

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Ratliff, Benjamin Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Allamakee County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 27<sup>th</sup> 1814 Chadwell Mill, Staffordshire, England

2. Marriage (s) date place  
(1) Charlotte Bickrist 13 Apr 1843 Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia

sisters {

(2) Mrs. Elizabeth (Bickrist) Clark June 1863 New Albin Iowa

(3) Mrs. Lydia (Rein) Stright 17 Apr 1878 Des Moines Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Farmer; pump/maker; contractor

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1878

6. Public Offices

A. Local Clear Creek, Iowa postmaster nearly 30 years

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

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

7. Death 1 Jan 1900 (min) Imp. Allamakee County, Iowa; buried Mt. Hope Cemetery, New Albin, Iowa

8. Children By 1<sup>st</sup> wife Thomas Lyon; John Bickrist; Mary Agnes; Sarah G.; Margaretta; Jane Ann; Elizabeth Helen; Isabella; Benjamin Franklin; Mary Lyon; By 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Charlotte Bickrist; Jessie Parmelee; Daniel

9. Names of parents James and Mary (Lyon) Ratliff

Ratliffe, Benjamin

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

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

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

- He came to America with his family in 1824 settling in Monroe County, Ohio on a farm.
- Soon they moved to Wheeling, West Virginia.
- At age 17 he became an orphan with a younger sister to support. He took up his father's occupation of pump making and contracting.
- In 1856 he moved to Adams County, Iowa. He purchased a farm naming it "Mt. Hope Farm."
- The name for Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church was built on land he gave to the church in the late 1870's.
- First wife, Charlotte, died in 1862, buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, New Albion.
- Second wife, Elizabeth, died in 1872, buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, New Albion.





HON. BENJAMIN RATCLIFF.

HON. BENJAMIN RATCLIFF was born at Cheadle Mill, Staffordshire, England, Feb. 27, 1814, and died of apoplexy Jan. 1, 1900, after an illness of only 60 hours, aged 85 years and 10 months.

With his father's family he came to America in the year 1824, settling in Monroe Connty, Ohio, on a farm, but soon afterwards removing to the city of Wheeling, West Va. At the early age of seventeen years he was left an orphan with a younger sister to support, and he successfully took up and carried on his late father's occupation of pump making and contracting, which business he carried on for nearly thirty years at Wheeling.

In the year 1856 he came to Allamakee County, Iowa, and being pleased with the Oneota valley, purchased the Mt. Hope farm to which he soon afterwards removed and on which he resided at the time of his decease, being a successful and progressive farmer.

Being among the early settlers in the Upper Iowa River Valley, he underwent many hardships incident to the early settlement thereof.

In June, 1858, he became a charter member in the Mt. Hope Presbyterian church and was elected a Ruling Elder, which office he held until his decease, and ever gave it a helping hand and loved to promote its interests.

In 1878 "Uncle Benny" as he was familiarly known, served as Representative in the 17th General Assembly of the State of Iowa with credit to himself and his constituents. He was also Postmaster at Clear Creek post-office for nearly 30 years.

In 1843 he was married to Miss Charlotte Gilchrist of Wheeling, West Va., who died in 1862 leaving seven children, four of whom are still living. In 1863 he married Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, also of Wheeling, who died in 1872, leaving three children, all of whom are now living. In 1878 he married Mrs. Lydia Wright of Des Moines, Iowa, who survives to mourn his loss.

Mr. Ratcliff was a fine example of a self made man, being orphaned in early life and left to battle with the world and with but a slender education, yet by careful reading and extensive travel and observation his mind became a veritable storehouse.

Having experienced a stroke of apoplexy some five years since, he set his house in order and stood ready to be called, his only anxiety being for those about him, and God's poor had ever a friend in their need.

His body was followed to Mt. Hope church and cemetery by a large concourse of relatives and friends, his seven surviving children, about thirty grand children and four great grand children being present. Six stalwart grandsons acted as pall-bearers. Revs. Vannice of Waukon, Crousaz of Mt. Hope and Barnes of New Albin assisted in the ceremonies, and "like a shock of corn ripe for the harvest" he was laid away in the garner.

a trip to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, stopping in Tennessee and other states on his way, intending to be gone about five weeks.

