

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative _____ **Senator** Poyneer,
Alfred Nelson Represented Poweshook and James counties

1. Birthday and place 27 Jan 1831 Salisbury, Litchfield County, Connecticut

2. Marriage (s) date place
① Lucy J. Todd Aug 1859
② Lizzie Mantz June 1880

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities Mayor

C. Profession Farmer; teacher; traveling salesman

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd General Assemblies 1882, 1884,
1886, 1888

6. Public Offices

A. Local James County Board of Supervisors; Justice of the Peace; township
school board

B. State four Lieutenant Governors 23rd General Assembly 1890-1892

C. National _____

7. Death 28 Aug 1897 Montross, Iowa; buried Maple Hill Cemetery, Montross, Iowa

8. Children By 1st wife - Bertrude A. (Mrs. William Briggs); Lucy May (Mrs. P. Hendrick);
By 2nd wife - Ralph (died in infancy); Louis Everett; Edmund Amidon (adopted son)

9. Names of parents David R. and Polly (Moore) Poyneer

Poyneer, Alfred N.

10. Education Educated in common schools in his native town.

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information Democrat, later Republican

- He came to Iowa in 1860 settling in Highland Township of Iowa County, Iowa living there until 1877 when he moved to Montour, Iowa where he lived until his death.
- He taught schools and then later was employed by an Eastern firm as a traveling representative.
- After being in the State and Lieutenant Governor positions he returned home to Montour.
- He possessed several hundred acres of Iowa County land.
- His first wife, Lucy, died in 1878.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary -			<u>The James Tree Press, James, Iowa, Thru.</u>
			<u>Sept. 2, 1897, p. 5, col. 5</u>
			<u>A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa 1896, Vol II, p. 783-786</u>
			<u>- Findagrave.com (accessed 12 Jan 2011)</u>
			<u>- ancestry.com (accessed 12 Jan 2011)</u>
			<u>- History of Iowa 1903, p. 215</u>
			<u>- History of James County 1883, p. 462-463</u>

proper level in the base ball
and that that swelling, which is
not growing painful to behold, may be
reduced to its proper size, we hereby
challenge any nine two-hundred pound-
ers, residing within the city limits, not
including such professionals as Car-
roll, Lesser, Redman, Tanner,
Walker, Inman, Smith, Willett, Allen,
Anulty, et al. in the class, to play a
game of base ball at the athletic park
such time as may be arranged, dur-
ing the month of September.

Yours truly,

"THE LEANS"

By W. E. Houk, Captain.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Nina Barkman.
We find that there are items of in-
terest this week for school notes, so we
present them.

The superintendent hereby calls a
teacher's meeting for three o'clock
Friday, Saturday afternoon.

Janitor Hixson has given the third
story floors a coating of oil. This will
prevent dust and preserve the floors.

Any high school students not yet en-
rolled are requested to attend to this if
possible, some afternoon this week.

Congressman Cousins recently sent
for high school library bound copies
of last year's congressional record.
Copleton's Annual for 1896 has also
been placed in our library.

The Board of Education have grant-
ed permission for the high school
students to organize literary societies
this year. We hope to make this val-
uable for parliamentary practice and
public address and interesting to visi-
tors.

We again extend a cordial invita-
tion to advanced students of the coun-
ty schools to come in and be one of us
this year. Tuition is low and the facil-
ities for study are excellent. Great
progress may be made towards college
preparation or a teacher's certificate.
Special students may choose studies in-
teresting at pleasure. Come and talk it
over with the superintendent.

There will be at least sixteen in this
year's graduating class, the majority
of them in the scientific course, and
many of them would have been unable
to secure the honor of graduation if
they had had to take Latin. Are
there not some others that have drop-
ped out at some time in the past who
will come in this year and graduate?
A diploma is worth all it costs.

In addition to the large class sent
forward to the high school from Miss
Hard's room this year, there are a
number of other new students already
enrolled. Our new Scientific Course
has some who do not desire Latin and
may now look forward to graduation,
as well as Latin students. In addi-
tion to the 3 or 4 classes last year to pre-

parlains were laid to rest beside those of
her mother in Oak Hill cemetery. The
bereaved father and other relatives
have our sincerest sympathy.

Ex-Lieutenant Governor Poyneer Dead.

Hon. A. N. Poyneer died at his home,
Montour, Saturday evening, August
28th, rather suddenly. He had been
in ill health since July 3d, but not at
any time did his immediate friends
considered his condition serious or
likely to result fatally, especially so
soon. He had been able frequently to
ride out and take a limited amount of
out door exercise. In the forenoon,
Saturday, he took a drive around his
farm and seemed in better spirits than
usual. About noon, or shortly after,
he was taken worse and had several
sinking spells, dying in one of these
about 7 o'clock. Deceased was born at
Saulsbury, Connecticut, July 29th,
1831, and resided there until 1860, when
he came to Iowa and settled in High-
land township, this county, and resided
there until 1877 when he moved to
Montour, where he continued his resi-
dence until the time of his death. His
father, David R. Poyneer, was a native
of Columbia county, New York, and
served as a soldier in the war of 1812.
He subsequently resided in Saulsbury,
Connecticut, until 1862, when he came
to Iowa to spend his remaining days
with his son, Alfred. His death oc-
curred in 1881, he having reached the
advanced age of 92 years. Polly Poy-
neer, mother of A. N. Poyneer, was a
native of Saulsbury, Conn., and resided
there until she came to Iowa with her
husband, in 1862. Her death took place
in 1873. Alfred was reared on a farm,
and was given a good, common school
education and afterwards taught school
and then was employed by an Eastern
firm as traveling representative and
collector, until he came to Iowa and
located. In politics he was reared a
democrat and adhered to that faith
until the breaking out of the rebellion,
since which time he has been an active
worker in the republican ranks. He
held various local offices and was also
a member of the county board of super-
visors for several years.

