating to the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. Now these arguments at first sight seem plausible and have great influence with liquor dealers in other states. For instance, it is true that the mullet saloon has found its way into over forty-five per cent of the counties. But that is all the worse for the liquor business in an agricultural state like Iowa. These saloons are in the towns only, while an overwhelming majority of the English speaking people outside of the towns in every county are bitterly opposed to them. Then again, the saloon like dynamite has within itself the elements of its own destruction. Mahaska and Cedar counties illustrate these facts. And if lawlessness, drunkenness, debauchery and crime existed in all the counties as they did in these before the Anti-Saloon League went into them, to enforce the laws the people would rise up in twenty four hours if they had a chance and vote out the saloons and restore state wide prohibition. The one thing that makes the Anti-Saloon League so popular is the fact that the people have discovered in it a friend that will protect them from the ravages of the mullet saloon. So great is the opposition to the mullet saloons that it is no trouble at all to raise money to prosecute lawless liquor dealers in the saloon ridden counties. In such a state the brewers would have some chance of success if their business, like other callings made friends instead of enemies wherever it went. But such is not a fact, they make enemies wherever they go and the more they spread the more enemies they make. Hence, the spread of the mullet saloons is against the permanency of the liquor business in Iowa rather than for it. For it will be only a question of

Iowa. And had an excellent papers over Kamerer, a Brewer who Mt. Pleasant is in your our reply in 1858 by law by ins beer clause sent. So no confiscate y to suffer th his brewery poor man. the bre ought the lesson teaching th so, for again And notwit position is against the in our midst made to bu business. A certain as th them down saloons as th with the win dram shops will be to b and all who eries and d it but th to them the brewers to how you liquor busine like Iowa in as certain to as it has in declared thre they would for the dram then per tal money derive

ENEMY IS HEARD FROM

ENEMIES AT VIGAN ALL
AND SOUND.

Enemy and Drives Them
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Casualties.

Dec. 7.—To the relief of
ment, General Young
d from after weeks of
interior of Luzon. Gen-
eral this morning: "Gen-
eral's arrival at Vigan
of December 5, having
force of the enemy at
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ted that the insurgents
American and prom-
prisoners to escape from
er, the insurgents were
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tation, with subsistence
supplies to Vigan to-
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General Young's troops
aster's stores. Our cas-
one killed and twelve
ly slight. The enemy left
is 25 dead, a few rifles,
and rounds of ammuni-
scrapnel. General Young
troops to meet all diffi-

ties as follows respecting
tuation in Luzon:

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Gen. Grant has moved
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e mountains is expected
western coast of Luzon
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are in the country rob-
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ts which are being pur-
quite successfully. To
fanila the insurgents still
positions but the neces-
scatter them will be sent

hats, dent gloves and
John L. Wright.

RITANCE TAX.

Progress Before United
Supreme Court.

Dec. 7.—Argument was
ay in the United States
t in the cases involving
ionality of the provision
venue act for the taxation
of
five of the cases, as fol-
s. Coyne, collector of in-
e at Chicago; Knowlton's
Moore, collector at Brook-
lity Insurance Trust and
company vs. McClain, col-
ladelphia; Murdock, ex-
rd, collector at New York
n vs. the United States,
N. Y.

nt, the hearing is to con-
journ, of which time the
t to take only two hours.
ring was given to A. M.
menting the High estate,
followed by Wheeler H.
the Knowlton case.
neys to be heard in the
hard G. Dale, Charles H.
E. Patterson and John G.
f whom represent the ap-

e will close the hearing.
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rd, but he contented him-
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it is not uniform in its
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TAKEN TO MT. PLEASANT.

Remains of Judge Woolson Interred
at That Place Today.

The body of the late Judge John S. Woolson arrived in Mt. Pleasant this afternoon at 1:49 o'clock. The remains were taken from the depot to the First Methodist church, where the final funeral services were held, being conducted by Rev. C. L. Stafford of Muscatine, formerly Judge Woolson's pastor at Mt. Pleasant, when both were residents of that town.

On account of the serious illness of Miss Babb, who is very low with typhoid fever at the home of his parents, Judge and Mrs. Walter L. Babb, on East Washington street, in Mt. Pleasant, the funeral of the late jurist could not be held at the home of his brother-in-law, and accordingly the remains were taken to the church, the funeral exercises being held at 2:20 o'clock.

The district court of Henry county adjourned today in honor of the late Judge Woolson and the members of the Henry county bar attended the funeral in a body. There were present also the representatives of the Polk county bar who made the trip to Mt. Pleasant and the other Des Moines friends who were there. After the services at the church the remains were interred at Forest Home in the family burial lot.

The funeral train left Des Moines over the Burlington route this morning at 8:15 o'clock. The body was taken from the Woolson home on Sixth avenue to the Burlington depot and then placed in the front part of Superintendent Levy's private car, No. 59, which he kindly tendered for the use of the family of the dead judge. The rear portion of the car was occupied by the family of the late judge, including Mrs. John S. Woolson, Paul B. Woolson of Toledo, son of the late judge; Misses Ruth and Grace Woolson, the late judge's daughters, and Mrs. M. J. Darling of Sioux City and Mrs. Rufus J. Durgiehouse, the late judge's sisters. His third daughter, Mrs. Brooks, met the funeral party at Mt. Pleasant.

With Superintendent Levy's car, attached to the regular train, was a special car for the friends of the late jurist and the members of the Polk county bar who made the trip to Mt. Pleasant, thus making two extra cars on the regular train. In the special car were:

Miss Jessie Christian, daughter of United States Marshal Geo. M. Christian.

Mrs. H. L. Hedrick, wife of Deputy United States Marshal H. L. Hedrick. Judge S. F. Prouty of the Polk county district court.

Judge C. A. Bishop of the Polk county district court. Lewis Miles, United States district attorney.

Geo. E. Stewart, deputy United States district attorney.

Geo. M. Christian, United States marshal.

J. J. Steadman, deputy clerk United States district court.

E. R. Mason, United States circuit clerk.

S. S. Ethridge, referee in bankruptcy.

E. M. Steadman, trustee in bankruptcy.

A. E. Cummins.

George F. Henry.

W. E. O'Dell.

W. H. Baily.

The funeral services at Mt. Pleasant were largely attended, the whole town uniting to show respect and honor for the late judge. At the opening of the Henry county district court Tuesday forenoon official notice was taken by Judge Smyth of Judge Woolson's death. Judge Smyth suggested that as a matter of courtesy and owing to the fact that Judge Woolson was a member of the Henry county bar, it would only be fitting and proper that a meeting of the bar be held, and consequently a short recess of court was taken. Then, upon motion of L. A. Palmer, Judge Smyth was selected to preside over the meeting. On motion of R. S. Galer the following committee was appointed by Judge Smyth to prepare and present suitable memorial resolutions: R. S. Galer, L. A. Palmer and T. M. McAdam.

Special memorial services for Judge Woolson were held at Mt. Pleasant Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock at the court house, and today the final funeral services were held at the Methodist church. The body was then interred at Forest Home and the funeral obsequies were at an end.

The citizens of Mt. Pleasant are hoping that Mrs. Woolson and her daughters will return to that town to live now that the judge has passed away. The Woolson family came here to Des Moines to reside about a year ago, but what the future plans will be the family has not yet decided.

Opinion of City Solicitor—That \$200
Dog of James Carter's.

City Solicitor J. Edward Mearns said—

HE WANTS CLARK INVESTIGATED

SENATOR CHANDLER IN-
TRODUCES A BILL.

Clark of Montana and Scott of West
Virginia Named in the Mo-
tion—Committee on
Rules in House

Washington, Dec. 7.—Senator Chandler of New Hampshire offered a resolution instructing the committee on privileges and elections to investigate the right of Clarke of Montana and Scott of West Virginia to seats in the senate. It was referred to the committee on contingent expenses.

The senate committee on privileges and elections today arranged the preliminaries for the construction of the protests against Senators Quay, Clark and Scott. In the Quay case it was decided to hear counsel on Saturday and that the hearing be concluded on that date, and then only legal questions involved in the cases and that no witnesses be heard. The preliminary preparations for the Clark and Scott cases were placed in the hands of Senators Chandler and Pettus. They are authorized to decide for the committee what persons should be summoned and when they should be heard.

The House.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Before the house met today the republican and democratic leaders attempted to perfect an agreement for a debate on the financial bill which is to begin next Monday. But the negotiations failed. The republican leaders then decided to resort to the special rule to be brought in tomorrow. Overstreet of Indiana, who is to have charge of the bill, introduced a formal resolution for a special order upon which the committee on rules will act. It provides for the consideration of the bill beginning Monday and continuing until the date to be decided upon by the committee on rules.

Immediately after the reading of the journal, the speaker announced the appointment of the committee on rules. The speaker appointed the following: Dairzel of Pennsylvania, Grosvenor of Ohio, republicans; Richardson of Tennessee, Bailey of Texas, democrats. The speaker is also a member.

The special committee of the house to investigate the charges against Roberts of Utah, held its first meeting today behind closed doors. The purpose, was to determine the method of procedure.

CHEERS IN COURT.

Interesting Scene Witnessed in Judge
Conrad's Court.

Cheers and applause in Judge Conrad's court room this morning, caused the loungers in the corridors to think that the millennium was at hand, or some startling miracle had just been performed. And so there had been for at last Isaac Finkelstein, a broker, residing at 315 East Seventh street, was suing to serve upon the jury.

Mr. Finkelstein is a member of the regular petit jury panel serving in this term of the district court. The September term has been a protracted one and the jurors have been on duty for three months, but up to today Mr. Finkelstein had always succeeded in escaping from jury service, being challenged every time. The other jurors, serving day after day, with night work thrown in for good measure, speculated as to Mr. Finkelstein's chances of ever getting on the jury and they looked small.

