

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Baker
Thomas - Represented Marion, Polk, Dallas and Jasper Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 10 Mar 1810 Mustingsum County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

(1) Sarah Mathewson

(2) Louisa King

(3) Ellen Mathews

3. Significant events for example:

1858 Yuba County, California

A. Business

B. Civic responsibilities Mason;

C. Profession Attorney (self-taught)

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 15th General Assembly 1846

6. Public Offices

A. Local

B. State President of the Senate; the first Lieutenant Governor of Iowa;

C. National Appointed first United States District Attorney for the Iowa Territory
until the adoption of the Iowa State Constitution

7. Death 24 Nov 1872 Bakersfield, California; Buried in a new cemetery
which he selected himself in

8. Children 3 sons, 1 daughter by first wife; no Bakersfield
children by second wife; 1 son, 2 daughters by third wife CA

9. Names of parents

10. Education

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

- Military service - made a Colonel in the Ohio State Militia before age 21
- He was raised on a farm, learned to survey, studied law
- Just after being admitted to the bar he moved to Illinois, where he stayed a short time.
- The rapid growth of the Iowa Territory induced him to move to Iowa
- Enticed by the gold excitement in California, he left Iowa in 1859 arriving in Benecia, California, where he stayed a few months and then moved to Tulare County, California and was a founder of Visalia, California.
- In 1855 he was chosen Representative of that District and in 1852 appointed Receiver of the new Land Office located at Visalia
- In 1861 he was elected Senator for Fresno and Tulare counties serving 1861-1862
- Around that same time he purchased the swamp land franchise granted to the Montgomery Brothers including odd sections of all swamp lands extending from the Kern River, the sloughs reaching north to Fresno and the San Joaquin River. The construction proved not navigable and impractical. He was released from his obligations
- On 2 Sept 1863 he arrived on Kern Island prepared to make it his working place
- His ambition was not to own land, but make land fit to be owned.

OBITUARY.

Died, at his residence in Bakersfield, of typhoid pneumonia, at 1 o'clock P. M. on Sunday, Nov. 24th, Col. THOMAS BAKER, in the 63d year of his age.

In the demise of Col. BAKER, Kern county has sustained a serious loss. A great and good man has been taken from our midst, and our people, by suspension of business and the united manner in which they attended his funeral, gave expression to the respect and esteem in which he was universally held.

Col. BAKER was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1810. His birth-place was in the beautiful valley extending from Newark to Dresden, through which the Ohio Canal extends. This spot is the birth-place or early home of many of the leading men of that great State. The Casses, Stanberrys and Rosecrans and Sheridans have rendered it famous. A military bent was given to the youthful ambition of Col. BAKER by the times in which he was educated and the circumstances in which he was placed. He was made a Colonel in the State militia before attaining his majority; but peace became so well assured that he turned his attention to civil pursuits. Reared on a farm and familiar with surveying, he studied law with the intention of making land law his specialty. Shortly after his admission to the bar, he removed to Illinois where, however, he remained but a short period. The rapid influx of population into the Territory of Iowa induced him to go there, and his abilities were soon rewarded with success. He was appointed the first United States District Attorney for that Territory and retained the office till the adoption of the State Constitution. He was then elected a Senator and, on the organization of the Legislature, was chosen President of the Senate, becoming, by the Constitution, ex-officio, the first Lieutenant Governor of Iowa. He was subsequently several times returned to the Senate. No man had a larger share in the early legislation of that now powerful State, and many of the most important laws on her statute books were devised and drafted by him. Influenced by the gold excitement and his love of pioneer adventure, he early determined to migrate to the Pacific; but circumstances delayed his arrival in California till 1850. In the fall of that year, after the usual tedious and dangerous overland journey of the western men of those days, he arrived in Benecia, where he remained for a few months, and then removed to the vicinity of Stockton. In 1852 he removed to Tulare county, and was one of the founders of the town of Visalia. In 1855 he was chosen Representative of that District, and in 1858 was appointed Receiver of the new Land Office, located at Visalia, which position he held during the administration of Mr. Buchanan. In 1861 he was elected Senator for Fresno and Tulare counties, and served in the sessions of '61 and '62. About that time, in company with Harvey Brown, he purchased the swamp land franchise granted to the Montgomery Brothers, including the odd sections of all the swamp lands extending from E. M. River around by the lakes,