Governor Poyneer had been identifi-
ed with public affairs in Iowa for a
great many years and enjoyed a wide
acquaintance over the state and was
everywhere highly respected. He was
elected a member of the state senate
in the nineteenth general assembly
and served two full terms. He repre-
sented Tama and Poweshiek counties
in the first term and Tama and Benton
in the second. In 1889 he run for lieut-
enant-governor with Joseph Hutchin-
son and defeated S. L. Bestow by a
plurality although Hutchinson was de-
feated by Boies. At the close of his
term of office he returned to his home
life at Montour and settled down to the
quiet enjoyment of life with his family
and friends.

Mr. Poyneer was a man of large means
being possessed of several hundred
broad acres of fertile Tama county
land. He was an observant, progres-
sive farmer, a conscientious, faithful
juror and a citizen who was always

ated in 1894 at Storm Lake.
The secretary's report showed a
membership of fifty-nine and the re-
ceipts of the past year to be \$145.30.
The treasurer reported disbursements
of \$83.02 leaving a balance on hand of
\$64.01.

The class in parliamentary law was
very ably conducted by J. H. Campbell,
who spent much time in preparing him-
self for this especial line of work.

Miss Pearl Sullivan had charge of
the class exercises on Good Templary,
who proved herself well posted on the
law of the Order and made the exer-
cises both profitable and interesting.

The opening sessions of Friday and
Saturday were conducted by Luke
Roberts, of Clinton, the veteran mem-
ber of the order in Iowa.

The superintendent of literature re-
ported 24 first students; 5 second year,
and 13 this year enrolled in the Iowa
Educational Course. This branch of
the work has proved of much interest
to members within and outside of the
state. The revised edition of Hill's
Hand Book was reported to be com-
pleted and ready for distribution.

The by-laws amended so as to make
the superintendent of literature a
member of the executive committee.
The executive committee was ordered
to select someone to preach the annual
sermon at the next session of the
normal.

Resolutions were adopted extending
the thanks of the normal to the Presi-
dent, Superintendent of Literature, J.
A. Campbell and Pearl Sullivan, for
the interest they have manifested in
the work of this session; to the local
lodges, citizens of Tama, churches and
brass band of the city and all others
who have aided in any way to make
the visit of the members pleasant; to
Brother Walker, G. C. T., of South
Dakota, for his presence, and to Jessie
Forsyth, R. V. G. S. J. T., for kindness
in preparing a paper which added
much to the interest.

A plan of work for the normal was
adopted, dividing the work the follow-
ing departments, each of which shall
be in charge of able instructors: 1st,
parliamentary law, 2d, scientific
temperance, 3d, chorus work, 4th,
sociology, 5th, ritualistic work and
constitutional law, 6th, program and
social work, 7th, juvenile and organ-
ization work, 8th, physical culture
and elocution, 9th, business
These departments, except those refer-
ring especially to lodge room work, will
be open to the public upon the payment
of fifty cents for each class for the en-
tire course.

The business of the sessions was in-
terspersed with papers and discussions
on subjects of vital importance to the
order.

The following is a list of the officers
for the ensuing year: President, E. M.
Remington, of Des Moines; vice-Presi-
dent, Eleanor C. Stockman, Mason
City; Superintendent of Literature, G.
W. E. Hill, of Des Moines; Secretary,
Fanny Becker, Mason City; Treasurer,
Rev. J. H. Walley, Downey; Marshal,
Charles L. ...

Special students may choose studies in course at pleasure. Come and talk it over with the superintendent.

There will be at least sixteen in this year's graduating class, the majority of them in the scientific course, and four of them would have been unable to secure the honor of graduation if they had had to take Latin. Are there not some others that have dropped out at some time in the past who can come in this year and graduate? A diploma is worth all it costs.

In addition to the large class sent forward to the high school from Miss Richard's room this year, there are a number of other new students already enrolled. Our new Scientific Course suits some who do not desire Latin and who may now look forward to graduation, as well as Latin students. In adding the 3 or 4 classes last year to alternate with the Latin classes so we might offer graduation without compelling the students to study Latin as had been the practice heretofore, we placed Tama High School along side of Traer and Toledo, of our own county, and up in rank with the great majority of the high schools in the state. Traer still outranks us in grades, however, as they have one year higher than we have. They had but three grades in the high school room, the 9th grade being in a lower room, some of the lower rooms each having two grades in. Both Prof. Ferguson and Sup't Locke hear more classes than used to be done by the former Principal of the High school and the superintendent. Tama's superintendent hears three times the classes Toledo's superintendent does, the rhetorical rehearsals being counted as a class and are of as great value and take time equivalent to a class. Our high school enrollment this year bids fair to mount towards seventy.