The case of L. A. Williamson vs. Frank Duncan, went on trial today and Mr. Finkelstein's name was called in the panel. After being interrogated he left his seat, expecting to be excused as usual. The other jurors were questioned and when the final panel was made and the jury selected—10, Mr. Finkelstein's name was called among the rest. When his fellow jurors heard the clerk read out "Isaac Finkelstein," they gave a loud cheer and clapped their hands vigorously. Mr. Finkelstein looked embarrassed and the court surprised. But finally light dawned upon both and the court smiled as Clerk Coffin ordered Mr. Finkelstein to Under ordinary circumstances, said Judge Conrad, smiling as he addressed the jury, "such a performance would be censured by the court, but in view

DEATH OF JUDGE WOOLSON.

Des Moines Leader: John Simpson Woolson, United States district judge for the southern district of Iowa, died at his residence, 1805 Sixth avenue, yesterday (Monday) afternoon at 1:45 o'clock, after an illness of about five weeks.

Judge Woolson's death was unexpected up to Sunday by the attending physicians, and the members of the family, and was a complete surprise to his many friends and acquaintances in the city. Five weeks ago, while holding court in Keokuk, he was taken suddenly ill and was compelled to adjourn the term and return immediately to his home in this city. Dr. Rood was called to attend him and while his condition at that time was not regarded as at all serious, he was advised to abandon all idea of holding court again this winter, to enjoy an absolute rest and to go to a warmer climate for the remainder of the winter as soon as he became strong enough to travel. At that time he was suffering from a nervous break-down, the result of overwork. Acting on the advice of his physician and other physicians who were called in for consultation, he gave up his work and arranged with Judge Shiras of the northern district of Iowa, to hold his court term in this city during November.

Early in his illness it was ascertained that Judge Woolson was suffering from Bright's disease, caused, in the opinion of his physicians, by too close application to his work, but the break down to his nervous system was at that time considered to be the most serious phase of his illness.

Almost from the time he returned to Des Moines until last Thursday he continued to improve, and had gotten on so well that he was able to walk about his room and to sit up for considerable periods at a time. He was even making arrangements to go to the southwest for a short stay. He had a sinking spell and at the time serious doubts were entertained for his recovery.

the senate judiciary committee for a number of years and was regarded as one of the strongest and most able members of the senate and a legislation leader practically the entire term of his service.

Messrs. A. B. Cummins and George F. Henry, a committee of the bar, have called a meeting of the federal court attorneys at the court room at 10 o'clock this morning, to take action looking to proper participation in the services at Judge Woolson's funeral.

Judge Woolson was chairman of the state board commissioners of insanity from 1870 until his appointment to the federal judgeship. His endorsements for the judiciary, to which he was appointed to succeed Judge Love, deceased, were considered the most remarkable ever forwarded from Iowa and practically made him the unanimous choice of the bar and of the public men of the district.

He was married in Mt. Pleasant April 9, 1867 to Miss Mira T. Bird. Five children were born to them, of whom four are now living.

Judge Woolson during his life was a prominent member of the Loyal Legion.

The funeral will be held from the family residence, 1805 Sixth avenue, Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The body will be taken to the old home in Mt. Pleasant for burial and services will be held there Thursday at 2 p. m.

DID NOT KNOW IT WAS LOADED.

This is a warning for all boys to handle fire arms with extreme caution.

Clyde Thompson with some other boys was in at Clark's restaurant Thanksgiving Day, getting ready to go out hunting. In handling a rifle, with one loaded shell, it was discharged, the ball passing out of the window and into the street, but luckily no one was hurt.

A TIMELY WARNING,

Our Capt. M. L. Hart relates a remarkable incident that happened once in his

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Almost from the time he returned to Des Moines until last Thursday he continued to improve, and had gotten on so well that he was able to walk about his room and to sit up for considerable periods at a time. He was even making arrangements to go to the southwest for a short stay. But last Thursday evening he had a sinking spell and at the time serious doubts were entertained for his recovery. The next day he rallied and Friday evening had apparently recovered from the relapse; but Saturday he began to grow weaker again, and all day Sunday was falling steadily. Yesterday morning he relapsed into a semi-conscious condition, and hopes of his recovery were abandoned. He grew steadily weaker until the end came at 1:45 o'clock.

His wife and his daughters, Mrs. Miriam Brooks, Ruth and Grace, were with him at the time of his death. His son, Paul B. Woolson, who is associated with the Woolson Splice Co. at Toledo, O., and who was telegraphed for Sunday, did not arrive until last evening.

THE FIRST BREAKDOWN.

Judge Woolson's first breakdown came about a year ago. At that time he was advised by his physicians to get rid of a portion of his work and they compelled him to spend several weeks in Arizona and Texas. He returned apparently almost entirely recovered and immediately resumed his court duties. These were a severe tax upon him, not only because of the large amount of business pending and the necessity of almost constant application to his work, but because of self-imposed work. Judge Woolson was a firm believer in a policy of clemency toward all offenders coming into his court. For the minor offenses it was invariably his rule where a first offense was charged to impose a sentence and suspend it during good behavior. When he granted a suspension he immediately placed himself in correspondence with one or more persons in the community in which the defendant resided and kept himself informed as to the defendant's conduct. He kept a careful record of this correspondence and the result was a vast amount of additional work. When

Clyde Thompson with some other boys was in at Clark's restaurant Thanksgiving Day, getting ready to go out hunting. In handling a rifle, with one loaded shell, it was discharged, the ball passing out of the window and into the street, but luckily no one was hurt.

A TIMELY WARNING,

Our Capt. M. P. Taft relates a remarkable incident that happened once in his experience that we are sure will prove of general interest to the readers of the Free Press as its every word is a statement of actual occurrence:

An incident which occurred at a camp-meeting in Ralls county, Mo., where myself and wife attended, fourteen years ago. We were workers in the meetings and camped on the ground with a large number of other people.

The meetings was largely attended by all classes and some interest was manifested. The rough element were represented but with no visible signs of trouble as all seemed to pass off very quietly. The last service closed at 9:30 p. m. Sunday and a number of the campers left the camp for their homes, leaving myself and wife with others to look after the final disbandment on Monday. Just before I was about to retire I was asked to get fresh water from a spring to drink. All was very quiet around the camp, not a voice or sound could be heard and I was thinking how I could sleep that night, as I was quite weary, when a voice said to me, "Watch, you are going to have trouble." I stood still a moment, with no human beings near me. I asked, "What?" and it was repeated twice, "watch, you are going to have trouble." I walked back to camp and called out six men, told them

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ant's conduct. He kept a careful record of this correspondence and the result was a vast amount of additional work. When he was on his circuit he provided sleeping apartments in the federal buildings and it was invariably his rule to continue at his work until 9 and 10 o'clock at night and not infrequently until midnight or later. It is the conviction of his friends and acquaintances that this strain brought on his ailment and occasioned the nervous breakdown.

JUDGE WOOLSON'S CAREER.

Judge Woolson was born in Tonawanda, New York, December 6, 1840, and therefore lacked but a few days of being 50 years old. He received his earlier education in the Willson Collegiate Institute at Willson, New York, and in 1856 came to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, with his parents, where he resided up to a year ago, when he removed to Des Moines. He completed his education at the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, from which he graduated in June, 1860. He received the degree of doctor of laws from this school in 1897.

He entered the United States navy at the outbreak of the war in 1861, and served until December, 1865, when he resigned. He was appointed an assistant United States paymaster in March, 1862. He was on the monitor Monadnock at the attacks on Forts Sumter and Fisher and on the Houstanic when it was torpedoed off Charleston. He was picked up in the water with other survivors. He was also with the fleet operating on the James river opposite Fort Darling at the fall of Richmond.

At the close of the war he returned to Mt. Pleasant and resumed the study of law. He was admitted to practice in 1868 and formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Judge Washington I. Babb which was continued up to the time of his appointment to the federal judgeship, August 17th, 1891.

He was elected to the senate from Henry county in 1876 and served that county in the upper house of the legislature continuously until 1891. He was chairman of

High W. C. H.

Many persons have their good day and their bad day. Others are about half sick all the time. They have headache, backache, and are restless and nervous. Food does not taste good, and the digestion is poor; the skin is dry and sallow and disfigured with pimples or eruptions; sleep brings no rest and work is a burden.

What is the cause of all this?
Impure blood.
And the remedy?

Ayer's
Sarsaparilla

It clears out the channels through which poisons are carried from the body. When all impurities are removed from the blood nature takes right hold and completes the cure.

If there is constipation, take Ayer's Pills. They awaken the drowsy action of the liver; they cure biliousness.

Write to our Doctor.

We have the exclusive services of some of the most eminent physicians in the United States. Write freely all the particulars in your case. You will receive a prompt reply, without cost.
Address, DR. J. C. AYER,
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HIS DEATH CAUSES GRIEF.

Sorrow on Account of
Woolson's Decease.

WAS UNIVERSALLY RESPECTED

His life and Work—Funeral Services
Thursday.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Unusual sorrow and regret has been shown everywhere because of the untimely passing away of Judge John S. Woolson. When a prominent citizen is taken ill, the public hopes for his recovery. Even when the daily bulletins give discouraging reports, still there is hope expressed. No one, except the immediate family, will admit that death may come to overwhelm them all with sorrow. No one realizes, before the summons comes, the full effect of the death of a man so good and respected as Judge Woolson was. And so when the telegram came announcing his critical illness, and was followed by the telegram conveying the news of his death, it was a shock—a stunning shock. The sad news passed from lip to lip that Judge Woolson was dead, and the city sorrowed.

Judge Woolson's health had not been good for more than a year. He had always overworked himself, generally in the interests of others, and he finally became prostrated from nervous exhaustion. He had taken a bad spell of grip last winter which added to his weakness, and this fall the break-down came and he was com-

gave his life while working for the public, and his labors have not been in vain. But in the stricken home, as well as in the community where he lived for so many years, he will be cruelly missed.

Judge Woolson had been so weak that he was unable to raise his head from his pillow. However, on Thanksgiving day he seemed to be better, and the pain which he suffered seemed to pass away. But it seems that instead of this being a favorable sign and an indication of promised recovery it was more a sign of a deadening of the nerve senses and a warning of approaching dissolution.