followed by Mr. E. M. READING, in some remarks of a similar style and character, that were worthy of the occasion, and were listened to with earnest attention. The audience then filed past the coffin and each individual took a last look at the familiar features of the dead. He was buried in the new cemetery, the location of which he had himself selected, little more than a year ago. It is yet unadorned with those embellishments that he projected, but which will be executed at no distant day. Still, as we looked around us, while his remains were being committed to the earth, we thought it singularly appropriate in even its present condition, as a place of sepulchre. It is situate well out on the treeless plain, to the southeast of Bakersfield. As there is nothing to intercept the range of vision, the mountains that encircle the valley to the east, south and west, are visible from the base upward, appearing in the clear atmosphere startlingly near, distinct and immense. The impression is that of solitude, vast and unbroken, in the embrace of an impressive sublimity. It is one of those places where a man feels the majesty of creation and the Omnipotence of God, and we understood the feeling that moved our friend in its selection as his last resting place.

Correspondence.

TULARE, Nov. 28, 1872.

ED. CORNER: The town of Tulare, which has existed for some time—on paper—is about to have a real existence. JOHN F. KESSING & Co., of San Francisco, have opened quite a large store and restaurant in a building erected by them for the purpose. IRWIN & EDWARDS have built a saloon. There is a dwelling house going up now. Two more stores and two stables are being talked of, and will perhaps soon be built. There is to be a big hotel built by the Railroad Company, or by their assistance, and a line of stages will run from Tulare to Porterville. This will reduce the distance from Porterville to the railroad at least fifteen miles, and will divert the travel from Visalia and Goshen to this place. Mr. KESSING is authorized by the Railroad Company to sell town lots and, although they have not been advertised and no effort made to sell, the demand made for favorable locations is quite brisk. About thirty lots have already been sold at prices ranging from \$375 to \$50, one-third of the purchase money is paid down, one-third in six months, and the balance in one year.

Many new settlers are coming in and locating on Government lands. The country towards the Lakes seems to possess the greatest attraction for settlers now.

No one seems to know when work will be resumed on the Railroad in your direction. The fact that agents of the Company are engaging pasturage for a large number of horses for the winter, would indicate they did not intend to resume work until toward spring.

An accident occurred on the road at Merced, Saturday night, by which a Chinaman was considerably and dangerously injured. He was nearly severed from his body, and the other leg so badly hurt that it was feared that amputation would be necessary.

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will probably elapse before they can collect on the road all the teams they require, and meantime many wagons will continue to ply old route in the completion of unfinished contracts and contracts. The company proposes to such arrangements that no up freights for Inyo et. the least delay at the R. R. terminus, wagons will be so placed on the road that a carter will arrive and depart from Tipton each wagon will be allowed to remain there long- over night or to wait a moment for freight. is nothing for them when the time of depart- ives they must return empty to Bakersfield ere be freighted for the balance of the trip. ight contractors will be paid higher rates than herto been given via Los Angeles. It will be t once, from the method of doing business prop- y the company, the great advantages the mer- of Inyo will enjoy under the new over their ange ment. Whatever goods they order from anisco, let the quantity be large or small, can vith none of those fearful delays in transitu ve hitherto occasioned them so much vexation niary loss. This great trade centering here, likely to do, for a considerable period, among auses that are about to be felt, will soon bring elta of Kern river a greater degree of prosper- is enjoyed by any other agricultural section State. Our farmers will hereafter have the bted assurance of success that a ready market