SUPT'S YEARLY REPORT FOR 1896-7.

Days taught.....	177
Monthly enrollment.....	406
Number belonging.....	384
Average daily attendance.....	366
Per cent of attendance.....	95
Average monthly tardiness.....	16
Total year's enrollment, less transfers.....	468
Average teacher's tardiness.....	3
Teacher.....	yrly en. dly. att. p. c. att. tard.
Prof Ferguson.....	57.....49.....95.....6
Miss Richards.....	34.....28.....96.....2
Mrs. Richards.....	31.....25.....96.....3
Miss Briece.....	43.....33.....94.....3
Miss Van Dyke.....	38.....30.....93.....10
Mrs. Brannen.....	40.....36.....96.....5
Miss Ora Fowler.....	59.....42.....94.....16
Miss Iola Fowler.....	48.....38.....96.....17
Miss Mann.....	73.....49.....95.....19
Miss Wilcox.....	51.....46.....93.....30

Stands at the Head.

Aug. J. Bogel, the leading druggist of Shreveport, La., says: "Dr. King's New Discovery is the best cure I have," and it is the best seller I have." J. P. Campbell, merchant of Shreveport, La., says: "Dr. King's New Discovery is the best cure I have," and it is the best seller I have." J. P. Campbell, merchant of Shreveport, La., says: "Dr. King's New Discovery is the best cure I have," and it is the best seller I have."

Governor Poyneer had been identified with public affairs in Iowa for a great many years and enjoyed a wide acquaintance over the state and was everywhere highly respected. He was elected a member of the state senate in the nineteenth general assembly and served two full terms. He represented Tama and Poweshiek counties in the first term and Tama and Benton in the second. In 1889 he ran for lieutenant-governor with Joseph Hutchinson and defeated S. L. Bestow by 1,781 plurality although Hutchinson was defeated by Boies. At the close of his term of office he returned to his home life at Montour and settled down to the quiet enjoyment of life with his family and friends.

Mr. Poyneer was a man of large means being possessed of several hundred broad acres of fertile Tama county land. He was an observant, progressive farmer, a conscientious, faithful legislator and a citizen who was always near and dear to his fellow men. He was a devoted christian man and before his demise expressed a willingness to die, though he believed he had not entirely outlived his usefulness. He met death with the same fearlessness that characterized his life, with an abiding faith in the future and the consciousness of a well-spent life. He was an honest man and a good friend, and his death will be mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Poyneer was twice married. In August, 1859, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucy J. Tood, of St. Joseph county, Michigan. She died in 1878, leaving two daughters. In June, 1880, he was married to Miss Lizzie Frantz, of Highland township, who survives him. Mr. Poyneer's children are Mrs. J. P. Hendricks, of Butte, Montana; Mrs. William Briggs, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and Miss Louie Poyneer, who resides at home—and one son, Mr. Edmund Poyneer, of Minneapolis.

The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon, from the late home, Rev. Dr. Crippen conducting, and were attended by many friends from Montour and vicinity and from abroad.

IOWA CROPS.—The Iowa crop report for week ending August 31, says that the effect of the drouth upon the corn crop has been to hasten the ripening of early planting, and check the growth of late corn, which needs both warmth and moisture for its normal development. On dry uplands the leaves are being fired, and the yield will be materially reduced. In a few localities the early planted fields are being cut to secure the fodder in the best condition. With the present weather conditions about 50 per cent of the crop will be fairly well ripened, and safe from damage by frost, by September 20th; the balance will need all of September to mature, with normal weather. Potatoes also need rain.

Compiled by Volunteers and Staff of the State Historical Society, graph gallery, two doors south of city hall, Toledo, Iowa.—t.

temperance, 3d, chorus work sociology, 5th, ritualistic work constitutional law, 6th, program social work, 7th, juvenile and organization work, 8th, physical and elocution, 9th, business. These departments, except those especially to lodge room, be open to the public upon the payment of fifty cents for each class for the entire course.

The business of the sessions interspersed with papers and discourses on subjects of vital importance in order.

The following is a list of the officers for the ensuing year: President Remington, of Des Moines; vice president, Eleanor C. Stockman, City; Superintendent of Literature, W. E. Hill, of Des Moines; Secretary, Fanny Becker, Mason City; Treasurer, Carrie L. Baldwin, Ruthven; Chaplain, Rev. J. H. Walley, Downey; Marshal, Charles Lambert, Coon Rapids; Marshal, Maggie Slee, Hampton; Assistant Secretary, J. Bell Bruce; Guard, E. G. Fairbrother; Warden, Sentinal, Leroy Akson.