The funeral will be held in this city Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The remains will be brought home from Des Moines, and the services will be held at the Methodist church, after which all that is mortal of John S. Woolson will be consigned to earth to await the resurrection morning.

Services will be held at his residence in Des Moines on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The remains will be brought to Mt. Pleasant on Thursday arriving from on the west at 1:59.

John S. Woolson was born at Conawanda, Erie County, New York, on the 6th day of December, 1840, and would have been 59 years old tomorrow if he had lived. He was the son of Hon. Theron W. Woolson, an early settler of Henry county. In 1856 he came with his parents to Mt. Pleasant and made this his home ever since, up to about a year ago, when he moved to Des Moines. He graduated from the Iowa Wesleyan university in 1860. When the war broke out he enlisted in the union cause and had a position in the navy. He was assistant paymaster of the United States navy and was assigned to the United States sloop-of-war Housatonic. He served on this vessel for over two years until she was sunk in Charleston harbor in February, 1864, he was on the torpedo boat. The vessel sank in a few minutes and Judge Woolson's life was

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Mt. Pleasant was the home of Judge Woolson for many years. Here he was known to everybody, and his lovely family, so intimately associated by ties of relationship, were always held in the very highest esteem. Mr. Woolson and Mrs. Babb are sisters, both being daughters of the late Dr. Wellington Bird. Their homes, situated side by side, on East Washington street, have been frequently the scenes of many delightful occasions, of both a social and a family character. Judge Woolson had five children, four of whom are living, Paul B. Woolson, now a business man of Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. Miriam Brooks, and Misses Grace and Ruth, all of whom will gather at the bier of their idolized father. Ralph Woolson died in this city a few years

Judge Woolson was one of the most sociable and kind-hearted of men. Who

the Iowa Wesleyan university in 1852. When the war broke out he enlisted in the union cause and had a position in the navy. He was assistant paymaster of the United States navy and was assigned to the United States sloop-of-war Housatonic. He served on this vessel for over two years until she was sunk in Charleston harbor in February, 1864, by a confederate torpedo boat. The vessel sank in a few minutes and Judge Woolson's life was saved by holding to a floating piece of the wreck until a rescuing party came. At the close of the war he returned to Mt. Pleasant and studied law, going into partnership with his father. His father died in 1872 and he entered into partnership the succeeding year with his brother-in-law, W. I. Babb. These two attorneys remained in partnership until 1891, when Mr. Woolson was appointed federal judge. In 1875 he was elected to the state senate and served for six years, and was re-elected later on. In 1884 he was a candidate for the republican nomination for congress from this district, securing the nomination at Washington. His opponents at that time were Congressman McCoid, of Fairfield, and Judge Stutsman, of Burlington. After a memorable campaign he was defeated by the narrow margin of 73 votes. He was serving as state senator from the counties of Washington and Henry when he was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison to the office of federal judge for the southern district of Iowa. He was appointed on the 9th day of August, 1891. He was selected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Love, of Keokuk, one of the oldest federal judges in the country, having been appointed by president Franklin Pierce. Judge Woolson's life is familiar to all in this community and has been a part of the history and growth of the county. A brief paragraph like this gives but an outline of his associations and life labors.

A DELIGHTFUL OCCASION.

A merry crowd of people, young and old, gathered at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Hollowell on Thanksgiving day. It also being the infare of their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hollowell; also of Mr. and

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Judge Woolson was one of the most sociable and kind-hearted of men. Who ever heard of his doing a wrong or a mean act? He was universally esteemed and had been the most trusted federal judge of the Mississippi Valley. He was conscientious to the last degree, and while serving either as a hard-working man, an attorney, a legislator, or a jurist, he always gave the best of his energies. Thus he gained respect and won thousands of friends. He treated all men alike, and always had a friendly word for the humblest citizen. There was nothing stilted about the man; he possessed wonderful charm of manner, and a sympathetic nature. He would go far out of his way to do a man a favor, or help a friend in need. These are the qualities that made him loved by all classes. These were the characteristics that endeared him to the hearts of all who knew him. His death is deplored and mourned by the whole community, and at many a fireside his memory will be kept green for years and years. In life he was so generally respected that in death he will not be forgotten. He literally

Fairfield, and Judge Stutman, of Burlington. After a memorable campaign he was defeated by the narrow margin of 73 votes. He was serving as state senator from the counties of Washington and Henry when he was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison to the office of federal judge for the southern district of Iowa. He was appointed on the 9th day of August, 1891. He was selected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Love, of Keokuk, one of the oldest federal judges in the country, having been appointed by president Franklin Pierce. Judge Woolson's life is familiar to all in this community and has been a part of the history and growth of the county. A brief paragraph like this gives but an outline of his associations and life labors.

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A merry crowd of people, young and old, gathered at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Benj. Hollowell on Thanksgiving day, it also being the infare of their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hollowell; also of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Vannoy, the brides being sisters. Just about noon we were all invited out to partake of all the wonderful things which we all know are always on the table of our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Hollowell. They received many beautiful and useful presents. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hollowell contemplate living on the Hollowell homestead. We are glad to welcome them in our midst. May they live a long and happy life is the wish of many of their friends.

A GUEST.

HAD A SMASH UP.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Last evening the News office press was somewhat broken as they were printing their evening paper. One of the rollers flew out and ran under the press bed and broke the press in several places, though not seriously. It will take a few days to get the press in working order again, and in the meantime their daily and weekly will be worked off by the Free Press.

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NEWS AROUND IOWA.

JUDGE WOOLSON'S CAREER

Judge John S. Woolson, who died on Monday, Dec. 4, was for years one of the foremost citizens of the state. Judge Woolson had been a resident of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, for a great many years, dating long before the war of the rebellion. During the war he was a paymaster in the navy and was on the ill-fated *Hannibal* when that vessel was blown up in the Mississippi, but he escaped and was afterwards on the *Monadnock*. After the war he formed a law partnership with his father under the firm name of T. W. & John S. Woolson, which continued till the death of T. W. Woolson in November of 1872. On January 1, 1873, he formed a partnership with W. I. Babb, under the firm name of Woolson & Babb, which continued for eighteen years, or until January 1, 1891, when Judge Babb went on the district bench. Judge Woolson then practiced alone till August of 1891, when he was appointed on the federal bench by President Harrison. While on the bench his rulings were universally respected and he stood high in his profession. He was an untiring worker, and to this fact he no doubt owes his premature death, for he was only 59 years of age, just in the prime of his usefulness.

Judge Woolson was a member of the Iowa state senate for ten years, ending in 1891, representing Henry and Jefferson counties a part of the time, and Henry and Washington counties the remainder of the time. He took a leading place in the legislature and was chairman of the judiciary committee for some time, one of the most important places in the assignment of committee chairmanships. He was also a member of the committees on railroads, schools, labor, suppression of intemperance, etc., and in all legislation the work and mark of Judge Woolson was felt. In 1884 he was nominated for congress at Washington, Iowa, his competitors for the nomination being Judge Stutsman, of Burlington, and Hon. M. A. McCold, of Fairfield, who was the then congressman. In the campaign which followed the nomination he was defeated by the Hon. Benton J. Hall, of Burlington, the democratic nominee, and he remained in the senate till he went upon the bench.

Judge Woolson was married to Myra Bird, a daughter of Dr. Wellington Bird, and has four children living—Paul B., now a prominent business man of Toledo; Mrs. Miriam Brooks, and Misses Grace and Ruth Woolson. The family residence was in Mount Pleasant for many years up to a little over a year ago, when he purchased property in Des Moines and moved there. The family has always been prominent in church and social circles.

DES MOINES MAY GO "DRY"

Des Moines, Dec. 8.—If the anti-saloon workers are right, Des Moines may again be a "dry town," and surely will if the supreme court holds the old saloon petition irregular and insufficient.

The campaign for and against saloons is being waged just as it was waged first after the repeal of the prohibitory law. Both sides disregard the action now pending in the supreme court involving the validity of the petition on which the saloons now base working with as much energy as if the women are going about from house to house canvassing for signatures to petitions protesting against the re-es-

ventilating these cells is a small window near the top. These cells are often used as sleeping apartments. The board declares that they were damp and foul and unfit for the habitation for a human being.

The Marion county institution is destitute of comforts. The only physician in attendance is the county physician, who receives \$7.00 a month for his services. The salary of the superintendent is only \$77 a year. No records are kept. The place is used simply as a place of detention and confinement. No attention is paid to diet. Speaking of the beds, the board says that they are mostly of iron, some of the ticks are filled with weeds, and others with straw. There is no night watch, and no night attendant. The place is destitute of fire protection. Three meals a day are given in summer and two in winter. There are no amusements, no opportunity for religious worship, and no cases of recovery have been reported.

Concluding the board states that so far as the inmates are concerned, the institution is absolutely unfit in its present condition to care for them. In the event that a fire should break out in either of the detached buildings, many of these people must inevitably be burned up before they can get any relief, as no attendant or watchman sleeps in either of the buildings or is up at night.

FOR WOOLSON'S SUCCESSOR

Des Moines, Dec. 8.—It is now reported, on both sides of the senatorial contest, that no appointment will be made to the position of the federal bench vacated by Judge Woolson's death till after the senatorial contest is ended. Mr. Cummins has said that he will take no part whatever in the contest as between the different aspirants. Senator Gear is credited with a desire not to complicate matters by taking it up prior to the legislative caucus.

Two unexpected candidates were announced today. Congressman Smith McPherson is said on good authority to be an aspirant, and to have better chances of appointment than any man mentioned thus far. Mr. McPherson lives at Red Oak and was first elected to congress only a year ago. The judicial position is more to his liking, and it is said he will have the strong political influences of the district back of him. His resignation would leave the ninth district with a close congressional fight on its hands at an unexpected time.

Judge H. M. Towner, of Corning, is also named as an aspirant, and is in the hands of his friends. Judge Towner has been pushed forward as a candidate for the congressional nomination in the eighth district next year, and it has been considered that he would be the standard bearer of the opponents of Col. Hepburn, who say they will make a hard fight another year.