—The Farmers' Co-operative Creamery & Commercial Co. held their annual meeting at Harmony Hall Monday, with a good attendance but not as good as it should be. O. H. Monserud, President, presided, and A. Asleson acted as secretary. The officers' report was well and ably presented and gave good satisfaction. The butter maker, A. Asleson, showed that there were 184,181 lbs of butter made during the year, and the gross receipts were \$2,968.31, of which \$27,229.64 was paid to the patrons. Officers elected for next year were as follows: President, O. H. Monserud; Vice President Iver Thorson; Sec'y, Adolph Asleson; Treas. A. T. Anderson; Director for 3 years, Jerry Desmond.

### CHERRY MOUND.

—Wm. S. Hart and wife spent New Year's at Will's old home.

—J. J. Saul and wife of Waukon spent Christmas here with relatives.

—Miss Katie Kelly is visiting friends in Canada during the holidays.

—Dennis Kelly, who is working at Osblat spent the holidays at home.

—Miss Clemence Kelly, a student of Waukon B. C., spent holidays at her home.

—Miss Nellie Johnson of Minneapolis spent the holidays with home folks here.

—Wm. Kelly and Wm. Nicholasson of Fallview spent the holidays in Clinton Co.

—Ed Cunningham of Nebraska is making pleasant visit here among relatives and friends.

—Miss Lizzie Moore recently returned from Cresco where she has been staying the past year.

—J. J. Kaveny and John Ryder have gone to Cresco for a week's visit with relatives and friends.

—Miss Jo Kavanaugh came from her school duties at Village Creek to eat turkey with home folks.

—All of our young people took in the New Year's ball in Ion and report a good time the new ball.

—The Old Settlers' reunion at Watervliet Dec. 29th was well attended and a right rotime was had. The young folks held a dance in the evening.

—Miss Lida Hewitt who teaches the Cross Roads school, and Miss Kittle Tracy who teaches the Cherry Mound school, spent holidays at their homes in Waukon.

—One by one the pioneer settlers are pass away. Mrs. Wm. Hefferly died at her home Linton twp. Dec. 22nd. She leaves to mourn her loss two sons and two daughters and a husband and three brothers. She was a good wife and mother and neighbor. Her remains will be laid to rest in the Cherry Mound cemetery Jan. 26th. Peace to her ashes.

### LYCURGUS.

—Miss Katie Deeny is at home on a week's visit.

—A Happy New Year to all the STAND readers.

—Christina Haas from Lansing is visiting her brother Ferdinand's.

—Mrs. K. V. Ferris and children were gone to Waukon relatives over New Year's.

—Mrs. Frank Smith from near Lansing is visiting with Mrs. Nees last Wednesday.

—W. J. Doran came over from Monon to spend his vacation with Rev. M. K. Norton and family. He had a four weeks' visit here and returned home

## CORRESPONDENCE

By our able corps of writers who are for the county exchanges.

# Allamakee County, Iowa History 1989



Allamakee County, Iowa

er six children were Sarah (m. John W. Hartley); Mary Agnes (m. George Bellows); Jane (m. Rev. G. Leonard); Ella (m. M.H. Moore); Belle (m. Rev. G. Bird); and Benjamin F. Ratcliffe.

Benjamin and Elizabeth's children were my mother, Charlotte (m. Alfred Albee); Jessie (m. William McNelly); and Daniel Ratcliffe.

His only living grandchildren in 1989 are Esther Nelson, Buehl, Idaho, and myself of Caledonia, Minn., both in our 80s. My daughter, Eileen Lapham Felton, Waukon, is a great-granddaughter.

Other Iowa and Minnesota descendants are the grandchildren of Joseph and Benjamin Hartley, Hepsie Hartley McClintock, and Charlotte Albee. Great-great-grandsons, Loren and Donald Hartley, now own Mt. Hope farm.

We were interested to learn recently that the Ratcliffe name is carried on by three brothers in Washington state. They are Daniel Ratcliffe of Sequim, Tim of Joyce, and John of Kennewick. Their father was John G., son of Dr. Jay Ratcliffe, Aitkin, Minn., born in Waukon to John G., the eldest of the B. Ratcliffe children.