Saturday evening a large audience witnessed the graduation exercises of the Iowa Good Templars course of the Tama lodge. The graduates were Kate Brannan, John Brannen, Seth Sharon and Maddy, Attica; Fanny Becker, City; Mrs. E. A. Wayland, Iowa; Mrs. Adell G. Wellman, Minnesota; Mrs. C. L. Thompson, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Ida B. Walker, Luke Roberts, of Clinton; the named gentleman is 75 years of age, the oldest Good Templar worker in the state. At the evening meeting the Tama brass band appeared and the program on the action of the business men of Tama. Sunday morning the various pulpits of the city were filled with visitors; in the afternoon well attended children's meeting held, conducted by Prof. G. W. and Mrs. Anna H. Harris, and in the evening these parties address overflowing mass meeting at the church. The session of the 2nd closed Monday evening, with over large attendance public meeting.

The Grand Lodge convened Tuesday morning. The reports being presented immediately following the conferring of degrees. The report of the grand secretary showed a slight loss of membership during the year in both the subordinate and juvenile branches. Treasurers from all sources (magazines accepted) were \$5,346.82. The order expended \$3,698.44 in lecture work \$345.75 in printing. Over 200 gold and silver medal contests have been held under the Good Templar system. Thirty-five lodges have acquired lodges. Twelve lodges own their own hall. Tuesday evening a reception was given to the visitors in the large Fellows' hall, by the Tama Good Templars, and a most pleasant time was enjoyed by all present.

My boy came home from school day with his hand badly lacerated.

and C. Della of Glad-radford, and Miss and at ed ez Bird- , Satur- Regard- normal at Reporter e pretty in histo- his meth- unique, a, and he attention He is an e reader, e and the explana- and he remarks driving a birth- Mr. and and. Society of eet with 1, 2 1, which ld Twin-hampion tic Park, This will ad Hotel, , opened ay, with Neislie, a, Cedar Mrs. C. es Lam- e McCoy, ith, At- nton; J. . Clark, nesville, ; J. B. n, Mar- Clinton; , D. D. Charles Clinton; e Grove; Chic ; Detach- n, Grove. ry best has but receive , hees ho Mid- hare of

HISTORY
OF
TAMA COUNTY,
IOWA,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF THEIR TOWNS, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL
CIVIL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROM-
INENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF
REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

HISTORY OF IOWA,
EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, AND A BRIEF REVIEW
OF ITS CIVIL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

ILLUSTRATED

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1883.

latter engagement, was wounded so severely in the hip by a fragment of a shell, that he was compelled to remain in a hospital five months before being again fit for duty. Subsequently he participated in the battle of Liberty Gap; and September 20, 1863, the battle of Chickamauga, where he was wounded and taken prisoner. He spent five months in the prison at Richmond, seven months at Andersonville and a month each at Savannah and Miller. He was then paroled, afterwards exchanged and January 12, 1865, honorably discharged from service. In the fall of that year he came west to Tama county, Iowa, and for a number of years was engaged in teaching during the winter months and farming in Columbia township the balance of the year. During the term of 1874, he represented his district in the Legislature, having been elected on the Anti-monopoly ticket. He has held several of the local offices of trust. On the 30th day of January, 1868, he was joined in wedlock with Miss Anna E. Hutchison, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of William T. Hutchison, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Malin, three of whom are living: William H., George N. and Lizzie E. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The Sixteenth General Assembly convened at DesMoines in January, 1876. Dr. Conaway, of Poweshiek, was Senator from Tama and Poweshiek counties. G. Jaqua, of Traer, represented Tama county in the House.

The Seventeenth General Assembly con-

vened in January, 1878, at DesMoines. Tama with Poweshiek was represented in the Senate by Robert M. Haines, a lawyer of Grinnell. G. Jaqua, of Traer, was again serving Tama in the House. He is noticed at length in the Press Chapter.

The Eighteenth General Assembly convened at DesMoines in January, 1880. Robert M. Haines representing Tama and Poweshiek counties in the General Assembly, and George R. Struble served Tama county in the House.

The Nineteenth General Assembly convened at DesMoines on the second Monday in January, 1882. At this time Tama county was in the 45th Senatorial District, associated with Poweshiek, and was represented by Hon. A. N. Poyneer. Tama constituted the 45th Representative District and was represented by George R. Struble, who was elected Speaker of the House. He made one of the best presiding officers the General Assembly has ever had.

Hon. A. N. Poyneer, was elected Senator to represent Tama and Poweshiek counties in 1881. He is a native of Salisbury, Litchfield county, Connecticut, was born on the 29th day of July, 1831. His father, David R. Poyneer, was a native of Columbia county, New York, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. He subsequently resided at Salisbury, Connecticut, until about 1860, and in 1862 he came to Iowa to spend his remaining days with his son, the subject of this sketch. His death occurred in January, 1881, he having reached the advanced age of ninety-two years. Polly (Moore) Poyneer, the mother of A. N. Poyneer, was a native of Salisbury, Connecticut, where

she resided until 1860; then came west and after 1862 lived with her son. Her death took place in 1873. She reared three children, Edward M., Hannah S., now Mrs. Dr. Clinton Helm, of Rockford, Illinois; and Alfred N., who is the subject of this sketch. Alfred was reared on a farm, was given advantages so that he acquired a good common school education, then taught school for a few years, after which he acted as traveling salesman and collector for an eastern manufacturing house until 1861, when he came to Iowa, and at once settled on section 5 of Highland township, where he had previously purchased nearly 400 acres. He made this his home until the spring of 1877, since which time he has lived in the village of Montour. Mr. Poyneer now owns 800 acres of land and is extensively engaged in stock farming. In politics he was reared a Democrat and adhered to that faith until the breaking out of the rebellion, since which time he has been an active worker in the Republican ranks. He has held various local offices and for many years was a member of the County Board of Supervisors. During this time he formed a large acquaintance and as he was an efficient officer he was held in the highest esteem throughout the county. He makes an active worker in the General Assembly and is making a record honorable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. Mr. Poyneer has been twice married. In August, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Lucy J. Todd, daughter of Alfred and Mary A. Todd, of St. Joseph county, Michigan. She died in February, 1878, leaving two daughters, Gertrude A. and Lucy May. In June,