A great many of our contemporaries, having them recent examples of the inefficiency of Juries in their respective counties, are advocat- abolition of the system altogether. They urge it that "it is a secret conclave, irresponsible, could be abolished." Very likely great objec- may be made to our Grand Jury system; but dl, would it be well to have it abolished? We ot. It is one of the safeguards of the people, itting magistrates may be ignorant, prejudiced, icious; but a Grand Jury, if properly constitu- ings one before his peers. With them a person nsider his reputation safe; vastly more so, as wo believe, than it would be if acted upon by n. The institution is a good one to ferret out vestigate crime. It has done, and is constantly a great deal of good. Whenever a Grand Jury ause of complaint, the fault will almost invari- e found to lie with their legal adviser, the Dis- ttorney. If this officer is competent, faithful, it, and honest, he will have nearly all the busi- at demands their attention, ready for their ac- he moment they organize, and all the witnesses nd, e will instruct them so carefully at each of their progress, if unacquainted with their duties, ney can, by no possibility, go astray, if they have osition, which is seldom the case. If wrong e, it is rarely through intention. It may almost iably be traced to the improper advice, ignoranc- oral perversion of their legal adviser. People

ministration of Mr. Buchanan. In 1861 he was elec- ted Senator for Fresno and Tulare counties, and served in the sessions of '61 and '62. About that time, in company with Harvey Brown, he purchased the swamp land franchise granted to the Montgomery Brothers, including the odd sections of all the swamp lands extending from Kern river around by the lakes, and connected by the sloughs reaching northward to Fresno City, on the San Joaquin river. The original grant contemplated the construction of navigable canals through the entire length of this section of the State; but it was found impracticable, and the Legis- lature released the grantees from that part of their obligations. On the 20th day of September, 1863, Col. BAKER arrived here on Kern Island with his fam- ily, preparatory to commencing his work of reclama- tion: remarking at the time "here at last I have found a resting place, and here I expect to lay my bones." The country was neither new nor strange to him; he had visited and explored it and carefully no- ted its capabilities, several years before. He was a man of enlarged views, comprehending at a glance the natural resources and peculiar advantages of a country, and ever ready to aid in their development with his talents and his means. Liberal to a fault, there was with him an almost entire abnegation of self. Often, when his ingenuity was tasked to supply his own wants, he divided what he could get with those who, he thought, required it more. Acknowl- edging every one as entitled to his regards, the needy never left his house in want of anything he could sup- ply, and the stranger was always received with a cor- dial welcome. His friends, like Jefferson's, delighted with his genial hospitality, seemed never to suspect that the store could be exhausted. The leading trait of his character was his uniform good nature and philosophical placidity and coolness of temper and disposition. Nothing seemed to disturb his equanimity, his motives impugned, his friends unmindful, his opinions slighted, his wishes disregarded, a favorit, project miscarried—whatever the mishap might be, nothing seemed to disturb his self-poise for a moment. His motto was, "Time will always justify a man who means to do right." He thought it unworthy a ra- tional being to indulge in vain regrets. Whatever the ills he suffered, he wasted no time, as far as his friends could discern, in brooding over them, and it was this peculiarity of mind or mental train- ing that often gave him the mastery over, and enabled him to extricate himself from circumstances of the most adverse character. The Colonel knew better how to make a fortune than to keep it. The result was, that though several times in his life he could have retired wealthy, fortunes were acquired and lost with seeming indifference. His ambition was not so much to own land as it was to make lands fit to be owned, and in this he succeeded to a greater extent than perhaps any other man in the State of California. His absorbing desire was to see them covered with settlers and their improvements as soon as possible, liberal than the government itself. He was the orig- inal owner of the town site of Bakersfield, and into

agents of the Company are in large number of horses for the they did not intend to resu spring.