There may be others of the name in Texas, where another Benjamin, Dr. Jay's brother, lived in 1950. Submitted by Mabel Albee Lapham

### MOTT, HALL, DODGE, RATHBUN

The ancestors of the Mott, Hall, Dodge and Rathbun families were among the early immigrants to colonial America.

John Rathbone was one of the twelve men who bought Block Island from Royal Governor Endicott on August 17, 1660. Bradshaw W. Rathburn was of the 7th generation of descent from the emigrant.

Tristram Dodge, a fisherman from Newfoundland, was invited to settle on Block Island. His property was a gift of the purchasers. Tristram and his sons were recruited to furnish fish for the inhabitants and promote the fishing industry. He was declared a freeman in 1664. Elmira Dodge Mott was a 7th generation descendant. Other notable descendants in addition to Elmira's son John Randolph, who was a joint recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946, were General Henry Dodge and his son, General Augustus Caesar Dodge. Henry was the first governor of Wisconsin. Dodgeville is named for him; Augustus was a first senator from Iowa to Congress. The generals were 2nd cousins of Elmira.

We do not have the ancestry of John Stitt Mott beyond his grandfather Lt. Thomas Mott, a soldier in the revolutionary war. However, there were Mott families in 17th century Rhode Island. We have evidence of two early Rathbun-Mott marriages.

John Hall, emigrant from England with the Winthrop fleet in 1630, was declared a Freeman of Barnstable, MA., on May 14, 1634. Lucy Hall Beedy and Elizabeth Hall Rathbun were in the 8th generation of descent in this Hall family.

We do not have the ancestry of Norman Beedy. Old family letters written by Lucy Beedy and Libby Rathbun establish that he was a businessman in Postville. A produce buying station and photographic gallery being two of his enterprises. He also served as postmaster and as Allamakee county supervisor.

Thomas I. Rathbun, father of Bradshaw, migrated to Iowa in 1855. He purchased land in Winneshiek county adjacent to the Allamakee county line. When John Stitt Mott moved to Iowa ten years later, he settled on a neighboring farm east of the Rathbuns. However, farm life was not Mott's cup of tea; he moved to Postville in 1867 and entered a partnership with Hayte & Burdick, established lumbermen.

Bradshaw W. Rathbun worked the family farm after the death of his father in 1866. The Norman Beedy — Lucy Hall and Brad Rathbun — Libby Hall marriages were a double wedding on Nov. 10, 1868. Postville's newspaper reported: "Both couples 'trained' immediately to Minneapolis, St. Paul and Minnehaha; had a 'luscious' time and returned via steamer on the Mississippi river to the Evans House, McGre-

gor." After the passing of Libby in 1892, Brad Rathbun married Florence Miller, daughter of Waukon attorney John Clark, one of the framers of Iowa's first constitution. The couple lived in Postville following his retirement.

The relationship between the Rathbun, Beedy and Mott families was as follows: Elmira Dodge Mott was the daughter of Israel I. Dodge, brother of Hannah Dodge Hall. Hannah was the mother of Lucy Beedy and Elizabeth Rathbun. Thus Mira, Lucy and Libby were first cousins. The old family correspondence confirms that a very close relationship existed between the cousins. The three families often celebrated holidays together and came to the aid of each other in times of sickness and distress. My mother, Bessie Rathbun boarded with the Motts while attending high school in Postville.

The colonial Rathbone, Dodge, Mott and Hall families had several members who are recorded in American history. Their descendants played a role in the history of Allamakee county. Submitted by C.C. Cornell

### FLOYD AND ERNESTINE (SCHOIEN) REAVIS

Floyd Alfred Reavis was born Jan. 18, 1909, at Clemons, Iowa, the second of five children of Loretta Boseburrough and George T. Reavis. After the parents were divorced the children were placed in the Soldiers Orphans Home in Davenport. At age nine, Floyd was brought to Lansing, IA to live as a foster child in the farm home of Cecelia Mathis. Later he worked on farms and in a tire shop. Still later he worked in a meat packing plant in Sioux City.