1880, he married Miss Lizzie Frantz, daughter of Joshua and Matilda Frantz, of Highland township, Tama county. Mr. Poyneer is a gentleman with unblemished character, who is courteous to all. He is a good financier and an excellent manager in public as well as private affairs. He takes a great interest in educational matters and in fact anything tending to better the welfare of man. His home, situated in the south part of the village of Montour, is surrounded with all conveniences.

COUNTY JUDGE.

This was the principal office of the county in early days. The Judge had charge of many matters which are now attended to by the Auditor, the Circuit Court, Clerk of Court and Board of Supervisors. At the time the county was temporarily organized, while preparing for permanent organization, an election was held and the first Judge of Tama county was elected in the person of Dr. Tallman Chase. This election was held in March, 1853. Tallman Chase was a native of Ohio and came to Tama county in 1853, settling with his large family upon a farm in the northwestern part of Toledo township. He was a fairly educated man, and was by profession a physician, having practiced in his native State, and commenced it soon after his arrival in Tama county. He was a follower of the teachings of the old Whig party, yet did not take much interest in political matters, and even after being elected to the office of County Judge did not qualify. He was quite an old man at the time and only remained in the county three or four years when he returned to Ohio, where he has since died.

A MEMORIAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

RECORD OF IOWA

ILLUSTRATED

"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."—MACAULAY.

"Biography is by nature the most universally profitable, universally pleasant, of all things."—CARLYLE.

"History is only biography on a large scale."—LAMARTINE.

VOL. II

CHICAGO
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

1896

1875; Hattie May, born August 24, 1877, and Frank, born February 8, 1886.

In the spring of 1889 Mr. Wylde sold his property near Benton City, Missouri, and removed to Dickinson county, Iowa, purchasing and improving 200 acres of land near Superior. For three years he devoted his energies to that work and then took up his residence in the town of Superior, where he has since made his home. He is here engaged in the grain and coal business and is at present the manager of the W. J. Bruce & Company lumber yard. He owns besides his farm a store and two good residences, and is now in very comfortable circumstances, owing entirely to his own efforts, which have been continuous in the line of honorable business methods and unflinching energy.

JOHN B. COMLY, M. D., one of the prominent and skilled physicians of Iowa, now living in Woodward, was born on the 5th day of May, 1860, near the city of Rockford, in Winnebago county, Illinois. His parents were Charles and Mary (Ludwig) Comly, natives respectively of Milton and Bucks counties, Pennsylvania. The Doctor spent his early boyhood days upon his father's farm, receiving such educational privileges as are usually afforded farmers' sons. He was ambitious, however, and desirous of obtaining a good education, so entered the high school of Pecatonica, Illinois, at which he was graduated on the completion of the regular course.

When it came time to make a choice of a calling and fit himself for his life work, he determined upon the practice of medicine, and on attaining his majority became a student in the medical college at Louisville, Kentucky, and was graduated on the 28th of February, 1884. He then returned to his home and soon after opened an office and began practice in the little village of Ridott, Illinois, where he remained for four years. On the expiration of that period he went to Philadelphia and took a

general course in the hospitals of that city. In 1889 he located in Mapleton, Iowa, and the following year removed to Des Moines.

After a short time the Doctor was married, in the capital city, to Mrs. Adah (Mitchell) Reese, a native of Pennsylvania. Early in the year 1891 they came to Woodward, where Dr. Comly has since practiced, with great success. He is probably the most prominent physician of his age in the State. His knowledge and skill have won him recognition among the leading practitioners of Iowa, and secured him the support of the general public. He is the medical examiner of the leading insurance companies of the United States doing business in this section of the country, and the future seems bright with promise.

Dr. Comly is prominent in the ranks of the Masonic fraternity in this locality, and is now a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias, and the Knights of the Maccabees. His political support on attaining his majority was given to the Democracy, and he cast his first presidential vote for Grover Cleveland, but is now a third party man. The Doctor is a gentleman of fine personal appearance, with an excellent physique, and in manner is social and kindly.

HON. ALFRED NELSON POYNEER is a well-known and justly eminent citizen of Iowa, and there are few men who have the popularity and confidence of the people in as great a measure as he. Frequently called before the public in an official capacity, no higher compliment could have been paid to his genuine worth than his election to the office of Lieutenant-Governor, when the Democratic candidate for Governor won the election by nearly 10,000 votes. His standing is equally high in political, business and social circles, and owing to the conspicuous place he has attained, his name has been for many years a familiar one in Iowa.

