

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Lawrence,  
Albert Henry - Represented Woodbury, Plymouth, Lewis, Cherokee  
and Boone Tipton Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 29. Feb 1839 Oswego County, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Clara M. Cole 20 Dec 1870

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the Bar in 1864 in Syracuse, New York

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

C. Profession Lawyer; real estate

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1878 and 1880

6. Public Offices

A. Local Township attorney

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

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

7. Death \_\_\_\_\_

8. Children \_\_\_\_\_

9. Names of parents Thomas and Mary M. (Ellis) Lawrence

10. Education Educated at Homer, Cortland County,  
New York

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He moved with his family to Onondaga County, New York  
at age 4, and this is where he spent his youth.
- He could not go to college because of poor eyesight.
- In his youth he lost his right arm.
- He started reading law in 1860 with Smith and Markham of Syracuse,  
New York and finished with Hon. N. C. Rogers
- He practiced law one year at Pitt Lake City in the oil region of  
Pennsylvania
- He came to Idaho, Iowa in 1866 where he practiced law started  
October 1872
- That is when he moved to Le Mars in Plymouth County, Iowa



practical and best part of his education has since been obtained on the farm, in the dairy, and in other departments of agriculture. He spent the first thirty years or more of his life in Trumbull county, carrying on a large dairy for fifteen years, and raising and buying stock for the eastern market.

In 1850 Mr. Mills settled in Denmark, Lee county, Iowa, there establishing the first large dairy in the state, and managing it for seven years, buying and selling hogs and cattle at the same time.

In 1857 he removed to Lewis, Cass county, where he is still found. Here, for six or seven years, he was the largest cattle and swine feeder in the state, buying all the stock raised in the Nishnabotna valley for twenty or thirty miles in either direction, and all the corn in ten or fifteen miles, his business in some years amounting to two hundred thousand dollars. He was the only stock and grain dealer to any extent in this county until the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad passed through nine years ago. His name, for twenty years, has been known, throughout the state and in Chicago, as a synonyme for enterprise, public spirit and fair dealing.

In 1875 Mr. Mills retired from business. He was long and largely identified with the agricultural interests of Iowa, and no man is more serviceable at

state fairs than he. He has been a director of the State Agricultural for twenty consecutive years; was its efficient president in 1874, 1875 and 1876, and has attended every fair since the society was organized.

Mr. Mills was a member of the fourteenth general assembly of Iowa, and did good service to the state in that body. He was a trustee and the treasurer of the Agricultural College two terms.

He was originally a whig, and has been a republican since there existed such a party, he contributing his assistance in organizing the same.

Mr. Mills has been a member of either a Presbyterian or Congregational church since he was fourteen years old, and as far as we can ascertain he has lived strictly in accordance with the gospel of peace.

Mr. Mills has a second wife. His first was Miss Sophia Arnold, of Ashtabula county, Ohio; married on the 17th of April, 1839. She died in December, 1876, leaving five children. One son, John A. Mills, a soldier four years in the Union army, had preceded her to the world of spirits. His present wife was Miss Julia Forgy, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, formerly of Dayton, Ohio.

Nature, in her distribution of noblemen, has been generous toward Iowa, and in the front rank is Oliver Mills.

## HON. ALBERT H. LAWRENCE,

LEMARS.

ALBERT HENRY LAWRENCE, state senator from the fiftieth district, and a citizen of north-western Iowa of much promise, is a native of Oswego county, New York, dating his birth on the 29th of July, 1839. He is a son of Thomas and Mary M. (Ellis) Lawrence, both of early Massachusetts families. His mother was a relative of General Ellis, and his great-grandfathers on both sides participated in the seven years' struggle for independence. His maternal grandfather was in the second war with the mother country.

Thomas Lawrence moved with his family to Onondaga county when Albert was four years old. Here he spent his youth, receiving an academic education at Homer, Cortland county. He there prepared for college, but never entered, on account of the weakness of his eyes, a disease with which he is still troubled. In youth he lost his right arm.

He commenced reading law in 1860 with Smith

and Markham, of Syracuse; finished with Hon. N. C. Ruger, of the same city, and was admitted to the bar in 1864, at a term of the supreme court held in Syracuse.