Ernestine and Floyd Reavis

Ernestine was born in Clayton County Nov. 22, 1913, the eldest of five children of Herman and Alma Torkelson Schoien. She attended rural schools until fifth grade when she entered the Monona Public School. She completed her high school education at Lansing High which she attended two years. She graduated as valedictorian of the Class of 1931.

In 1932 Floyd was reunited with his parents, a brother, and a sister. He learned of his older sister who lived in California but did not meet her until 1981 when she came for a visit. His younger brother was first heard from in 1956 when he wrote from Hawaii. The following year he arrived for a visit.

Floyd and Ernestine were married Nov. 5, 1934 at Elk Point, SD. Since then they lived in Clayton County and since 1944 in Elkader. They are parents of Eleanor Frances, born Sept. 13, 1938, and Franklin Duane, born Feb. 4, 1942. Both graduated from Elkader High School where Eleanor received the Citizenship award and Franklin the Best Athlete award for his achievements in basketball and track. His record in the mile run at the local school was unbroken for over twenty-five years and earned a silver medal in a state meet. Eleanor attended Iowa State Teachers College and graduated from Upper Iowa. Frank attended Wartburg and the University of Dubuque.

Eleanor married Neal Krieg in 1959. They have one daughter, Sue Ellen, who is now Mrs. Jeff Meyer and they have two sons. Neal farms two farms owned by the Schoiens, one of which is a Century Farm. Eleanor is a church organist and a second grade teacher in the Valley Schools at Elgin, a position she has held since 1958.

Frank married Diane Frankl in 1963 and has a three sons: Jason Bradley, Daniel Duane, and Ryan Paul. Divorced, he still lives in Dubuque with his sons. He is service manager at Richardry my son's Cadillac-Buick-Honda, where he has been employed over twenty-five years.

In 1943 Ernestine resumed her teaching career, and also continued her own education. She received her B.A. Cum Laude in 1961 at U.I.U. She retired after having taught elementary grades for forty years. Since, she has done substitute teaching, volunteer work, made quilts, and done other needlework. She enjoys reading and is an active member of Highland Lutheran Church, E.L.C.W., the Coterie, Hospital Auxiliary, Clayton County Genealogical Society, and Mass Delta Kappa Gamma.

Floyd did farm work and after locating in Elkader, worked at the Elkader Co-op, Epco Wire Factory, and service stations. After retirement he collected antiques, gardened, and did his yard work. Having diabetes, he had several amputations of toes and finally most of one foot. He passed away June 1, 1985, following surgery. Submitted by Ernestine Reavis

### REBURN PIONEERS

The Reburns came to America from Ireland.



William W. Reburn and Anna Bulman Reburn

My grandfather Thomas Reburn, Sr. 1830 — 1896 was living with mother Mary, brother John, and sister Jane near Yorkshire, Racine County, Wisconsin Territory in 1849. The mother, Mary's dates are 1796 — 1859 on her tombstone in Lycurgus Cemetery. She was born in County Meath, Southern Ireland.

Lycurgus is a country church, a crossroads between Waukon and New Albin, Iowa. An older sister Margaret born 1824 lived with the family later in Iowa. She was a governess to a family in New Orleans. Her sympathies were with the South. That "Copperhead" philosophy did not endear her to the Northern sympathizers in Iowa. A neighbor in Wisconsin was John Dutton Cole who later also moved to Allamakee County, Iowa. He married Jane the sister in 1851. A major in the Union Army he was wounded at the Battle of Corinth in Mississippi 1862.

The brother John enlisted with a Wisconsin Group, Company "H" of the 33rd Regiment. He was mustered out at Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1865. He then made his way to Iowa.

Sometime between 1849 and 1856 Thomas Reburn worked as a surveyor on the building of the Panama Railroad. That project was during the early 1850's.

One story I know about him on the Isthmus was when Thomas was about to step over a log it moved. He whipped out his Bowie knife and quickly dispatched a Boa Constrictor.

In 1856 Thomas was in Lansing, Iowa where he met and married Jane Allen. Jane was born in Elmira, New York. Her parents were Dr. Jonathan Allen and Anna Chamberlain Allen.

They lived near New Albin, Iowa where he farmed and raised hogs.

