Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative: O'Brien, Michael

Represented: Dubuque County

1. Birthday and place: Sept 1823, Yarrows, Waterford County, Ireland

2. Marriage (s) date place

3. Significant events for example:
   A. Business
   B. Civic responsibilities
   C. Profession: Mining

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served: 1st General Assembly, 1846

6. Public Offices
   A. Local: Dubuque County Clerk for 12 years, Dubuque County Treasurer for 7 years
   B. State: 1844; also served as member of the first Constitutional
   C. National

7. Death: 16 May 1859, Catholic, Dubuque County, Iowa

8. Children: Various names listed

9. Names of parents

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.
10. Education

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

He emigrated to America in 1831, living for a short time in New York state.

From there, he went to Kentucky. While there, he heard of a prospect of bettering his position in the mining region of Dubuque town. He arrived in Dubuque in 1834. He engaged in mining for several years.
## Sources Log For Legislation Entries

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<td>Dubuque, Iowa, Mon. Mar. 8, 1859</td>
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<td>Obituary -</td>
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<td>The Dubuque Weekly Times - Dubuque Iowa</td>
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<td>Mar. 10, 1859, p. 5, col. 3</td>
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<td>The Iowa Sentinel - Mason City</td>
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DIED.

O'BRIEN—On Sunday, March 6th, 1856, at his residence in Dubuque, Michael O'Brien, late Treasurer and Record-keeper of this county, aged 51 years.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday, the 8th, at 9 o'clock A.M. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

Another of the early pioneers of Dubuque, has passed from earth into that mysterious state which is veiled from human vision, and which can only be perceived by the eye of Faith through the medium of Divine revelation. Mr. O'Brien, whose demise is announced in the paragraph preceding these remarks, was born at a little town called Tullamore, in the county of Waterford, Ireland, in the month of September, 1803. He emigrated to the United States in the year 1831, making his abode for a short time in the State of New York. From thence we went to Kentucky, where, hearing of a prospect of bettering his condition in the mining region of Dubuque, he came hither in the year 1834. Like most of the early settlers, he engaged in mining, which occupied him for several years. In 1844 he was elected a member of the First Constitutional Convention of Iowa, and in 1846 he was elected a member of the First General Assembly.

After his term of service expired, he was elected County Clerk of Dubuque county, in which capacity he served two years. In 1846 he was elected County Treasurer, which office he filled for seven years, and which he resigned in March last, on account, as he still himself, of the increased duties and responsibilities imposed upon the Treasurer by recent legislation.

For thirteen years he has been servant of the people of this county in the literal sense of the term, performing, for a portion of the time, duties of his position by virtue of the laws of his county, which he could not discharge.

His mind was the servant of the people of this county in the literal sense of the term, performing, for a portion of the time, duties of his position by virtue of the laws of his county, which he could not discharge.
of many fine horses.—

twenty miles’ ride hither
d by his good cheer and

3. Mr. P. came out with
it in pursuit of furs, in
tly speculating.

has acuity of making “an
various ways—even by
significant waif of jour-

any to another.

decorah by a road lead-
Back” bluff, from which
a view of West Decorah
country. The prospect
extreme, and we long to


ummit, spreading fair.
ro stupendous rocks,
ubbling valley lift;
their lawny tops.”

pon the Turkey river a
winneshiek county,
ir is George W. Scofield,
ount, New-York. Ha

r wisconsin, and came

he is a brave back-
less than half a dozen
hich he has found ser-

b Office, the first in the
hither two or three
mile south. The
awyer, whose drug store
en the 6th of this month,
be of the Howard county
aid out in August, 1855,
four years old. When
ned, the county was un-
partially surveyed. A
sted in the county, in
Oregon Grove, and af-

and something like four
and an excellent district
ighty scholars, taught by

from her we learn that he is an exquisitely
modest and retiring man, one who would

temporize an errand to London to avoid mak-
ing a speech at Liverpool. He is a man of
few words, but of a fertile pen. He is the
only living romance writer whom we aim to
read fully, and as fast as his works make their
appearance.

SPRING ELECTIONS.—An election in New
Hampshire for the choice of State officers
and Members of Congress, will be held to-morrow.
The State election in Connecticut will be
held April 4th; in Rhode Island April 6th;
and in Virginia May 26th.

