

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative _____ Senator Austin, Williams A.
Represented Scott County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 24 Jul 1842 Blue Grass, Scott County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place
Lucy M. Birchard 1867

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was admitted to the bar in 1866

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership _____

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

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 25 May 1907 Davenport, Iowa; buried Oakdale Cemetery, Davenport, Iowa

8. Children Two children died young

9. Names of parents Asa

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He was a very brilliant orator and a learned attorney
- He moved to Chicago where there was a larger field of cases available and he gained a national reputation as well as a great criminal attorney
- He returned to Davenport 18 months before his death due to failing health.

W. A. FOSTER DIED SUDDENLY

Death Came as Great Surprise to Family and Friends.

Well Known Attorneys Answers Final Summons, the Fatal Allment Being Rheumatism of Heart

Attorney W. A. Foster, one of the well known members of the Scott County bar and for many years one of the leading criminal attorneys of Chicago, died suddenly and almost without warning at 7 o'clock Saturday morning at his home in the Argyle flats on Brady street. The news of Mr. Foster's death spread rapidly over the city and was the occasion for universal sorrow, expressions of sympathy being heard on all sides.

Only the family and the intimate friends of Mr. Foster were aware that he was subject to heart trouble and that he was liable to be called upon to answer the final summons at any moment. His cheerfulness, which was so characteristic of him, remained with him to the last. On Friday night he and Mrs. Foster entertained a number of friends at their home. On that occasion he was as bright and cheerful as ever, told a number of humorous stories and little did those about him believe that within a few short hours he would be no more. His death occurred at 7 o'clock and the end came in peace and almost without warning. At 6 o'clock Mr. Foster was attacked with a short choking spell, which awakened his wife. Medical assistance was hurriedly summoned, but the end was near and at 7 o'clock he breathed his last. His devoted wife and niece, Miss Marie LaGrange, were with him when he died. Rheumatism of the heart is given as the fatal malady.

A Brilliant Man.

Mr. Foster was a native of Scott county, and his death ends the career of one of the most brilliant attorneys who lay claim to being native sons of Iowa. Twenty-four or more years ago, when such men as George E. Hubbell, E. E. Cook, John C. Bills and John W. Green, the latter two deceased, were leading members of the Scott County bar, Mr. Foster occupied a conspicuous position among them and was known all over the state as being a brilliant orator and a learned attorney. As legal counsel, his services were sought all over the state, and during the presidential campaigns he was called upon a number of times by the National Republican committee to

take the stump and tour the doubtful states in the interest of that party.

Called to Chicago.

Mr. Foster soon gained a reputation as a brilliant and successful attorney, second to none in the entire state of Iowa. Some 20 years ago he was called to Chicago by the larger field offered in that city and at once plunged into some of the most important cases tried in that city. He soon became recognized as one of the leading members of the Cook County bar and gained a national reputation as a great criminal attorney during the trial of the Haymarket anarchist and Cronin cases. In the Cronin case, he successfully defended John F. Beggs, the only accused man to escape conviction. In the anarchist cases, he was special counsel for Spies. Mr. Foster was also engaged in many other important trials in Chicago and led a very active life.

Two years ago his health began to fail and he consulted several specialists. These informed him that he was suffering from heart trouble in such a form that he might expect to die at any moment. This sad intelligence, though it did not undermine Mr. Foster's accustomed cheerfulness, changed his plans professionally. He closed up his business in Chicago and came back to Davenport. This was 18 months ago. To an intimate friend he remarked at the time, "I have come home to die."

Since returning to Davenport, Mr. Foster has led a quiet and peaceful life. He opened offices with Mayor Ing and although kept busy, did not seek a larger clientage than he could take care of without overtaxing his strength.

Biographical.

Mr. Foster was the son of Asa Foster. His father for many years resided on a farm in Blue Grass township and here the deceased was born in 1842. He was therefore 65 years old at the time of death. Early in life Mr. Foster displayed a desire to study law and entered the office of Davidson & True in this city. He was admitted to the bar in 1866 and at once opened an office for the practice of his chosen profession. He met with splendid success from the start and quickly built up a good clientage. He was united in marriage in 1867 to Miss Luch Birchard.

Mr. Foster was elected to the state senate on the Republican ticket and served from Jan. 1, 1878, to Jan. 1, 1882. He then declined a renomination and has never since held office.

The Survivors.

The deceased is survived by his wife, Mrs. Luey M. Foster, and one brother, Dr. G. F. Foster of Memphis, Missouri. The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Foster has been saddened by the death of their two children, both of whom died young. They now rest in Oakdale cemetery. W. J. Birchard is a brother of Mrs. Foster and C. E. Birchard, a cousin.

The funeral will be held from the late home in the Argyle flats, Eight

and Brady streets, Tuesday afternoon, with services at 2 o'clock and interment in Oakdale cemetery.

Bar Association Meets.

The Scott County Bar association held a special meeting at the court house Saturday afternoon to take action on the death of Mr. Foster. The meeting was presided over by J. C. Hall, president of the association, and A. J. Noth acted as secretary.

On motion of W. H. Wilson, the chair appointed a committee of three to wait on the family and tender them the assistance and sympathy of the members of the bar. The chair appointed W. H. Wilson, George W. Scott and F. L. Dodge as members of such a committee. On motion of L. M. Fisher, the same committee was authorized to secure a floral tribute for the funeral.

On motion of George J. Hubbell, a committee on resolutions was named. This committee consists of Mr. Hubbell, M. V. Gannon, L. M. Fisher, E. E. Cook and C. M. Waterman.

C. J. Ruyman moved that the members of the bar association attend the funeral in a body. The motion carried and on the suggestion of F. L. Dodge, it was agreed that the members meet at the Commercial club rooms at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon and from there go in a body to the bereaved home.

Gave No Excuse.

"There's the strangest man I ever met. I asked him to let me have some money and he wouldn't."

"I don't see anything strange about that."

"No, but he didn't claim that he was hard up himself."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Its Strong Point.

First Farmer (as large touring car goes by)—"Powerful machine, that."

Second Farmer (sniffingly)—"Yep. Must be all uv 60 skunk power."—Judge.

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F. AD. RICH
215 Pearl Street,