Alfred Nelson Poyneer was born in Salisbury, Litchfield county, Connecticut, July 29,

1831, and is a son of David R. and Polly (Moore) Poyneer. The family is of French extraction, and its founder in America located on Manhattan Island in Colonial days. His descendants are now numerous along the banks of the Hudson river between New York and Albany. David R. Poyneer was born in Dover, Dutchess county, New York, in 1788, and served under the command of General Dearborn during the war of 1812, participating in the battle of Plattsburg and other engagements on the northern frontier. When the war was over he was honorably discharged from service, and in after years was granted a pension by the Government. Removing to Connecticut, he located at Salisbury, and there formed the acquaintance of Miss Polly Moore, a native of that town, who became his wife. They there began their domestic life on a small farm, and in connection with its cultivation Mr. Poyneer engaged in boot, shoe and harness making. He was thus engaged until 1859, when he followed the star of empire on its westward course and took up his residence in Byron, Illinois. Three years later he removed to Tama county and passed his remaining days with his son, Alfred N. In politics he was a Democrat until the formation of the Republican party, when he cast his ballot for John C. Fremont, and ever afterward supported the principles of the new organization. In his religious views he was a Congregationalist. He possessed a strong constitution, was very athletic, and when ninety years of age frequently walked to town, a distance of four miles, returning home in the same way, and declining the use of any conveyance. His death occurred December 17, 1880. His wife died September 15, 1873. She was an earnest, Christian woman, and from early life was a member of the Congregational Church. Mr. and Mrs. Poyneer had a family of three children: Edward M., an old and respected citizen of Tama county, now engaged in merchandising in Montour; Hannah S., wife of Dr. Clinton Helm. of Rockford, Illinois; and Alfred N.

Mr. Poyneer, of this review, acquired a

good common-school education in his native town, and at the age of seventeen began teaching, a profession which he followed continuously for four years, when on account of ill health he was obliged to leave the school-room, resigning an excellent position in the schools of Salisbury, Connecticut. During the succeeding eight years he was in the employ of a manufacturing house as traveling salesman and collector, and his route extended over twenty States, covering nearly all of the territory of the Union. He was very successful in the new work, and as he practiced economy he acquired a sufficient capital to give him a good start in life. Believing that real estate in the new but rapidly developing West would prove a safe and profitable investment, he purchased land in Highland township, Tama county, Iowa.

In August, 1859, Mr. Poyneer was united in marriage with Miss Lucy J. Todd, a daughter of Alfred and Mary A. Todd, of Nottawa, St. Joseph county, Michigan. The lady was a native of Onondaga county, New York, and they became acquainted when she was employed as a teacher in Polo, Illinois. In 1861 they located on their prairie farm in Highland township, and there Mr. Poyneer carried on general farming and stock-raising until 1877, when he removed to the village of Montour, where he has since resided. His wife died in February of the following year, leaving two daughters: Gertrude A., now the wife of William Briggs, a resident of Lake Charles, Louisiana; and Lucy May, wife of Professor J. P. Hendricks, of Butte, Montana, who is superintendent of the city schools of that place and one of the prominent educators of that State. In June, 1880, Mr. Poyneer was again married, his second union being with Miss Lizzie Frantz, daughter of Joshua and Matilda Frantz, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania and came with her parents to Iowa, the family locating in Highland township, Tama county. Two children were born of this marriage, but Ralph died in infancy. Lois Everest is still at home. One other son

(by adoption), Edmund Amidon Poyneer, now twenty-one years old, who came to live with them in infancy upon the death of his mother, a sister of Mr. Poyneer's first wife, and the wife of Hon. E. S. Amidon, of Sturgis, Michigan, has a very dear place in the hearts of the whole Poyneer family.

Mr. Poyneer was reared in the faith of the Democracy, but about the time the Republican party was formed the question of the preservation of the Union was the one uppermost before the people. A devoted American citizen, loyal to his country at all times, he cast his allegiance with that party who believed in an inseparable Union, placing national above State rights, and has since been a stanch Republican and a firm believer in the tenets of his party. During his residence in Highland township he filled many important township offices. Was Justice of the Peace, member and president of the township School Board, and Treasurer of the same for many years. He represented his township on the County Board of Supervisors for many years, during which time he was associated with such men as Hon. James Wilson, Hon. Joseph Dygart, Hon. G. Jaqua, Hon. W. F. Johnston, Hon. Leander Clark, Hon. John Ramsdell and others. When the law was passed reducing the number of supervisors in the county to three, Mr. Poyneer was elected a member of the first board, serving three years in the new board. In 1873 he was his party's candidate for the office of representative, but the entire ticket was defeated.

