

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Lyon, Orla Henry Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Served from Floyd County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 20 Jan 1835 Hoodstock, Connecticut

2. Marriage (s) date place

Belle Alden Bradford 23 Apr 1867 probably Floyd County, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Organized the First National Bank of Rockford; newspaper, editor of "The Rockford Reville" for a few years, editing until 1877.

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.

C. Profession Banker; farmer (raised choice short-horn cattle on his farm named Clover Lawn)

4. Church membership Congregational

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

6. Public Offices

A. Local 15<sup>th</sup> mayor of Rockford; postmaster at Rockford; school director

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

C. National Delegat to National Republican Convention in 1884

7. Death 18 June 1904 Rockford, Iowa, buried Riverside Cemetery, Rockford, Iowa

8. Children Anna S. (Mrs. Patton); Susie E. (Mrs. Long); Clara B. or H.; George A.; Jessie B. (Mrs. Sutton); Arthur C.; Edna B.

9. Names of parents Asa and Sarah Ann (Skinner) Lyon

Lyon, Orlo Henry

10. Education Attended the academies at South Woodstock  
Connecticut and Dudley, Massachusetts.

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He remained on the farm of his parents until age 14
- Went to school at age 16
- Became a store clerk at Thompson, Connecticut where he  
worked until Feb 1856 when he came to Cedar Falls, Iowa,  
working in a store there until August 1857 and then moved to  
Rockford Iowa where he lived until his death.
- Military service - Civil War - 3<sup>rd</sup> Iowa Light Artillery, became captain
- Wife, Belle, born 8 Aug 1833, died 26 Oct 1905, also buried in  
Riverside Cemetery, Rockford, Iowa



# DEATH OF CAPT. O. H. LYON.

## A Brave Soldier and a Good Citizen Gone to His Reward.

Among the varied duties which fall to the lot of the publisher of a country newspaper none are more painful to perform than this of recording the passing of the good men and women of his community, the obituary being the last link between the living and the dead. For some time it has been evident to his family and many friends, that the life work of that good comrade, citizen and friend, Capt. O. H. Lyon, was nearing its close, and on Saturday last, June 18, surrounded by all his loved ones and conscious to the last, he bade them all a loving good-bye and peacefully passed away. Our deceased friend had for so many years been actively identified with all that pertained to the welfare of this community, that his going from us deserves more than a passing notice.

### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Orlo Henry Lyon was born at Woodstock, Conn., Jan. 20, 1835, and was the son of Asa Lyon and Sarah Ann Skinner. He remained with his father on the farm until he was 14 years of age, attending the Academies at South Woodstock, Conn., and Dudley, Mass. He was a

valorous army service imposed upon him he should be denied what he so richly deserved and that which others so easily obtained. During his life he was an active and valued member of the G. A. R. post at this place, which was the only fraternal organization to which he ever belonged.

### AS A BUSINESS MAN.

In 1857 with J. S. Childs he ran a general store, was postmaster for several years and publisher of the Rockford paper, in '77 in company with R. C. Mathews he conducted a private bank and in 1882 with some business associates organized the First National bank of this place, of which he was president for a period of 19 years, or until last year, when the infirmities of age compelled the giving up of the position. The bank under his able management was known far and near as always conservative, reliable and financially strong.

It is proper here refer to the good work done by Mr. Lyon in the line of improved agriculture, a profession in which he always took an active interest.

of life, making light of its disappointments and crosses; he believed in himself and in the goodness of other people, was always ready with charity rather than censure for other's shortcomings, and so became most helpful and indispensable in all times of trouble. He was a man of earnest convictions, well poised and balanced, always to be found on the right side of public issues and moral questions, and his strong convictions ever prompted him to action. His daily life for forty-seven years thereby became a powerful influence for good in the community. He was all his life one of the true friends and supporters of the church of his choice, of which he was one of the charter members, always the consistent member, the faithful worker, the liberal giver. Possessing a most genial and happy disposition he remained young long after he began to grow old and even to the last when weakened by disease, his love of quip, humor and pleasant jest never left him.