IOWA DOCTOR'S TRIP

Des Moines, Dec. 8.—Iowa physicians are very busily discussing the excursion to the Paris exposition and the world's medical congress in 1900, under the auspices of the Iowa State Medical society, as planned by its secretary, Dr. James W. Cokenower, of Des Moines. The project has assumed some form especially chartered for the exclusive use of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and Minnesota doc-

PLEASANT WEEKLY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1899.—TEN PAGES.

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JUDGE JOHN WOOLSON

Life, Character and Work of Iowa's Distinguished Jurist.

Another of Mt Pleasant Eminent Sons Goes to His Reward. Held in High Esteem Over the State. His Last Sickness and Death.

In the death of Judge Woolson whose death occurred Monday at Des Moines, the state of Iowa loses one of its most distinguished sons. Although Judge Woolson breathed his last at his home in the state capitol, yet in the real sense of the word that city was not his home. Mt Pleasant still claims him. Here he lived for over forty years, the most fruitful of his life, here he was educated, from here he went forth to win honors in the strife of the civil war. It was this county and city he represented when in the state senate and it was as a citizen of the town that he was appointed to the United States Judgeship. Here he was married and the happiest years of his life were spent. Here his children were born and here are his dead laid away. Here are his nearest relatives and dearest friends and in no place was he so beloved or will he be so deeply mourned. Judge Woolson always regretted that his duties forced him to leave Mt Pleasant. To him and his family this city was always home. It was but a year ago that the family left here. The Des Moines Leader has the following account of his last sickness and death.

John Simpson Woolson United States district judge for the southern district of Iowa, died at his residence, 1805 Sixth Ave., Monday afternoon at 1:45 o'clock after an illness of about five weeks.

Judge Woolson's death was unexpected up to Sunday by the attending physicians and the members of the family, and was a complete surprise to his many friends and acquaintances in the city. Five weeks ago while holding court in Keokuk he was taken suddenly ill and was compelled to adjourn the term and return immediately to his home in the city. Dr. Rood was called to attend him and while his condition at that time was not regarded as at all serious he was advised to abandon all idea of holding court again this winter to enjoy an absolute rest and to go to a warmer climate for the remainder of the winter as soon as he became strong

Des Moines, after hearing causes all day, he worked on his cases and correspondence all evening, sleeping off the court room. In Des Moines, usually a light was burning in the judge's room far into the night. Called upon to sentence many first offenders, early in his judicial career he became convinced that the ends of justice and society, as well as the reformation of the accused, usually could be best achieved by imposing and then suspending sentence, providing the court saw to it that suspension degenerate into unconditional release. Judge Woolson's high purpose was to win men back to honest, upright lives, and so, after suspending sentence it was his custom to place himself in communication with those who were acquainted with the convicted man, and to require a report at least every three months as to whether the terms of the conditional suspension of sentence were being observed. The judge's parish grew rapidly and parochial work to which he had addressed himself was added to his other duties. But the results were so good, and the task so appealed to the humane instincts which formed so large a part of Judge Woolson's character, that he would not abandon it, although it was often pointed out to him that sooner or later he would break down. The infinite care Judge Woolson gave to this extra-judicial duty illustrates what was his practice in everything. No judge ever sat upon a bench who was more indefatigable in his scrupulous attention to every detail of his function.

An upright and able judge, a wise legislator, a high-minded citizen, a tender father and a devoted friend, and, above all, a Christian gentleman of the most spotless character and beautiful life. Judge Woolson leaves a memory which is a benediction.

JUDGE WOOLSON'S CAREER.

Judge Woolson was born in Tonawanda, New York, December 6, 1840, thus making him a few days less than 59 years of age. After attending an academy, he came to Iowa in 1856—to Mt. Pleasant, so many years his home. After being graduated at Mt. Pleasant in 1860, in 1862 he entered the naval service of the United States and served during the remainder of the civil war. He was most of this time on board the old Monadnock, and took part in the attacks on Fort Sumter and Fort Fisher. In 1865 he resigned his commission and returned to Iowa. In 1866 he was admitted to the bar, early forming a partnership with Judge W. I. Rabb. In 1895 the democratic candidate for governor. In 1870 Judge Woolson was elected to the state senate, and served in that body until 1890. As a

by the bars at Des Moines and Burlington and at Mt. Pleasant. Formal resolutions were adopted and the leading lawyers of the several places made appropriate addresses. The federal court at Des Moines adjourned as a mark of respect for the dead jurist and a committee of attorneys was appointed to accompany the remains to Mt. Pleasant and attend the funeral. The district court at Burlington will adjourn tomorrow in order that Judge Withrow and the Burlington attorneys may attend the funeral. The Mt. Pleasant district court will also adjourn.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Judge Woolson were held Thursday from the Methodist church of this city. The remains arrived from Des Moines shortly before two o'clock and the body was at once taken to the church, where the services were immediately held. Accompanying the remains of the dead jurist from the state capitol where he had made his home for the last year were a large number of the prominent attorneys of Des Moines and state and federal officials. A special car was provided for the Des Moines contingent and the private car of Supt. Levy of the "Q" was provided for the use of the family of Judge Woolson. There was a large number of the old friends and neighbors of the family at the train to meet the mourning family. McFarland Post G. A. R. of which Judge Woolson was a member was there in force to act as an escort, and a special squad of the I. W. U. cadets were also present. A large number of attorneys and officials and also acquaintances of the Judge had already arrived on the earlier trains and they swelled the large and sympathetic crowd that waited in sad silence at the station for the arrival of the distinguished man.

As soon as the casket was placed in the hearse and the mourners had taken their places in the waiting carriages, the sorrowful procession proceeded up Main street to the church. The procession was led by a detachment of the cadets, arms reversed under the command of Lieut. Crawford; following these was the G. A. R. with colors draped and wearing mourning badges. Then came a long line of attorneys and distinguished state and federal officials, with a large number of citizens following in the rear.

Quite a large section of the church had been reserved for the benefit of the family, relatives, special friends and visitors, and the space left for the general public was filled long before the train arrived from Des Moines.

As soon as the remains of the Judge had been taken in to the church and

DIVIDES H

Wm. G. Saunders members Relat

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The last will at late Wm. G. Saunders the clerk of the some respects it is ument as has been time. It was known was a very wealthy there was much only the relatives of the deceased, b nity, especially as was his intention into small beques August 1st, 1890, own handwriting The will is witne Keeler, Fred Van ting. W. A. Sau Barbara R. Four named as the e There is no estim Mr. Saunders' for After a toud deceased wife, a Sallie Fouche, al his first bequest i to the city of Mt from which shou to keep the old e He gave to the this city \$2,000 i to the Christian city \$2,000 to be a church edifice. The following To Barbara R. and its contents; and 127 shares of the First Nation To Susie Watt business house i bank, and 30 sha of the Henry Co To E. M. Saun ness property in Mr. Saunders \$1 \$1,000 to be divi dren. To Thomas De lot he occupies a DeSpain a lot in Des Moines Iowa. The following made to Eliza

at that time was not regarded as at all serious he was advised to abandon all idea of holding court again this winter to enjoy an absolute rest and to go to a warmer climate for the remainder of the winter as soon as he became strong enough to travel. At that time he was suffering from a nervous break-down the result of over work. Acting on the advice of his physician and other physicians who were called in for consultation, he gave up his work and arranged with Judge Shiras, of the northern district of Iowa to hold his court term in this city during November.

Early in his illness it was ascertained that Judge Woolson was suffering from Bright's disease, caused in the opinion of his physicians by too close application to his work, but the break-down to his nervous system was at that time considered the most serious phase of his illness.

Almost from the time he returned to Des Moines until last Thursday he continued to improve, and had gotten on so well that he was able to walk about his room and to sit up for considerable periods at a time. He was even making arrangements to go south-west for a short stay. But last Thursday evening he had a sinking spell and at the time serious doubts were entertained of his recovery. The next day he rallied and Friday evening had apparently recovered from the relapse but Saturday he began to grow weaker again and all day Sunday was failing steadily. Monday morning he relapsed into a semi-conscious condition and hopes of his recovery were abandoned. He grew steadily weaker until the end came at 1:45 o'clock.

WOOLSON AS A JURIST.

The Des Moines Leader (Dem.) as a leading editorial pays the following tribute to the life, character and work of Judge Woolson.

THE LATE JUDGE WOOLSON.

The sudden death in Des Moines Monday of the Hon. John S. Woolson, federal judge for the southern district of Iowa, is a great shock to the state, particularly to the bar and to that circle of friends than which no man in Iowa was center of a wider one. It was known that Judge Woolson was unwell, that his health had been failing since a year ago, when he journeyed to the west to recoup his physical forces, but it was not known he was in immediate danger. But little past the prime of life, it was fondly anticipated that many years of usefulness were yet before him, and that he would continue to occupy the bench of which he was so distinguished an ornament.

It is a sad truth to say that a principal factor contributing to Judge Woolson's death was over-work. He killed himself by conscientiously fulfilling all the duties of his arduous judicial position. Instead of the federal bench being to him a place of otium cum dignitate, as to many, so high were his ideals and so determined was he to live up to them that he was never able to rest. When holding court elsewhere than in

he was admitted to the bar, early in his partnership with Judge W. I. Babb, in 1895 the democratic candidate for governor. In 1876 Judge Woolson was elected to the state senate, and served in that body until 1890. As a legislator, no man ever had a greater influence on Iowa laws, and for several years, although never a politician in the usual sense, Judge Woolson's leadership in the senate was acknowledged. On the death of Judge Love, the friends of Judge Woolson immediately pressed him for the vacant judgeship. It is said that his endorsement was the largest and most representative ever given to an Iowa for a similar place. President Harrison recognized the wishes of the district and its bar, and on August 17, 1891, Judge Woolson entered upon his duties, since serving with scarce a vacation.

He was married in Mount Pleasant April 9, 1867, to Miss Mira T. Bird. Five children were born to them, of whom four are now living.

Judge Woolson, during his life, was a prominent member of the Loyal Legion

MIGHT HAVE BEEN GOVERNOR.