An accident occurred on the day night, by which a Chin "damaged," having his head nearly severed from his body badly hurt that it was feared, be necessary. Roadmaster R. Merced yesterday, and some (Chinamen) came into the off- accident. One of them great- ington by taking a twenty- pocket and handing it to him injured Chinaman. It seems all destitute of the milk. The accident was caused by: construction engine and a lac

The weather for a month y latitude, extremely cold, pain and water freezes in-doors, owners, cattle and horses at this long continued "cold sun fence law almost unnecessary of dry feed and stock will d rains. Then if it continues a will suffer.

The rain is holding off late rather a favorable omen as : So mote it be.

Our contemporary of nia" manifests, in his issue of annoyance, in consequenc our columns, of the notice which his Bohemian instinct- prove a "sop" to check us- adopted towards county offic said notice was published o the information of the tax-pa whom the sheriff has not see the time of payment of their thorization on his part, orex our own. If we could be " at all in reference to county- less, to some extent, be effect patronage, while nothing is, we could never be induced not open support life our ce could utter and undisguised, we should be unable to accep spised dog in a dog-like spirit occasion that offered, with th ness of that quadruped.

We find the following ton excitement, now taking Expositor" of the 20th inst.

Cotton growing threatens t county and in fact elsewhere conversed with quite a number past few weeks, who contend with the "staple" next sea measure due to the success cotton growing enterprises taken in this county and in oley. Strange to relate, wha to 1872 I even considered the being selected for these cop this state of facts: First, I irrigation from the knees.

it that "it is a secret conclave, irresponsible, could be abolished." Very likely great objection may be made to our Grand Jury system; but still, would it be well to have it abolished? We do not think so. It is one of the safeguards of the people. The magistrates may be ignorant, prejudiced, or careless, but a Grand Jury, if properly constituted, will see that the law is obeyed. With them a person's reputation is safe; vastly more so, as we believe, than it would be if acted upon by a single magistrate. The institution is a good one to ferret out crime. It has done, and is constantly doing, a great deal of good. Whenever a Grand Jury is called upon to issue a writ of habeas corpus, the fault will almost invariably be found to lie with their legal adviser, the District Attorney. If this officer is competent, faithful, and honest, he will have nearly all the business demands their attention, ready for their action at a moment they organize, and all the witnesses will appear. He will instruct them so carefully at each step, that they will not be misled. Their progress, if unacquainted with their duties, will be slow, but they can, by no possibility, go astray, if they have a good legal adviser. If wrong is done, it is rarely through intention. It may almost always be traced to the improper advice, ignorance, or partiality of their legal adviser. People generally fail to realize the importance of the office of District Attorney. Too much indifference is manifested in referring to the qualifications of those who aspire to fill it. The State is likely to suffer in a more delicate manner from this culpable neglect than our country elsewhere. There is no one in which the Grand Jury will be brought into more entire disrepute, or held in more utter contempt, from the cause we have mentioned, and to which, we believe, all the complaints that are now rife against the Grand Jury system may be traced. Yet this will not drive us into the arms of those that desire its abolition. The affirmance of our District Attorney will come to a close, and in the mean time the Courts will see the necessity of allowing the cause of law and order to be maintained rather than inflict upon it a greater injury by calling many Grand Juries together during the administration. When that comes to a close, we do not doubt the necessity will be apparent to all of the position with a proper person.

The population of Alameda county is five times larger than that of Calaveras. The former sends three members to the Legislature, the latter only one. A similar disproportion exists between other mining and agricultural counties. To this may be attributed much of the retrogressive and narrow character of our Legislation. The agricultural counties, in the next election, should elect representatives on a basis of their population, and thus force a new system of representation. Unless something of this kind is done, it will be long before the mining counties will be able to have their say made.