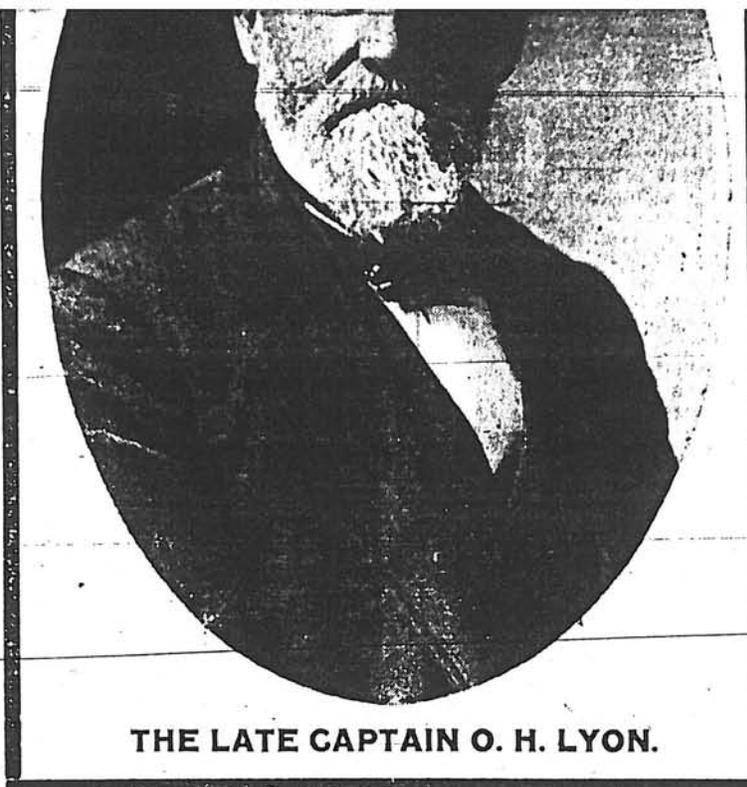
He died as he had lived, happy and hopeful, with a smile on his face, welcoming death as friend and guide to lead him to a better country.

The cause of his death was angina pectoris—a heart difficulty.

Upon the announcement of his death, a meeting was called of all our business men and action taken to secure the closing of all business houses during the funeral services, which were held on Monday afternoon on the lawn in front of the residence of the deceased. Rev. Rogers, pastor of the Cong. Church of Mason City, conducted the service, giving a message of hope, good cheer and comfort, reviewing the life so well lived with its most pleasing and fitting end—a happy and peaceful death. A quartette consisting of Mesdames Hattie Sharp, Lizzie Kuck, Messrs F. Trigg and B. Wallace, with Miss Nellie Crowell as organist, rendered two or three of the old hymns, favorites of Mr. Lyon and which he had requested might be sung at his funeral. The floral offerings were very profuse and beautiful. A sheaf and sickle tendered by the business men of Rockford, a wreath from his old comrades of the Post, and Mrs. H. A. Merrill of Mason City, a floral cross, the gift of the 1st National Bank and numberless other floral tributes from loving friends almost hid the casket.

The business men, the members of the G. A. R. and a large number of citizens followed his remains to the cemetery, where the touching ritual service of the Grand Army was given and all that was mortal of this brave soldier, this good citizen, this tender husband and father, this ever faithful and true friend was lowered into a grave beautified by a wealth of flowers, beloved, respected and mourned by





THE LATE CAPTAIN O. H. LYON.

teacher in the public schools at 16, and then entered a store at Thompson, Conn., and clerked till February, 1856, when he came to Cedar Falls, working in a store there and in August 1857, came to Rockford which remained his home up to the time of his death. He was married April 23, 1867, to Belle A. Bradford of Milwaukee, Wis., and to them were born seven children—Mrs. Anna Patton and Mrs. Susie Long of Mason City; Clara B. who died four years ago, Geo. A. of Minneapolis, Mrs. Jessie Button of Decorah, Arthur C. of Des Moines and Edna B. who lives here.