The Des Moines Capital says editorially:

"Had Woolson not gone upon the bench he might have been governor of the state and he would have honored the place. A man of his high standard of honor could have been safely placed anywhere. He came of a noble, high-minded race. Dignity and honor were born in him and were enlarged by cultivation. He was the highest type of a true gentleman. The friendship for more than thirty years existing between himself and James Harlan was most beautiful. He never failed in his devotion to Harlan politically and otherwise. He regarded him as the greatest man that Iowa had produced and Harlan reciprocated the esteem. Woolson before aspiring to any place always enquired of himself to how it would affect the future of Harlan, which he admitted must be supreme in his consideration."

A BEAUTIFUL HOME LIFE.

Continuing the Capital says: "The dead jurist was the delight of his home. Warmer love for wife and children never blessed the old earth. His only surviving son, Paul, who has long been a business man in Toledo, was the apple of his eye, and his three charming and devoted daughters were his ever present hope and solace, while it is known that the devotion manifested toward his life partner was ideal and poetic. Heaven may come nearer having the ideal home than was Woolson's, but earth does not. It was a home where love and peace reigned supreme. The hard-working lawyer and judge rarely took his worriments to the fireside, but if he did he found wise counsel and hopeful advice. The people of Iowa can afford to honor Woolson dead as they loved him living."

Special memorial services were held

visitors, and the space left for the general public was filled long before the train arrived from Des Moines.

As soon as the remains of the Judge had been taken in to the church and those for whom seats had been reserved had been seated, the remaining seats were filled with people waiting to get in. It is probable that not half of those who so desired were able to secure admittance to the church, so large was the crowd.

The altar of the church was draped with the national colors and literally banked up with the profuse and beautiful floral offerings. Dr. Rommel presided at the organ, and the music was furnished by the church choir. The services were conducted by Dr. C. L. Stafford, of Muscatine, assisted by Rev. O. W. Rogers, of the Congregational church of this city, and Rev. W. H. Heppé, pastor of the church.

Immediately in front and on each side of the casket were seated the pall bearers, Judge Withrow, Judge Smythe, George H. Spahr, L. A. Palmer, R. S. Galer, J. G. Newbold, George Van Beek and James T. Whiting.

Behind these on the left were seated the immediate family of the Judge and behind them other relatives of the deceased. On the other side of the church was seated the G. A. R. post and the delegations of attorneys and officials. Messrs. Fred Crane, Walter Brenholts, E. L. Roth and F. S. Finley acted as ushers.

The services opened with the singing by the choir of that comforting hymn, "How Firm a Foundation," followed by prayer by Rev. O. W. Rogers. Rev. W. H. Heppé read the scripture lesson "Let not your hearts be troubled," followed by a second scripture lesson read by Dr. Stafford.

An anthem was then sung by the choir, and Dr. Stafford made some beautiful remarks on the life and character of the deceased. He was followed by Rev. O. W. Rogers, an old personal friend, who also made appropriate remarks. The services were concluded with another anthem by the choir, and then the vast congregation was allowed to once more look upon the face of as true a man as ever lived and died.

A large number followed the remains to the cemetery, where Judge Woolson was laid away in the family burial lot. A few remarks were made at the grave and then the long line of old soldiers and attorneys passed by the brink of the grave and let flutter to the casket below the evergreen twig, the last tribute to this great and good man. The cadets fired the soldiers salute and then taps, that sweetest and saddest of farewells—the soldiers farewell—rang out on the autumn quiet and the weeping family, and the sorrowing friends turned away to take up again the burdens of life.

For a choice line of notions to be easily and quickly made into pretty

MISS HATTIE KETCHAM.

DeSpain a lot in the property corner streets.

The following made: to Elizabeth ter, \$500 each.

Amanda Ryder, \$500 and each \$500.

Mary Marshall \$500 and each of Hannah Hughes \$1000, and \$500 each.

Mary McGregor, \$500 and among their child Olive Coats and and Delia Coats a Coats, \$500 each. Maggie Todd, \$500 children \$500.

Louise Saunderson children \$500 husband \$1,000 \$500; also William Kearns \$500, Char Ball \$1,000, Ida Chamberlain \$1,000, Allabach \$1,000, rey Rogers \$1,000, Anna D. Dadism and daughter, James A. Grant \$500.

Emma Garvin \$500, Frank Garvin \$500, May Garvin \$500, To T. P. Har

each; to M. D. A be divided between McLellan Palmer \$500 and \$500 for

Eliza Grigsby of her children: Melinda Monty To the follow each: Delicia Ho ders, Elnora Ho Lulu Kyle Smar tie Baker, Emm Maggie Fouche, Fouche, James grave, Isaac Va

To the follow cash: John Sa Jennie Kyle, Saunders, Ma Grant, Maggie Viola Fouche, Vandal, Geor Andrews, Oll Andrews, May Grant Jones, Dawson, Henry Jasper Garvin, Stickler, Emm Nettle Crossle Vandal, Alvin ders, Flora Mc Jennie Grant,

To Mary Saundersons \$500 and \$500.

To Austa Pe and to Ireta Pe to H. Eliza Sat

Eliza Stover, be given \$100 had been with

After all t been paid by the residue Barbara R. Fo by her for the special directie in regard to trust fund.

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HISTORY OF IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FOUR VOLUMES ¹²/₃₅

By BENJAMIN F. GUE

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

WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN OF IOWA

VOLUME IV
IOWA BIOGRAPHY



SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA

THE CENTURY HISTORY COMPANY
41 LAFAYETTE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

ment expired. After the war he was twice appointed by President Grant visitor to West Point Military Academy. He removed to Kansas in 1869, locating on a farm near Oswego, where he died September 17, 1889.

WILLIAM G. WOODWARD was born at Hanover, New Hampshire, May 20, 1808. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and chose law as a profession. In the fall of 1839 he emigrated to the new Territory of Iowa, locating at Bloomington where he entered upon the practice of law. He attained high rank in the profession and in 1848 was one of three commissioners chosen by the Second General Assembly to prepare a complete code of laws for the new State. His associates were Charles Mason and Stephen Hempstead. Their work when completed was approved by the Third General Assembly and Mr. Woodward was selected to prepare marginal notes, arrange it in divisions, index and superintend its publication. When published it was known as the "Code of 1851." In January, Mr. Woodward was elected by the General Assembly one of the judges of the Supreme Court. He served six years and in 1861 was elected to the State Senate from Muscatine County. In 1863 he was appointed Clerk of the United States Circuit Court. He died on the 24th of February, 1871.

JOHN S. WOOLSON was born on the 6th of December, 1840, at Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. He was the son of T. W. Woolson who became a distinguished member of the Iowa State Senate in the Eleventh and Twelfth General Assemblies. The son received his education in the public schools, at Wilson Collegiate Institute, New York, and at Mount Pleasant Wesleyan College in Iowa, receiving the degree of LL. D. In March, 1862, he received the appointment of assistant paymaster law at Mount Pleasant, was admitted to the bar and at once began practice in the navy, serving in that capacity to the close of the war. He studied twice. In 1875 he was elected to the State Senate on the Republican ticket and served in that body by re-elections for twelve years, retiring in 1891 when he was appointed by President Harrison Judge of the United States District Court for southern Iowa. He held this position to the time of his death which occurred on the 4th of December, 1899, at his home in Des Moines. He was a lifelong Republican and a citizen and public official of the highest character.

ED. WRIGHT was born at Salem, Ohio, June 27, 1827. His education was acquired in the public schools and academies and he became a teacher and a carpenter. In 1852 he removed to Iowa, locating in Cedar County. In 1856 he was elected to the House of the Sixth General Assembly, was re-elected in 1857 and again in 1859, serving six years. In 1862 he was appointed major of the Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry and served through the war. He was a brave, vigilant and popular officer

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THE ANNALS OF IOWA.

A HISTORICAL QUARTERLY.

VOLUME FOUR—THIRD SERIES.

EDITED BY

CHARLES ALDRICH, A. M.,

Curator and Secretary of the Historical Department of Iowa; Corresponding Member
of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Corresponding Member of the
Minnesota Historical Society; Corresponding Member of the Wash-
ington State Historical Society; and One of the Founders
of the American Ornithologists' Union.

26

PUBLISHED BY THE
HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA,
DES MOINES.
1899-1901.

20530

famous creameries of that county. After his dealings in milk and vegetables he became a carpenter and worked some years in building houses, wherever he could find a job. Some portion of this time he was only able to command \$13 per month, payable in goods at the stores. This was the only "currency" of that period, and fifteen hours constituted a day's work. Later on he engaged in moving buildings, both those built of wood and masonry. In 1857 he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Barrows of Clayville, New York. His ambition led him to the study of architecture and some of the finest buildings in Muscatine and the surrounding country are samples of his work. He also acted for many years as Meteorological Observer for the United States Weather Signal Service Bureau. This Weather Record involved the most careful observations for forty-seven years, the first twenty-one of which were made and recorded by Hon. T. S. Parvin. After Mr. Parvin's time this work was done by Mr. Walton. He was one of the founders of the Muscatine Academy of Sciences, of which he was at one time president, and one of its trustees from the beginning. He was a prominent member of the Episcopal church, having been confirmed by the late Bishop Henry W. Lee in 1854. During the last dozen years he has devoted much of his time to writing and printing the early history of that portion of Iowa, more especially, however, of Muscatine and the surrounding country. We have had no more enterprising and industrious gatherer of materials for the history of our State. The Historical Department has been indebted to Mr. Walton for many valuable pamphlets and leaflets, which fact we are glad to place on record. He was a man of great usefulness, with energy and public spirit seldom equalled. *The Saturday Mail*, of Muscatine, contained a beautiful tribute to the memory of this good and useful man, from the pen of his daughter, Mrs. Alice Walton Beatty.