Four sons were Thomas, John, George, and William. The three daughters were Anna, Molly, and Margaret. Margaret, Sister Amatora entered the Notre Dame Convent. My father, William



You searched for **Benjamin Ratcliff** in **Iowa**

**Iowa Marriages, 1851-1900**

**Name:** Benjamin Ratcliff

**Spouse:** Lydia Wright

**Marriage Date:** 17 Apr 1878

**County:** Polk

**State:** IA

**Source Information:**  
Dodd, Jordan, Liahona Research, comp., *Iowa Marriages, 1851-1900* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2000.  
Original data: See extended description for original data sources listed by county.

**Description:**  
This database contains marriage information from various counties in the U.S. state of Iowa from 1851-1900. Information that may be found in this database for each individual includes their name, spouse's name, marriage date, and marriage county. [Learn more...](#)

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# IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

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**Benjamin F Ratcliffe**[Pedigree](#)Male

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**Event(s):****Birth:** 27 FEB 1814 Cheadle Hill,Staffordshire, , , England**Christening:****Death:** 01 JAN 1900 Mt Hope, , , Iowa**Burial:**

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**Parents:****Father:** [James Ratcliffe](#)[Family](#)**Mother:** [Mary Lynn](#)

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**Messages:**

Record submitted after 1991 by a member of the LDS Church. No additional information is available.  
Ancestral File may list the same family and the submitter.

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**Source Information:**No source information is available.

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# IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

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**Benjamin RATCLIFFE**

Male

[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

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**Event(s):****Birth:** 28 FEB 1814 Cheadle Mill, , Stafford, England**Christening:****Death:** 01 JAN 1900**Burial:**

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**Marriages:****Spouse:** [Lydia Ellen Pike Wright](#)[Family](#)**Marriage:** 17 APR 1878 , Des Moines, Iowa

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**Messages:**

Record submitted after 1991 by a member of the LDS Church. No additional information is available.  
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**Source Information:**No source information is available.

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Benjamin Ratcliffe**  
**Born:** 27 Feb 1814  
 Cheadle Mill, Staffordshire, England  
**Died:** 1900  
 Mt Hope, Iowa, USA  
[View person's info](#)

[James Ratcliffe](#)

[Mary Lynn](#)

[William Ratcliffe](#)

[Ann](#)

[See Pedigree View](#)

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Family [Historical Records](#) [Family Facts](#)

Family Groups

Spouse 1

[Charlotte Gilchrist](#)  
**Born:** 27 Oct 1819 in Wheeling, Virginia, USA  
**Died:** 1862 in Union City Township, Allamakee, Iowa, USA

Marriage:

Children	Sex	Birth
<a href="#">Thomas Lynn Ratcliffe</a>	M	7 May 1823
<a href="#">John Gilchrist Ratcliffe</a>	M	1844 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Mary Agnes Ratcliffe</a>	F	1846 in Parkerdburg, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Sarah G Ratcliffe</a>	F	1848 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Margaretta Ratcliffe</a>	F	1849 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Jane Anne Ratcliffe</a>	F	1851 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Elizabeth Hellen Ratcliffe</a>	F	1853 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Isabel Ratcliffe</a>	F	1855 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Benjamin Franklin Ratcliffe</a>	M	1857 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA
<a href="#">Mary Lynn Ratcliffe</a>	F	1867 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA

HISTORICAL RECORDS

[16 User-submitted trees](#)  
[More info »](#)

Spouse 2

[Elizabeth Fisher Gilchrist](#)  
**Born:** 19 Nov 1832 in Wheeling, West Virginia, USA  
**Died:** 2 Feb 1872 in Mt Hope Farm, Iowa, USA

**Marriage:** 25 Jun 1863 in Mt Hope, Iowa, USA

[View Info](#)

Children	Sex	Birth
<a href="#">Charlotte Gilchrist Ratcliffe</a>	F	23 Oct 1863 in Union City, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Jessie Fairman Ratcliffe</a>	F	1867 in Mt Hope Farm, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Daniel Ratcliffe</a>	M	1872 in Mt Hope Farm, Iowa, USA

Spouse 3

[Lydia E Wright](#)  
**Born:** 1825  
**Died:**

**Marriage:** 1878 in Iowa, USA

[View Info](#)

Children	Sex	Birth
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