MILITARY CAREER.

In August 1861, Mr. Lyon enlisted as a private in the 3rd Iowa Battery of light artillery, and by a well merited series of promotions, eight in number, left the service four years and three months later as its commanding officer. His battery made a splendid record during the war, saw much hard service, and Capt. Lyon was the recipient of frequent praise and recognition from his superior officers. Because he was too gritty to go to the hospital when seriously ill, but instead kept with his command during a 250 mile march, he left no hospital record, a fact which defeated his most reasonable application for a pension in later years, a wrong which was at last rectified by the government a few months before his death by the passage of a special act granting him a pension. No man in this part of the state ever did more to help the veterans in securing their pensions than he, and it was the cruel irony of fate, that, notwithstanding his work for others, and the self-evident infirmities which his long and ar-

Clover Lawn farm for a period of 20 years had a state wide reputation as the home of one of the choicest herds of shorthorn cattle in the state, and probably no one of his varied business interests gave him so much pleasure and enjoyment as the supervision and management of this farm and its fine herds of cattle and swine.

His business, always honorably conducted, brought him a competence and his family is well provided for.

POLITICAL CAREER.

Mr. Lyon was a life long Republican, and during the stormy days when the people of Iowa were fighting the liquor traffic, was a staunch and uncompromising prohibitionist. He always took an active and intelligent interest in the educational and political affairs of his town, state and country. He was the first Mayor of Rockford, a position which he held for four years. In 1877 he was elected Representative from this district, which place he held for four years, and during which time he originated and saw passed into law some of the most important legislation pertaining to the banking interests now upon our statute books. He was also a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1884. He was never a seeker for office and such as he held were always cases of the office seeking the man.

AS A MAN AND FRIEND

The writer, having for nearly 30 years enjoyed an intimate personal acquaintance with the deceased, feels competent to justly portray his many excellent qualities. He was ever and always an optimist, ever looking on the bright side

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J. S. TRIGG.

The World's Most Successful Attorney.

William Nelson Cromwell of New York City, who returned from Paris the other day, after having completed the sale of the Panama canal to the United States, is now, in many respects, the most remarkable figure at the American bar. Aside from his other claims of celebrity, he possesses the unique distinction of having received the most enormous single fees ever paid for legal services.

For selling the Panama canal—in itself one of the most difficult and successful individual achievements of the century, he is popularly credited with having been paid \$1,000,000. In reality he got much more, and \$2,000,000 would be nearer the mark. At any rate it was several hundred thousands of dollars more than John E. Parsons was paid for drawing the bomb-proof charter of the sugar trust.

For reorganising the great firm of Decker, Howell & Co., in 1891, he got from the court a fee of \$280,000, and received a splendid silver service from the firm.

For settling the affairs of Price, McCormick & Co., he is said to have received \$100,000 in one fee.

Princely fees flowed into his pocket for his work in reorganizing the Northern Pacific railroad, and in organizing the American Cotton Oil company, and the \$80,000,000 National Tube company.

He set on its feet the Produce Exchange Trust company and settled up the affairs of the Seventh National bank, and of the Metropolitan Fire Engine company and of the Penfield companies. He was the counsel to the reorganization committee of the American Shipbuilding company. In these and many other cases he has received fees, every one of them a fortune in itself. Within the brief period of a dozen years he has made several millions. He has thus become, from the wage-earning point of view—to say nothing of the other aspects of his wonderful achievements—the richest and most successful practicing lawyer, not only in this country, but in the whole world. His magical success has been chiefly along the line of bringing business success out of business failure. There is in him that rare combination of energy, courage, insight and persistency blended to form what his associates call positive genius.