JOHN S. WOOLSON was born in Erie county, New York, December 6, 1810; he died in Des Moines, Iowa, December 4, 1899. His parents resided in Erie county until 1856, when they removed to Iowa and settled in Mt. Pleasant, Henry county, where he grew up to manhood and began the study of the law. In March, 1862, he was appointed assistant-paymaster in the navy, and assigned to service on the sloop-of-war Housatonic. He was on board this ship at the time she was sunk by a torpedo near Charleston, South Carolina. The officers and crew took to the water and he was picked up with others, uninjured. He was present at the attack on Fort Sumter, and at both attacks on Fort Fisher. He was also on the James river at the capture of Richmond. He retired from the naval service in December, 1865. Returning, he completed his legal studies and was admitted to the bar in 1866. He was for several years the law partner of Judge W. I. Babbs. In 1875 he was chosen to the State Senate to fill a vacancy, and re-elected in 1877 for the full term of four years. He proved himself an able and influential senator. He was secretary of the Mt. Pleasant school board several years, and in 1870 became chairman of the State Board of Commissioners of Insanity. Upon the death of James M. Love, U. S. Judge of the Southern district of Iowa, Mr. Woolson was appointed to the place. In this position he became one of the leading jurists of the Middle West, distinguished for his legal knowledge, his promptness in expediting the business of the court, and for the certainty with which the penalties of the federal laws were enforced upon incorrigible transgressors. He always dealt most leniently with youthful offenders, and with men who came before him charged with a first offense. In a case where the plea of guilty was entered, before proceeding to pronounce sentence, he made the most thorough investigation into the man's character and standing up to the time he went astray, anxious to give him the benefit of every mitigating circumstance. It was always a terrible strain upon him to pronounce a severe sentence, as he sometimes had to do, in the presence of a weeping

wife. Whenever he felt that the ends of justice had been reached he was always ready to ask for the offender's pardon. When Judge Woolson signed a petition it was deemed safe to follow him in the plea for mercy. He was a man of the highest personal character, the soul of honor, an always upright Christian gentleman, well known throughout the State, and universally esteemed. In the maturity of his mental powers, and with the prospect of many useful years before him, he seemed but a short time ago to be singularly fortunate in his position and surroundings. But he fell a victim to overwork and passed away when his career of usefulness seemed fullest of promise.

WILLIAM McENTYRE DYE was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1831; he died at Muskegon, Michigan, November 13, 1899. He entered the Military Academy at West Point, July 1, 1849, and graduated No. 32 in his class of 52, July 1, 1853. Gen. P. H. Sheridan was No. 34 in the same class. He served until November 9, 1854, as brevet 2d lieutenant of Infantry, when he was promoted to 2d lieutenant. He was stationed at various places from Fort Columbus, New York, to Fort Reading, California, and at many posts on the Texas and western frontiers. He was promoted to captain of the 8th Infantry, May 14, 1861. Governor Kirkwood appointed him colonel of the 20th Iowa Volunteer Infantry August 25, 1862. He had previously served on mustering duty for some months in this State. From that time until the end of the Rebellion he was upon active duty, participating in many important battles. He was also engaged in the siege of Vicksburg and in most of the important events of the Department of the Gulf. He was brevetted major, lieutenant-colonel and colonel in the Regular Army, for gallant and meritorious service. On March 31, 1865, he was made brevet brigadier-general of Volunteers. After the war he went back to his rank of major of the 1th Regular Infantry, in which he served until September 7, 1870, when he was honorably discharged at his own request. Returning to Iowa he settled at Marion, Linn county, as a farmer, where he remained until 1873. In the latter year he went to Egypt, where he served in the Khedive's army, and was severely wounded in the Battle of Abyssinia. He returned to this country in 1879 and served as Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia in 1885-86. In 1888 this gallant soldier of fortune went to Corea, where he became military adviser and instructor-general in the service of the King of that country, introducing modern equipments and methods. He returned in 1889, "to die at home at last." He wrote a valuable book on "Moslem Egypt and Christian Abyssinia, or Military Service under the Khedive," which is one of the leading authorities on that region. Though not attaining the highest rank and position, Gen. Dye made a brilliant and enduring record in the service of his own country before accepting service abroad.

JOHN I. BLAIR was born in Warren county, New Jersey, August 22, 1802; he died at Blairstown, New Jersey, December 2, 1899. He was directly descended from John Blair who emigrated from Scotland to this country in 1720. His education was limited to a few months in the common schools during the winter and ended when he reached the age of eleven. He immediately entered a store at Hope, New Jersey, for the purpose of learning the business. He remained there until 1821 when he settled in Blairstown, New Jersey, in co-partnership with John Blair, a relative, and established a general country store. Two years later the partnership was dissolved and he continued the business for forty years, establishing branches in several neighboring towns, and in Johnsonsburg, New York. He also became interested in flouring mills, cotton manufactures and buying and selling country produce. He filled the office of postmaster in Blairstown forty years. From the year 1846 he was connected with the building of railroads,

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

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

By

EDWARD H. STILES

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

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

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

wide reader, a keen observer, were bottomed on a well-balanced mind. His modes of thought and conclusions were distinguished for their clearness. He displayed these qualities preeminently, both at the bar and on the bench. He had in a high degree the rare one of patience, of perennial composure. He was a good listener, and free from that inclination, which constitutes the weakness of some judges, of talking too much, interrupting counsel, seemingly for the purpose of displaying their superior astuteness. Greville, in his *Memoirs*, says of Lord Brougham:*

Brougham is a bad presiding Judge, for he will talk so much to the counsel, and does not avoid saying pungent things, which elicit rejoinders and excite heat. The extreme gravity and patient attention of Old Eldon struck me forcibly as contrasted with the flippancy and sarcastic interruptions of the Chancellor.

Judge Shiras was remarkably free from these faults. His mind was naturally reflective; resembling not the shallow brook that babbles on its way, but rather the deep and silent stream that flows with resistless current to the sea. I met him often at the Federal and State Supreme Court while we were members of the bar. His arguments always invoked the closest attention of the court. His appointment as Judge of the United States Court received the hearty and general approbation of the bar and the people. His integrity was spotless; no combination of interests, power or wealth dared approach him, and he laid aside his judicial robes as unblemished as when he put them on.

Personally, he was engaging and attractive; not tall, but shapely and graceful. In bearing, he was modest and retiring, and though his career had been highly successful, he was without the least tinge of self-importance or vanity. His smoothly shaven face was finely chiseled, placid, but resolute in expression; his head and brow fine, his hair dark and luxuriant, his eyes, lucid and penetrating. In fine, his whole appearance, *the tout ensemble*, furnished a ready index to his personality, and carried the impress of intellectual strength combined with natural refinements and purity of character.

The opinions of Judge Shiras are models of clearness and brevity and will be found in the numbers of the Federal Reporter covering that period.

He was a younger brother of George Shiras, formerly one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States.

John S. Woolson.

John S. Woolson was visited by death in the midst of a highly useful and promising career as Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, to which he had been appointed only eight years before. He was born in Erie County, New York, in 1840. He was the son of Theron W. Woolson, for many years a prominent lawyer of the Mt. Pleasant Bar, a man of high character

*Greville's *Journals of the Reigns of George IV and William IV*, Vol. 2, p. 239.

and ability, with whom I served as a fellow member of the Iowa State Senate in the Eleventh General Assembly. The parents removed from Erie County, New York, to Henry County, Iowa, in 1856. John S. Woolson was reared and educated here. He was a graduate of Wesleyan University.

During the Civil War, in March, 1862, he was appointed Assistant Paymaster in the Navy, and assigned to service on the sloop of War, Housatonic. He was on this ship when it was sunk by a torpedo near Charleston, South Carolina. He and other officers and the crew were picked up from the water. He was at the attacks on Fort Sumpter, and Fort Fisher, and with his ship on the James River at the capture of Richmond. At the close of his naval service in 1865, he again took up and completed his legal studies, and was admitted to the bar in 1866. For a number of years he and Judge W. I. Babb were associated as partners in the practice at Mt. Pleasant; it was a strong firm and did a wide and successful business. He was for many years a member of the State Senate, where he distinguished himself for his efficiency as a legislator. In 1891 he was appointed by President Harrison to the position which he held at the time of his death, which occurred in 1899. His predecessor on the bench was Judge J. M. Love, with whose services his own were placed in contrast. This was a test of no ordinary character, for of all the Federal Judges in the Nation Judge Love was among the very best. Judge Woolson filled well the position and public expectation, and but for his untimely death, which was brought about by his arduous and unceasing labors, would have achieved still higher rank as a jurist.

His character was of the highest order, and his nature charitable. While he was sometimes severe with incorrigible offenders, towards young ones and those brought before him for a first offense, he was lenient, and gave them the benefit of every mitigating circumstance. It is said that when the ends of justice had been reached he was always ready to join in a petition for the pardon of the offender. He was of a lovely as well as heroic nature, and his intellectual endowments were of a superior order. His premature death was a cause of universal and sincere regret.

Smith McPherson.

Smith McPherson was appointed by President McKinley to fill the vacancy on the bench caused by the death of Judge John S. Woolson. Neither Judge Woolson nor Judge McPherson can properly be classed as among the early United States Judges, but as they are both dead, I have thought it proper to speak of them. Nor had either of them been on the bench sufficiently long to fully demonstrate his real judicial capacity, though both displayed many strong essentials for the position and promised well.

Smith McPherson I knew from the time he was admitted to the bar. We both lived on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and were its local

THE
HISTORY
OF
HENRY COUNTY,
I O W A,

CONTAINING

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

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

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1879.

horses and cattle, nearly as much more. Mr. Winters began without means, and by industry, integrity and good management, he now owns, aside from his large business interests, 1,400 acres of land in this county. He has two sons—John C. and Michael F.

WINTERS, JOHN C., manager of the Winters Stone Quarries; born in La Salle, Ill., in September, 1848; when 7 years of age, his parents came to Iowa; his father being engaged in quarrying and contracting, John learned that business, and for some years has had the management of the Winters Quarries, at Mt. Pleasant, having about fifty men in his employ; he holds the office of Sub-school Director, and is President of the Board, and is also Director in the Agricultural Society. He married Miss Mary Ellen O'Hare, from St. Louis, Mo., in September, 1869; they have five children—Laura and Stella, twins, Samuel L., John and Grace C.; lost one son.

Woodburn, Samuel.