philosophical flexibility and coolness of temper and disposition. Nothing seemed to disturb his equanimity, his motives unimpaired, his friends unimpaired, his opinions slighted, his wishes disregarded, a favorite project unexecuted—whatever the mishap might be, nothing seemed to disturb his self-poise for a moment. His motto was, "Time will always justify a man who means to do right." He thought it unworthy a rational being to indulge in vain regrets. Whatever the ills he suffered, he wasted no time, as far as his friends could discern, in brooding over them, and it was this peculiarity of mind or mental training that often gave him the mastery over, and enabled him to extricate himself from circumstances of the most adverse character. The Colonel knew better how to make a fortune than to keep it. The result was, that though several times in his life he could have retired wealthy, fortunes were acquired and lost with seeming indifference. His ambition was not so much to own land as it was to make lands fit to be owned, and in this he succeeded to a greater extent than perhaps any other man in the State of California. His absorbing desire was to see them covered with settlers and their improvements as soon as possible, and in furtherance of this object was invariably more liberal than the government itself. He was the original owner of the town site of Bakersfield, and induced the erection of several of the first buildings by his liberality. In fact he was the projector of nearly all our public works and improvements. His great experience, intuitive sagacity and forecast, often enabled him to see and point out to others how great pecuniary results might be attained, to which, with the carelessness of the old pioneering class of Western men, to which he belonged, he was himself indifferent. His labors are, however, in this world, now closed forever. May he rest in peace.

The funeral ceremonies were impressive and, as nearly as could be, in every way worthy of the man. His last illness was but of few days' duration. When it assumed a serious form our entire community expressed their sympathy and, while hoping for the best, awaited the result with painful anxiety. The disease has been epidemic in form, and two cases had proved fatal. Col. BAKER'S general health had not been good for some time past, and with naturally weak lungs, his advanced years were unable to stand the test. On Saturday hope was given up. The next morning he revived a little, but soon relapsed, and about 1 o'clock p. m. on Sunday, he died easily and calmly, as if falling asleep. The members of the Masonic Order, though not organized as a Lodge, took charge of his remains and superintended the services. The funeral, according to announcement, took place on Tuesday, and the ceremonies were conducted at the Town Hall. Every citizen of Bakersfield and vicinity, who could be there, was present. An eloquent and appropriate eulogy on the life and character of the deceased was pronounced by Mr. A. R. JACKSON, who had known him from early manhood, with much impressiveness and feeling. He was

authorized on his part, or expressed our own. If we could be so at all in reference to county of less, to some extent, be effected patronage, while nothing is so we could never be induced not open support like our could utter and undisguised we should be unable to accept spiced dog in a dog-like spirit, occasion that offered, with the mess of that quadruped.

We find the following notice in the "Delta" of the 20th inst.:

Cotton growing threatens to become a staple in this county and in fact elsewhere. I have conversed with quite a number of the farmers of the past few weeks, who contend that the "staple" next year will be cotton, due to the superior cotton growing enterprises taken in this county and in other parts of the State. Strange to relate, what was true in 1872 has been considered the best being selected for these crops. There are two reasons which justify this state of facts: First, the irrigation from the Kings River. Second, it is more convenient to grow these cotton growing enterprises, hardly admits of doubt, and a five crop than wheat, no one can deny. A successful growing of cotton will place Fresno far in advance of any of the other counties.

We find in the Delta a following account of a recent case of general interest because it occurs throughout the Great Basin, is very large:

The Commissioner of the Interior has rendered a ruling in the case of the homestead claim of F. J. WORTHY of the attention of parliament. The Commissioner has ruled that natural grasses for the purpose of permanent cultivation; and that himself and family at Visalia one-fourth of his own time be spent in residence within the meaning of the law.

—We expect wooden buildings to endure a century or two, the able specimens of antiquity. The old house in Providence, R. I., model, is said to be as sound as when first built, but very old.

But this is a young infant in European churches. The tower of the roof of the Basilica of St. Peter, framed in 816, but when carved were found to be perfectly sound were made of fir, and have lasted for centuries.

The domes of the church of St. Peter were built nearly eight hundred years ago, and the outside timbers are yet sound and hard as when first built.