In 1881 he was elected to the State Senate from the counties of Tama and Poweshiek, and on the expiration of his four-years term was re-elected, serving in the Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second General Assemblies. He was chairman of the committee on agriculture, and being a farmer himself was at all times in close touch with the agriculturists of the State, and gave special attention to all legislation affecting their interests, and as Iowa was an agricultural State this meant close attention to nearly every question that came

up for discussion. He was also a member of many other important committees, including ways and means, railways, federal relations and suppression of intemperance. During the Twenty-second General Assembly he was president, *pro tem.*, of the Senate, and being an excellent parliamentarian proved a most able presiding officer. In 1889 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of Lieutenant Governor of the State, and his triumphant election, although the State went largely Democratic, was a testimonial of his high standing and popularity indicative of the confidence reposed in him. That he proved a most able officer is shown by the fact that in 1891 the Republican press of central Iowa was freely making use of his name as a candidate for Governor. Owing to the precarious condition of his health he publicly declined the honor. While he did not seek or desire a re-nomination for the office of Lieutenant Governor, when the convention assembled he came within a very few votes of receiving the nomination. He was appointed by Governor Boies a member of the commission to revise the revenue laws of Iowa, but resigned soon after the commission was organized. He has been a very earnest worker in the ranks of his party, and has many times served as chairman of county conventions. He has delivered many able addresses on the political issues of the day, and that he is a favorite with his audiences is shown by the fact that his services are in great demand throughout all parts of Iowa.

Mr. Poyneer is pre-eminently a public-spirited man, devoted to the welfare of the State, the nation and his resident community. In his business he has prospered, and his property indicates his enterprise. He has a pleasant home in Montour, and his intimate friends find him a very genial and companionable gentleman, while to the public he is easily approachable. He is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and even in the hurry of business and the press of political cares he has ever found time to devote to the

holier duties of life. Socially he has for many years been a member of Polar Star Lodge, No. 113, A. F. & A. M., and for a long period served as Master. He is a man of unblemished character, and his life may be summed up in the brief words, that he is a good financier, a true friend and upright citizen, a kind father and loving husband.

CHARLES TAYLOR BARNETT, a retired merchant and farmer of Dallas county, resides during the pleasanter seasons of the year in Adams township; but when the chilling winter winds sweep over the country he goes to De Soto, where he spends the cold months. For many years he was prominently connected with the business interests of this locality and is numbered among the pioneer settlers of the State.

Mr. Barnett was born in Indiana, January 27, 1836. His father was born in North Carolina in 1787, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-one years. He was reared in Kentucky, in an early day moved to Indiana and made his home there until 1855, when he emigrated westward, taking up his residence upon a farm in Davis county, Iowa. In the family were nine children, but all had married and left home at the time of the removal to this State with the exception of our subject. He continued under the parental roof until 1856, when he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Jane Brooks, a native of Ohio. They began their domestic life on a farm near his father's place and lived in the neighborhood until 1864, when they removed to Madison county, Mr. Barnett purchasing forty acres of land, which he cultivated for about a year. He then sold and purchased a farm of eighty acres in Madison township, county of Madison, upon which he made his home until the spring of 1870,—the date of his removal to Van Meter, Iowa. Purchasing a stock of goods he there embarked in merchandising, but in the succeeding summer sold out and returned to his farm in the fall, carry-

ing on its further improvement until the spring of 1875, when his residence was destroyed by fire. This caused him to purchase an improved farm of 120 acres adjoining his original eighty acres, but the former eighty-acre tract he exchanged in the spring of 1878 for a stock of general merchandise in De Soto. Removing his family to that place he once more engaged in commercial pursuits and succeeded in building up a good business. In the spring of 1879 he traded this property for his farm and is now living retired, enjoying the rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

In 1895 Mr. Barnett was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away on the 24th of April, in the sixtieth year of her life, her birth having occurred September 20, 1835. She was indeed a true helpmeet and companion to her husband, not only caring for her home but also aiding and encouraging him by her sympathy and counsel. It was largely through her efforts that her children obtained their education, and she did all in her power to promote the interests and secure the happiness of her family. She won the love and respect of all with whom she came in contact, and her devout Christian life was one well worthy of emulation. She died in the full triumph of a living faith and went rejoicing home. In the family were six children, of whom four reached mature years. Rachel Emeline was born December 17, 1856, married Anderson Barnett January 6, 1876; Benjamin Franklin was born February 2, 1859, and married Miss Hunt March 27, 1889, and has two children; Emma Allie, born May 3, 1861, is the wife of L. A. Chestnutwood, by whom she has two children; Harriet Elizabeth, who was born November 6, 1863, and is the wife of J. A. Wright, by whom she has two children; William Cornelius, who was born October 7, 1865, and died March 13, 1869; Ella Dora, who was born January, 1868, and died April 3, 1869.

Since the days of Peter Cooper, Mr. Barnett has been a stalwart advocate of the Greenback party, and has served as School

Assemblies, and as chairman of the judiciary committee in the session of 1868. At the close of his term in the Senate Mr. Powers was elected District Attorney for the Ninth Judicial District, serving by reelections for ten years.

ALFRED N. POYNEER was born in Connecticut in 1831 where he was reared on a farm and received his early education. In 1861 he removed to Iowa, locating on a farm in Tama County where the remainder of his life was spent. He took an active interest in public affairs and was a member of the Republican party. In 1881 he was elected to the State Senate from the district composed of the counties of Tama and Poweshiek. He served in this position for eight years and was one of the influential members of that body. In 1889 he was the Republican candidate for Lieutenant-Governor and was elected, while his associate on the ticket for Governor was defeated. After serving two years as President of the Senate, Governor Poyneer was appointed one of the commissioners to revise the revenue laws of the State. He died at Montour, August 28, 1897.