Mr. Lawrence practiced one year at Pit Hole City, in the oil region of Pennsylvania, and in 1866 came to Toledo, Tama county, Iowa, where he was in practice until October, 1872, when he settled in Lemars, Plymouth county, his present home. Here he added real estate to his professional business, and has been very successful in both branches, most of the time operating alone. Pecuniarily, few lawyers in his part of the state have had equal prosperity.

Mr. Lawrence is a close student, giving all the time that his eyes will permit to his books. During the four years which he originally gave to legal studies he laid a good foundation on which to build, and the superstructure since reared has already commanding proportions. Possibly the condition of his eyes may

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Chicago N. Y. American Bio Publishing 1878  
Page 761*

eventually compel him to abandon his profession. Should this happen, the bar of Plymouth county will lose a member of the highest standing.

While a resident of Toledo Mr. Lawrence served two years as county attorney, and since locating in Plymouth county he has been a member of the school board of the independent district of Lemars, he doing especially commendatory labor in the latter position. His literary taste, and his zeal for the cause of education, made him eminently useful; during three or four years in the infancy of the city, while he was on that board.

Mr. Lawrence was elected to the senate in October, 1877, and represents Plymouth, Woodbury, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Sioux and Lyons counties. While we write he is serving in the seventeenth gen-

eral assembly; is chairman of the committee on elections, and a member of the committee of ways and means, normal schools, representative districts, and fish and game. He is always in his place, attending to his duties with the greatest assiduity.

Mr. Lawrence is an unswerving republican, and somewhat active in local politics. It is not, however, at his own suggestion that he is in the state senate; he is modest, retiring, and the last man to push himself forward or to ask others to do it.

On the 20th of December, 1870, Miss Clara M., daughter of S. W. Cole, then of Tama City, now of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, became the wife of Senator Lawrence, and they have two children. Mrs. Lawrence is a member of the Congregational church, where the family worship.

## LEOPOLD H. GORDON,

NEWELL.

LEOPOLD H. GORDON, member of the lower house of the general assembly from the seventy-second district, belongs to the younger class of legislators. He was early trained in business habits; has an eminently practical turn of mind, and is one of the hard-working and very valuable members of the seventeenth general assembly. He is a native of New Hampton, Belknap county, New Hampshire, and is a son of Lewis and Sarah E. (Merrill) Gordon, and was born on the 2d of December, 1844. This branch of the Gordon family descended from Alexander Gordon, a soldier in the days of Charles I.

This eminent ancestor of the branch of the Gordon family, here under consideration, was a young soldier, captured about 1650, by Cromwell, with other Scotchmen fighting for the Stuarts and against the Puritan commonwealth. He was taken to Tuttlefield, a prison camp near London, but was released by Daniel Stone, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Stone paying for him and sending him to Massachusetts. Mr. Gordon found a home with John Cloise, a mariner, who held a position in the vessel which brought Gordon over. Cloise lived at Watertown, Massachusetts, and there Gordon worked more than a year for him to pay for the transportation to this country.

The family spread through New England and into Ohio and other western states, and also into some of the southern states.

When the subject of this sketch was fourteen years old, Lewis Gordon removed with his family to Concord, New Hampshire, the son subsequently returning to his native town and spending three terms in the old academy, started there more than fifty years ago, and which he had attended four years before leaving for Concord. He took the classical course. While in Concord he spent some time as a clerk in a dry-goods store, and subsequently was in the mercantile business in partnership with his father.

In 1865 he came with his parents to Dubuque, Iowa, and was there engaged for five years, with his father, in running a planing mill and manufacturing sash, doors and blinds.

In 1870 Mr. Gordon removed to the new town of Newell, Buena Vista county, on the Iowa division of the Illinois Central railroad, engaging in the lumber, coal and milling business, in the firm of L. H. Gordon and Co., his partner being George B. Burch, mayor of Dubuque. Mr. Gordon has first-class business capacities, and success has crowned his energetic and well directed efforts.

He was the first mayor of Newell, and by reëlection has served two terms. He has been a member and treasurer of the school board, and in many ways makes himself eminently useful to the community in which he lives.

Mr. Gordon has always coincided heartily with the republican party, and his nomination for the

general assembly. He represented Buena Vista and Sac counties, except Cherokee, that year. The occupations are: railroads, banking, printing, congressionally deaf and dumb.

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