JOHN HANCOCK’S HOUSE.—A bill is pend-
ing in the Legislature of Massachusetts ap-
propriating $100,000 for the purchase of the
estate of John Hancock, with the view of
converting the house into a mansion for the
Governor. It has already passed the Senate,
and will probably pass the House.

NORTH-WESTERN FARMER.—The February
number of this excellent Agricultural Jour-
nal has been placed upon our table. It is re-
plete with useful and interesting matter,
treating upon the science of agriculture. The
Northwestern Farmer is published monthly,
by Messrs. Miller & Brayton, of this city,
at $1 per annum.

AN OLD SETTLER GONE.—We are called
upon this afternoon to record the death of one
of our old citizens, Mr. Michael O’Brien,
who departed this life on Sunday morning,
about seven o’clock, after a brief but painful
illness. Mr. O’Brien is spoken of by those
personally acquainted with him, as being a
gentleman possessing all those finer qualities
which constitute—a man—a liberal, kind and
generous-hearted gentleman.

By his countrymen and—those who have
been associated with him in business, and in
the social circles of life, he has ever been
considered a gentleman, and an unwavering
friend to the poor and needy. Peace to the
ashes of our departed fellow-citizen.

The murder’s friends say that
his wife for years; had lavished
her, gratifying her least and gr
as soon as they were known t
he got. the money is a mystery.
the other hand, it is said that Si
love his wife in a way that ent
chastity on her part, or to ven

violatio

Know

able women are to one another,
surprised to learn that Mrs.
with condemnation from her ow

certainly, there are features in
which one turns with disgust.
able, after proving false to her
in time and time again, of betray
mourn into what she must have
be bloody hands.

But if it be true that Mr. Bu
in Mr. Sickle’s house a few n
the encounter, and purposely
Key upon the corner until the
band’s arrival, he is most sev
demned, for he had not Mr. Si
ication, and had hitherto been t
all parties.

The five children of Mr. Key
one child, and Mr. Bucha
ally intimate with all the p
only persons to be pitied in a
The killed is beyond pity; the
public career in a better way th
rally expected.

Such affairs as this are usef
a warning, but as disclosing, in
the developments that will follo
ness and corruption which fester
cities. There is evil in scandal,
good in humility.

Samuel F. Butterworth, wh
ed with being accessory to the
Key by Sickles, publishes a lon
cation, in which he details his w
with the affair. The following is
part of it:

“On entering the Library
Wooldridge informed me that K
passed the house during the morn
short time since waved his h
three times as a signal.

While in conversation with
The Treasurer of Dubuque County, Mr. O'Brien, a model Democrat of the Irish school, has recently been discovered to be a defaulter to the tune of $108,000.

_Cedar Valley Times._

The editor of the Valley Times portrays an ignorance and malvolence beyond anything we have ever seen, in asserting the above as truth. Michael O'Brien was one of the first settlers in Iowa, and always exhibited a spirit of enterprise and energy that was commendable; and he always had the confidence of the people with whom he associated, and was always considered a valuable man in Dubuque; and now, that he is dead and buried, it is certainly a mean thing to give publicity to the above when there is no truth in it, merely for a little political game. When Mr. O'Brien resigned the office of County Treasurer because of his ill health, it was stated by some of the Dubuque papers that he was a defaulter to the amount of $108,000, but upon further examination this statement was found false. We copy the following from the _Express & Herald_ which will show the feeling of those who best knew him.

Another of the early pioneers of Dubuque has passed from earth into that mysterious future which is veiled from human vision, and which can only be perceived by the eye of Faith through the medium of Divine Revelation. Mr. O'Brien, whose demise is announced in the paragraph preceding these remarks, was born at a little town named Tulley, in the county of Waterford, Ireland, in the month of September, 1808. He emigrated to the United States in the year 1831, making his abode for a short time in the State of New York. From thence we went to Kentucky, where, hearing of a prospect of bettering his condition in the mining region of Dubuque, he came hither in the year 1844. Like most of the early settlers, he engaged in mining, which occupation he followed for several years. In 1844 he was elected a member of the first Constitutional Convention of Iowa, and in 1851 he was elected a member of the first General Assembly.

After his term of service expired, he was elected County Clerk of Dubuque county, in which capacity he served two years. In 1851 he was elected County Treasurer which office he filled for seven years, and which he resigned in September last, on account, as he said himself, of the increased duties and responsibilities imposed upon the Treasurer by recent legislation.