Woodburn, John G., tailor.

WOODS, JOHN T., of the firm of Templin Bros. & Wood, dealers in dry goods and notions; born in Fayette Co., Ind., Jan. 7, 1837; at 15 years of age, came to Keokuk; to Mt. Pleasant in 1859; after attending school one year, he engaged in business. Is a member of the School Board. Married Miss Sarah E. Killpatrick, daughter of Judge Ephraim Killpatrick, one of the early settlers of Henry Co., Dec. 13, 1860; they have five children—Edward C., Lucy R., Charles E. Alice and Ella.

Woolson, T. W., biography on last page.

WOOLSON, JOHN S., attorney, of the firm of Woolson & Babb; born in Erie Co., N. Y., Dec. 6, 1840; lived there until 16 years of age, and came with his parents to Iowa and located in Mt. Pleasant in June, 1856; completed his education and commenced reading law. Was appointed Assistant Paymaster in the navy, regular service, in March, 1862; he was on board the sloop-of-war Housatonic when she was torpedoed off Charleston; she sank in ten minutes; beyond a cold bath, he was uninjured, and was picked up with the other officers; he was present at the attack on Ft. Sumter, and at both attacks on Ft.

Fisher, being on the monitor Monadnock; he was also up James River, at Ft. Darling, and the capture of Richmond; was in the service until December, 1865. After his return, completed his law studies, and was admitted to the bar in 1866, and since has been engaged in the practice of his profession. He represents this county in the State Senate; was elected in 1875 to fill a vacancy; re-elected in 1877 for four years; he was Secretary of the School Board for some years, and has been Chairman of the State Board of Commissioners of Insanity since 1870. He married Miss Myra T. Bird, of Mt. Pleasant, April 7, 1867; they have four children—Paul B., Ralph, Miriam and Grace.

YOAKUM, H. B., miller.

YODER, SAMUEL, proprietor of the Pennsylvania House; born in Cambria Co., Penn., in 1826; he came to Iowa in September, 1876, and engaged in the hotel business Aug. 1, 1878. He married Miss Barbara Yoder, of Ohio, in 1853; they have eight children—five sons and three daughters.

Young, N. A. J., Constable.

Yuhn, Herman, blacksmith.

YOUNG, WILLIAM, retired; born in County Antrim, Ireland, north of Belfast, April 18, 1808; he emigrated with his parents to America, leaving Belfast May 18, 1818; he was brought up in Pennsylvania, and learned the milling business; he came to Fulton Co., Ohio, in 1835, and was one of the early settlers there; he bought a farm, and lived there until 1855, when he came to Iowa; located in this county in March, 1856, and engaged in farming; continued until a few years past, when he gave up the active management of his farm and moved to Mt. Pleasant. He had nothing when he began life, and now owns over three hundred acres of land. He has been twice married; his first wife was Esther Stott, of Pennsylvania; she died in 1871; they had nine children, four of whom survive—Charles S., Robert, William P. and Miller; he married Nancy Phillips June 3, 1875; she is a native of Chester Co., Penn., and came to Iowa in 1866. Mr. Young had two sons in the army.

PORTRAIT AND
BIOGRAPHICAL



— OF —

HENRY COUNTY, IOWA,

CONTAINING

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

TOGETHER WITH

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

CHICAGO:
ACME PUBLISHING COMPANY,
1888.

were highly respected in the community where they resided. Always honest and upright, Mr. Wilsons' word was as good as his bond. The mother departed this life Oct. 16, 1873, being sixty-two years of age. She preceded her husband to the home of the redeemed thirteen years, he dying on the 26th of January, 1887, at the age of seventy-six.

HON. JOHN S. WOOLSON, senior partner of the prominent law firm of Woolson & Babb, of Mt. Pleasant, and a member of the Iowa State Senate, was born at Tonawanda, Erie Co., N. Y., Dec. 6, 1840. His father, Theron W. Woolson, was an early settler of Henry County, and a leading attorney (a sketch of his life and his portrait will be found elsewhere in this work). His mother's maiden name was Clarissa Simson. The family on both sides are descended from patriotic ancestry in the war of the Revolution. His paternal grandfather participated in the war of Independence and in that of 1812, while his maternal grandfather took an active part in the latter war.

Our subject, as his history shows, was true to the patriotic instincts of his forefathers, and bore his part in the War for the Union in 1861-65. He received his primary education in his native town, and when sixteen years of age (June, 1856), he accompanied his parents to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where he entered the Iowa Wesleyan University as a student and graduated with the honors of his class in 1860. He at once engaged in the study of law in his father's office, but the breaking out of the war excited his patriotic ardor, and throwing aside his Blackstone and Chitty, he forsook the peaceful paths of the law for a position in the United States Navy. He was appointed Assistant Paymaster of the United States Navy in February, 1862, and was assigned to the United States sloop-of-war "Housatonic," of the South Atlantic squadron. He continued to serve on the "Housatonic" till she was sunk by a Confederate torpedo boat off Charleston Harbor, Feb. 17, 1864. The sloop sank within fifteen minutes after the torpedo was exploded. Mr. Woolson succeeded in securing himself to a

floating spar which proved but a precarious support, as it was overloaded and submerged by the numbers clinging to it. By the timely arrival of a boat from another vessel of the squadron, he and his companions were rescued from their perilous position.

He was next assigned to the double turreted monitor "Monadnock," then in service in the North and South Atlantic squadron. He participated in all the attacks on Ft. Sumter and both attacks on Ft. Fisher. He served at different times as signal officer of the squadron, and during the attacks on Ft. Fisher had command of one of the pilot-houses of the monitor. He was up the James River at the taking of Crow's Nest and the capture of Richmond. He was also at "Butler's Dutch Gap Canal," and served till the surrender of the Confederate army and the close of the war. He was previously sent with an expedition to Havana to capture a rebel ram in those waters. The ram failed to accept the challenge, but sought protection under the guns of the Spanish forts. Mr. Woolson resigned his position in the regular service in December, 1865, returned to Mt. Pleasant and resumed the study of law with his father as preceptor, and was admitted to the bar in September, 1866. He at once formed a law partnership with his father, under the firm name of T. W. & John S. Woolson, which connection continued till the death of his father, Nov. 8, 1872. In January, 1873, he formed the existing partnership with Hon. W. I. Babb.

Mr. Woolson has taken a prominent part in public affairs, and has been chosen to fill various offices of honor and trust. He has served several years as a member and Secretary of the School Board of Mt. Pleasant. He was appointed a member of the Henry County Board of Commissioners of Insanity in 1870, and was elected President of the Board, and has held that position continuously since. Mr. Woolson was elected by the Republican party to the State Senate in 1875, was re-elected and served six years. He was appointed Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, was chosen President *pro tem* of the Senate, and had the honor of presiding at the re-inauguration of Gov. J. H. Gear. He was re-elected in 1885, and again elected President *pro tem*, which position he still holds. In 1884 he was the Republican candidate for Congress for the

First Iowa Congressional District. Mr. Woolson had taken positive ground while in the State Senate in favor of the right of the State and General Government to control within constitutional limits the establishment of rates of passenger and freight traffic, and to protect the people against any extortion by monopolies. Notwithstanding the fact that he had thus antagonized the powerful railway influence, and that his opponent, the Hon. Benjamin J. Hall, had the earnest and undivided support of the railway corporations, in addition to the prestige of an opposition majority of from 800 to 1,000, which had been cast against the Republican ticket in the two previous elections, Mr. Woolson was defeated by but seventy-three votes, a high compliment to his personal popularity.

Mr. Woolson was united in marriage at Mt. Pleasant, April 9, 1867, to Miss Mira T. Bird, daughter of Dr. W. Bird, a prominent physician and early settler of that city, and whose history is given on another page. Mrs. Woolson was born at Frederickstown, Knox Co., Ohio. Five children were born of their union, four of whom are living: Paul B., born May 13, 1868; Ralph T., born May 25, 1871, died Nov. 8, 1886; Miriam, born May 19, 1873; Grace S., born July 17, 1875; Ruth S., born Oct. 18, 1880. Mr. Woolson, his wife and three elder children, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the McFarland Post No. 20, G. A. R., and of the Iowa Commandery of the Loyal Legion. He is a Master Mason, and a member of Mt. Pleasant Lodge No. 8. He and his wife are members of Bethlehem Chapter No. 38, of the order of the Eastern Star.

The subject of this sketch is so well known that anything that might be said in a short sketch like this would not add to or detract from his high standing in the community with the present generation, but as this work is designed as a standard reference for coming generations, it is eminently proper to state that Mt. Woolson stands in the front rank of his profession in Henry County, and is among the leading lawyers of the State. He is an indefatigable worker and student, possessing qualities of mind and a high order of talent that eminently fit him for the profession of the law and a foremost place among the legislators of the country. As a lawyer

he is quick to analyze the subject matter of the business in hand, careful and methodical in the preparation of cases, eloquent and logical in his addresses to court and jury, and is always to be relied upon to present the claims of his clients in the best possible light and to guard their interests with ability, integrity and fidelity. As a legislator he has always proved true to the interests of his constituents, consistent with his broad views of public policy. He served on important committees, in the discharge of whose duties he has always borne a prominent part. As a speaker, he is fluent, logical and eloquent. His well-known habit of thoroughly investigating any subject on which he is to speak adds force to his remarks and carries conviction to the minds of his audience. Possessing these characteristics, it is not strange that his people should favor him with their choice for positions of public honor and trust, and that they are proud to acknowledge him as a leader among them.