GILBERT B. PRAY was born at Michigan City, Indiana, April 27, 1847. His father located at Webster City, Iowa, in 1856, where the son received his education in the public schools. He enlisted in the Sixteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1864, participated in the Battle of Nashville and in General Sherman's campaigns. At the close of the war he entered the law office of Judge D. D. Chase, pursuing his studies three years and was admitted to the bar in 1868, then entering upon the practice of his profession. In 1882 he was elected Clerk of the Supreme Court, holding the position for twelve years by successive reelections. He served many years on the Republican State Central Committee, and was twice chairman, conducting important political campaigns successfully. In 1886 in association with Ex-Governor Frank D. Jackson and Sidney A. Foster and other gentlemen, he assisted in organizing the Royal Mutual Union Life Insurance Company at Des Moines, of which he was chosen treasurer. In 1897 he was appointed by President McKinley Surveyor-General of Alaska, but declined. He was soon after appointed a special agent of the Indian Bureau and entered upon the duties of the office.

HENRY O. PRATT was born in Foxcroft, Maine, February 11, 1838. He was educated at the academy of his native village and at Harvard, where he graduated in the Law Department. Mr. Pratt removed to Iowa in 1862, enlisted as a private in the Union army and served through the War of the Rebellion. He returned to Charles City where he entered upon the practice of law. In 1868 he was elected to the Iowa Legislature on the Republican ticket and reelected at the close of his first term. He

Alfred Nelson Poyneer

1881, Iowa

Hon. A. N. POYNEER, was elected Senator to represent Tama and Poweshiek counties in 1881. He is a native of Salisbury, Litchfield county, Connecticut, was born on the 29th day of July, 1831. His father, David R. Poyneer, was a native of Columbia county, New York, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. He subsequently resided at Salisbury, Connecticut, until about 1860, and in 1862 he came to Iowa to spend his remaining days with his son, the subject of this sketch. His death occurred in January, 1881, he having reached the advanced age of ninety-two years. Polly (Moore) Poyneer, the mother of A. N. Poyneer, was a native of Salisbury, Connecticut, where she resided until 1860; then came west and after 1862 lived with her son. Her death took place in 1873. She reared three children, Edward M., Hannah S., now Mrs. Clinton Helm, of Rockford, Illinois; and Alfred N., who is the subject of this sketch. Alfred was reared on a farm, was given advantages so that he acquired a good common school education, then taught school for a few years, after which he acted as traveling salesman and collector for an eastern manufacturing house until 1861, when he came to Iowa, and at once settled on section 5 of Highland township, where he had previously purchased nearly 400 acres. He made this his home until the spring of 1877, since which time he has lived in the village of Montour. Mr. Poyneer now owns 800 acres of land and is extensively engaged in stock farming. In politics he was reared a Democrat and adhered to that faith until breaking out of the rebellion, since which time he has been an active worker in the Republican ranks. He has held various local offices and for many years was a member of the County Board of Supervisors. During this time he formed a large acquaintance and as he was an efficient officer he was held in the highest esteem throughout the county. He makes an active worker in the General Assembly and is making a record honorable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. Mr. Poyneer has been twice married. In August 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Lucy J. Todd, daughter of Alfred and Mary A. Todd of St. Joseph county, Michigan. She died in February, 1878, leaving two daughters, Gertrude A. and Lucy May. In June, 1880 He married Lizzie Frantz, daughter of Joshua and Matilda Frantz, of Highland township, Tama county. Mr. Poyneer is a gentleman with unblemished character, who is courteous to all. He is a good financier and an excellent manager in public as well as private affairs. He takes a great interest in educational matters and in fact anything tending to better the welfare of man. His home, situated in the south part of the village of Montour, is surrounded with all conveniences.

 alicewoods99 added this on 26 Mar 2010

 princesspiper2 originally submitted this to [Davis Family Tree](#) on 27

Oct 2007

This article comes from "History of Tama County Chapter XIII. It tells of Alfred Nelson Poyneer's life.

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Alfred N Poyneer

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Death **28 Aug 1897** in [Montour, Tama, Iowa, United States](#)

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1831 29 Jul	Birth Salisbury, Litchfield, Connecticut, United States	6 source citations
1850 Age: 19	Residence Salisbury, Litchfield, Connecticut	1 source citation
1866 Age: 35	Residence Iowa	1 source citation
1880 Age: 49	Residence Montour, Tama, Iowa, United States	1 source citation
1885 Age: 54	Residence Montour	1 source citation
1895 Age: 64	Residence Mantana, Tama, Iowa	1 source citation
1897 28 Aug Age: 66	Death Montour, Tama, Iowa, United States	2 source citations

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1850 United States Federal Census

1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Birth, Residence**

1880 United States Federal Census

1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Residence, Birth**

Ancestry Family Trees

This citation provides evidence for Alfred N Poyneer

Iowa Cemetery Records

2 citations provide evidence for **Birth, Name, Death**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

1 citation provides evidence for **Name, Birth, Residence**

Iowa State Census, 1895

1 citation provides evidence for **Birth, Residence, Name**

U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918

1 citation provides evidence for **Residence, Name**

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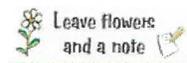
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