For thirteen years he the servant of the people of this county in the literal sense of the term, performing for many of them, acts of kindness and service out of the line of his duty, which no one else could so well perform, owing to his almost perfect knowledge of county affairs.

_according to the M. O'Brien on last week. The ca-

on the streets in a fit. Mr. B. John had

first, aforesaid exting water, putting building were as the str and at posited.

Aside the cre ing.

Also last, to the Sco town, together was but honest, him is

and sh bery, it to our to the delay. made t their gl we can succe:

for no
O'BRIEN, Michael. (County Waterford, Ireland, Sept., 1803—DUBUQUE COUNTY, IA, Mar. 6, 1859). County treasurer and recorder. Coming to the United States in 1831, O'Brien moved to DUBUQUE in 1834 where he engaged in MINING and became politically active. In 1844, he served as an elected member of the Constitutional Convention in Iowa and was also elected to the first general assembly from January 1, 1846, to December 31, 1847; when he returned to Dubuque and local politics. In 1848, he was elected County Clerk and served one term from January 1, 1849, to December 31, 1850. O'Brien was elected County Treasurer and County Recorder in 1851 and served from January 1, 1852, until September 1858, when he resigned.

O'CONNOR, Bernard "Bernie." (Council Bluffs, IA—). Coach. In 1997, O'Connor was named the National Tennis Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. In thirty-eight years at WAHLERT HIGH SCHOOL, O'Connor coached three girls and three boys to state singles titles. Several students won doubles titles. In all, O'Connor coached seventeen state champions and runners-up.


O'CONNOR, Frank Aloysius. (Independence, IA, Aug. 2, 1875—DUBUQUE, IA, June 21, 1954). Attorney. Active in the Democratic Party, O'Connor served in the Iowa Legislature as a representative of Chickasaw County from 1906 to 1912. He was a delegate-at-large and chairman of the Iowa delegation at the Chicago Democratic convention in 1932, and in 1940 placed the name of Henry Wallace into nomination for vice-president. During World War I, O'Connor was a member of the Iowa Governor's Council of Defense and, in 1934, began service as a general counsel for the Farm Credit Administration. As the agency's general agent, a position he held until 1937, O'Connor was responsible for the entire Farm Credit Administration. In Dubuque, O'Connor served as a director for the ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE. He was also a member of the Board of Regents for LORAS COLLEGE, president of the Dubuque Chamber of Commerce, and director of Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

O'CONNOR, Verni. (Elkport, IA, June 18, 1899—DYERSVILLE, IA, Aug. 12, 1947). President. O'Connor served as the president of the Buttermaker's Association in northern Iowa for three terms and as its secretary for two terms. In Dyersville, he operated the Farmer's Golden Star Creamery.

O'DONNELL, Frederick. (Unknown—DUBUQUE, IA, Sept. 9, 1925). Mayor. O'Donnell served as the mayor of Dubuque in 1883 and was then elected to the state legislature. He was nominated to a district court judgeship in 1892 and served fifteen years before retiring. (See: Appendix: Mayors)

O'DONNELL, T.J. (New Diggings, WI, May 13, 1872—DUBUQUE, IA, May 27, 1961). State representative. A graduate of BAYLESS BUSINESS COLLEGE, O'Donnell was employed in Dubuque machine shops until 1905. He was then in the wholesale liquor business until January 1, 1916. O'Donnell was elected to the Iowa House from 1917 to 1927 and was a member of the Highway Commission from 1927 to 1933.

O'DOWD, Clarence T. (DUBUQUE, IA—DUBUQUE, IA, Nov. 21, 1982). College administrator. A graduate of LORAS COLLEGE, O'Dowd returned to the college in 1939 as its assistant business manager. Promoted to business manager in 1952, he was named vice-president of business in 1957 and treasurer in 1958.

OETH, Arthur H. (DUBUQUE, IA, Sept. 9, 1912—DUBUQUE, IA, June 24, 1997). Home builder. Until his retirement in 1974, Oeth managed the Credit Bureau of Dubuque in addition to being a home builder and developer in the area for twenty-five years.

OETH, Robert. (DUBUQUE, IA, Oct. 6, 1921—Des Moines, IA, Nov. 24, 1989). Attorney. Oeth, a graduate of the Drake University College of Law, began the practice of law in Dubuque in October 1949. He served as a state representative from January 1, 1951, until December 31, 1952. Oeth subsequently served as County Attorney from January 1, 1953, through December 31, 1962. He practiced law in Des Moines until his retirement in 1989.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.