JOHN MESSER, deceased, was a native of Ohio, and his parents were Job and Sarah (Green) Messer. He was among the earliest pioneer settlers of Henry County, Iowa, having come to this county in 1839, and settled in Trenton Township, on section 8, where he lived until the time of his death, which occurred Feb. 7, 1865. He was united in marriage with Rhoda Ann Miller, and they were the parents of fourteen children, of whom Michael and Sarah died young; Josephus was the eldest; the next was John, of Trenton Township; Mary, wife of James H. Scarff, of Trenton Township; Job, also of Trenton Township; Simon, also a farmer of Trenton Township; Alfred, who died Aug. 27, 1885; Jane, wife of George Alexander, of Trenton Township; Calvin, residing in Jefferson Township; Alvin, who has charge of the home farm for his mother; Hannah departed this life in January, 1874; Lincoln; Becca Ann, wife of Isaac Shuck, a resident of Trenton Township. Mr. Messer in early life affiliated with the Whig party, and until the organization of the Republican, when he voted with the latter party. He served as a soldier in the late Rebellion, enlisting in what was

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John Simson Woolson

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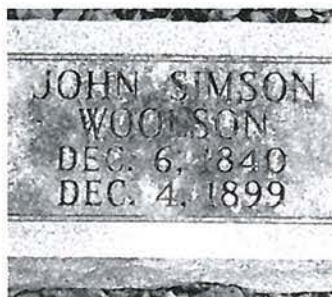
Birth: Dec. 6, 1840
 Death: Dec. 4, 1899

Burial:
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 Iowa, USA

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John Simson Woolson

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John Simson Woolson served in the Civil War and was aboard the Housitania when it was sunk in Charleston Harbor by the Hunley submarine. He survived and returned to Mt. Pleasant where he was an attorney and served in the Iowa State Senate.

Added by: John Woolson
7/18/2008

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Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Woolson, John Samuel

War

Residence Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Battles, etc.

Occupation Attorney

Nearest relatives

Date birth 6 D 1840 Place Tonawanda, N. Y.

Father Theron W

Nativity

Date death D 2 1899 Place Des Moines, Iowa

Cause Forest Home Cem Place burial Mt. Pleasant, Ia

Mother Clarissa Simson

Nativity

War record Paymaster U.S. Navy

Wife Mira T. Bird

Rank Company Regiment State Organisation

Children

Paul B., Ralph T., Miriam, Grace S.,
Ruth S

Enlisted

Date

Place

Source: Ex. Soldiers living in 1885: Ann't Pay-
master U.S.N. - Mt. Pleasant. / Post 20 Appli-
cation Paper/

Discharged

Date

Place

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Woolson, John S

Record Membership and Dues Paid

Offices of honor in G. A. R.

Post name
McFarland

Post No.
20 (60)

Place

Date Joined
4 My 1883
Age 42

Member-at-Large

Year Date Paid Amount

Year Date Paid Amount Year Date Paid Amount

Post #20 Desc Book: Enl 1862; Disch D 1865; Died
D 2 1899
Des Moines Sunday Reg. F.1, 1953
Notice of death of P. B. Woolson age 84 Jan 31, 1953
1953 in his home at Clarinda. He was publisher of
the Clarinda Herald from 1912 to retirement in 1947.
Born at Mt. Pleasant, son of Federal Judge John S.
Woolson. Grad. of Iowa Wesleyan college and had
lived in Clarinda since 1905. Services Tues. 10:30
a. m. in Foster Harmon Funeral home here. Clarinda.

Suspended

Died

Year Date Paid Amount

Des Moines Sunday Rep. F.1, 1953
Notice of death of P. F. Woolson
1953 in his home at Clarinda. He
the Clarinda Herald from 1912 to
born at Mt. Pleasant, son of Feder
Woolson. Grad. of Iowa Wesleyan
lived in Clarinda since 1905. So
a. m. in Foster Harmon Funeral h

Suspended

Died

61
Date of birth, Onawanda, N.York.
Date and place of capture, Dec 6, 1860
Place of confinement,
Date of release,
When and in what engagements wounded,
Nature of wound received,
Name, John Woolson

Now, I believe my friend, that the
Matters, that our friend, that
Wednesday, he has been in the
I beg to say that our friend
could not believe that our friend
was now in the case, in the
he then on trial, but it is a
any way to get off for a couple
days, I believe certainly at least
enjoy the whole day, with a
after day, I trust the occasion
will be a most successful one
I hope so.
Please excuse the above
with my personal reasons only,
my ability to receive a letter, to be
in the end, I believe, to be
I believe, to be

Geo. S. Warden,
W. L. Ball.

Publ.
ilding.

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Aug. 29, 1887

Offly. Atty Gen
Des Moines, Iowa.

Sir. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 27th, stating that the Dept. Com. desires my presence at the R. H. Orr, State Fair Ground on Tuesday or Wednesday, prepared for a short talk.

I beg to say that our District Court commences today & that as matters now stand cases, in which I am engaged, & must attend to, will be there on trial. But if I can see any way to get off for a couple of days, I shall certainly attend and enjoy these soldier days, with the other boys. I trust the occasion will prove abundantly interesting & profitable.

Please assure the Dep. Com. that only imperative reasons could prevent my presence & efforts, to best of my ability, to make day success.
In F. Col. Geo. S. Warden

Geo. S. Warden

Name

Nature of wound received

When and in what way

Law Offices,
Weolson & Babb,

Nat'l State Bank Building.

Jas. E. Weolson,
H. J. Babb.

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 29 1887

J. M. Murphy, Atty Gen,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Sir. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yr. communication of the 27th, stating that the Dep. Com. desires my presence at G. & R. Hd. Qrs, State Fair Ground on Tuesday or Wednesday, prepared for a short talk re.

I beg to say that our District Court commences today & that as matters now stand cases, in which I am engaged, & must attend to, will be there on trial. But if I can see any way to get off for a couple of days, I shall certainly attend and enjoy these soldier days, with the other boys. I trust the occasion will prove abundantly interesting & profitable.

Please assure the Dep. Com. that only imperative reasons could prevent my presence & efforts, to best of my ability, to make day success—
In Cordl. Jno. E. Weolson

STATE OF IOWA,
Office of Secretary of State,

Des Moines, October 20, 1875.

Hon.

Dear Sir: It has been the custom of each House 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. To make this historical data **CORRECT** is the object of furnishing you this blank, and it is hoped that you will aid me in making it as complete as possible by making a full return of the items below to this office as early as practicable.

PLEASE GIVE FIRST NAME IN FULL.

Name *John S. Woolson*
P. O. *St. Pleasant, Henry Co.,*
County *Henry*
Occupation *Lawyer*
Nativity *New York,*
Married or Single *Married*
If in the Service: Regiment and Rank *Assistant Paymaster, U. S. Army, (Regular branch)*
Years in Iowa *19*
Age *34*
Weight *150.*

Herewith please find copy of Rules of the last Session, which, it is requested, you will preserve, owing to the scarcity of the edition.

Yours, very respectfully,

JOSIAH T. YOUNG,

Secretary of State.

You searched for **John S. Woolson** in **Iowa**

1870 United States Federal Census

Name:	John S Woolson	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1841	
Age in 1870:	29	
Birthplace:	New York	
Home in 1870:	Center, Henry, Iowa	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Value of real estate:	View image	
Post Office:	Mount Pleasant	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	John S Woolson	29
	Myra B Woolson	26
	Paul Woolson	2
	Hannah Bruk	16

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Center, Henry, Iowa; Roll: M593_395; Page: 165; Image: 331.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2003. Original data: 1870. United States. *Ninth Census of the United States, 1870*. Washington, D.C. National Archives and Records Administration. M593. RG29, 1,761 rolls. Minnesota. *Minnesota Census Schedules for 1870*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. T132. RG29, 13 rolls.

Description:

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



You searched for **John S. Woolson** in **Iowa**

1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **John S. Woolson**
 Home in 1880: **MT Pleasant, Henry, Iowa**
 Age: **39**
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1841**
 Birthplace: **New York**
 Relation to Head of Household: **Self (Head)**
 Spouse's Name: **Myra B.**
 Father's birthplace: **New Hampshire**
 Mother's birthplace: **New York**
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)
 Occupation: **Lawyer**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Race: **White**
 Gender: **Male**
 House Number: **7810638**
 Cannot read/write:
 Blind:
 Deaf and dumb:
 Otherwise disabled:
 Idiotic or insane:

Household	Name	Age
Members:	John S. Woolson	39
	Myra B. Woolson	35
	Paul B. Woolson	12
	Ralph Woolson	9
	Miriam Woolson	7
	Grace Woolson	4
	Lizzie Pratt	23
	Dora Hopfa	19

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: MT Pleasant, Henry, Iowa; Roll: T9_344; Family History Film: 1254344; Page: 348.1000; Enumeration District: 96; Image: 0258.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2005. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1880. T9, 1,454 rolls.

Description:

This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1880 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

You searched for **John S. Woolson** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name:	John S Woolson	
Birth Year:	abt 1841	
Birth Place:	New York	
Gender:	Male	
Marital Status:	Married	
Census Date:	1885	
Residence State:	Iowa	
Residence County:	Henry	
Locality:	Center	
Roll:	IA1885_199	
Line:	9	
Family Number:	130	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household	Name	Age
Members:	John S Woolson	44
	Mira B Woolson	40
	Paul B Woolson	16
	Ralph Woolson	13
	Miriam Woolson	11
	Grace Woolson	9
	Ruth Woolson	4

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, 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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PERSONAL INFORMATION

**John S Woolson**

Born: 6 Dec 1840
Tonawanda, [county], New York, USA

Died: 4 Dec 1899
Des Moines, [county], Iowa, USA

[View person's info](#)[Theron Webb Woolson](#)[Clarissa A Simson](#)[Elijah K Woolson](#)[R Batchellor](#)[Robert Simson](#)[Lydia Moffat](#)[See Pedigree View](#)

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Family Groups

Spouse

[Mira T Bird](#)**Born:** 1844 in [city], [county], Ohio, USA**Died:****Marriage:** 9 Apr 1867[View Info](#)

Children

Sex Birth

[Ruth Woolson](#)

F

Mt Pleasant, Henry, Iowa, USA

[Paul Bird Woolson](#)

M

1868 in [city], [county], Iowa, USA

[Ralph Woolson](#)

M

abt 1871 in [city], [county], Iowa, USA

[Miriam Woolson](#)

F

abt 1873 in Mt Pleasant, Henry, Iowa, USA

[Grace Woolson](#)

F

abt 1876 in [city], [county], Iowa, USA

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