Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative: BARRETT, ORSMUND M.  Senator: BARRETT, ORSMUND M.

1. Birthday and place: 28 May 1837, Oswego Co., NY

2. Marriage (s) date place: Ellen C. Waggoner, (NY c. 1841 – ), probably bef 1860, as she is wife in 1860 census, but GAR record says m. 1864.

3. Significant events for example:
   A. Business: farmer, lawyer


6. Public Offices:
   A. Local
   B. State: 1st Lt. Co. #, 38th Ia Inf
   C. National


8. Children: (1) Chrzstey O. (c. 1861 –); (2) Nellie E. (c. 1866 –); (3) Warner (c. 1870 –); (4) Paul D. (c. 1872 –); (5) Jessie (c. 1878 –)

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
He attended Folly Seminary at Utica, New York, and graduated from law school at Albany, New York.

12. Other applicable information
Former in Bur Oak Twp, Winneshiek Co., on 1860 census, with Ellen. He does not appear on 1870 census. In 1880 he is lawyer in Sheldon. Came to Sheldon 1875 and began practice of law there that year.


Was leading attorney in several law offices in Sheldon. Story in county history says he was chess aficionado, and one day when he had hired Irishman to dig his garden, add told him to dig until he returned from town, he started playing a chess game and when he came home the Irishman had dug a hole over ten feet deep. Took a day to fill up the hole.

Platted 5th addition to Sheldon.

Had kidney disease; because of health moved to San Diego c. 1894.
## Sources Log For Legislation Entries

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### Notes


**Biographical Sketch** of the 22nd General Assembly, 1899, p. 36-37.
early evening on horse back to attend a grange meeting, and when he was returning home had completely lost his bearings, got turned around as men will after dark on the prairie, and got lost. He was taken in and put to bed, but was all right in the morning. C. P. Jones also went to Dakota the same year with Mr. Klindt, and afterwards to the Pacific coast, where he now resides. A nephew of Mr. Mennig's, S. L. McCallum, while here in 1896, was curious enough over Jones' log house, to make a picture frame out of the wood.

The writer came to O'Brien county in the fall of 1870, and having boarded with the family of W. C. Butterfield at Durant, did, upon Mr. Butterfield's return from O'Brien county in the summer of 1870, catch some of the pioneer spirit and enthusiasm with which Mr. Butterfield was thoroughly imbued. I came up with Mr. Butterfield in September, 1870, and selected the southwest quarter of section 32 in Floyd township, and a part of which is now an addition to Sheldon.

The first act was to build a shack which Mr. Butterfield and myself erected in a day. It was 6 by 8, that is, the walls, and we laid a few boards across the top for a roof. A piece of an old horse blanket constituted the floor, and a window frame with every light out, was inserted among the sods in the south wall for a window, while a piece of board, laid up against the building, where there was an aperture, we called a door. In filing at the land office it was required to state that the building on the claim had a roof, a door, a floor and
general land, abstract and law business and later publishing a newspaper. In 1895 he removed to Des Moines, where he died. Walker was an indefatigable worker, of great personal bravery, and an intense fighter in his business and legal enterprises.

Orsmond M. Barrett, at one time the leading lawyer of Sheldon, was born in 1837, served in the Civil War as a Union soldier, and settled in the practice of his profession at Sheldon in 1875. He was at various times associated with Charley Allen, Alfred Morton, C. H. Bullis and S. A. Callvert, his name always heading the firm. He was a representative in the nineteenth General Assembly, and senator in the twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-second and twenty-third General Assemblies of Iowa. In his later years he removed to California, residing at National City, where he died March 1, 1899.

John T. Stearns, born in 1841, was admitted to practice in Franklin county, Iowa, and came to Primghar in 1875, where he was interested in real estate ventures in connection with his legal practice. For many years he resided at Chamberlain, South Dakota, where he was actively engaged in law and land business until 1895, when he returned to O'Brien county and actively engaged in the practice of law. He made a specialty of land title litigation and was for many years associated with other attorneys in the conduct of litigation in behalf of settlers on the litigated railroad lands of the county. This litigation was generally successful, as most of his clients had secured and remained in possession of the lands, but the contest was long and arduous and J. T. Stearns' ability led in no small degree to the success of that series of legal battles. He died March 14, 1907, without an enemy in the county.

Charles Allen, familiarly known as "Charley," was born in 1835, admitted to practice in 1868, and came to the county in 1875 and associated himself at Sheldon with O. M. Barrett in the practice of law, the firm being known as Barrett & Allen. In 1879 we find him at Primghar temporarily engaged in the drug business, but he soon returned to his profession and was a successful practitioner in the county until 1881. Later he was a practicing attorney at Lander, Wyoming, where he died in 1911. He was a good lawyer, absolutely honest in money matters, and a man of varied talents, being at one time leader of the band.

J. L. E. Peck engaged in the practice of law at Primghar in 1877 and with but a short interruption, during the time his daughters were receiving
It all worked out to exact time and fact. Tom's leg was all fixed up true to the expert surgeon, ready for the show with the boys. They actually carried him up stairs by main strength, some dozen assisting. In the meantime "Pomp" had said to the town boys that it would be a mean trick to leave the planted weed decorations at his office, under such affliction. They had all carefully removed same when Tom arrived. To round it up, when the right time came, and after they had all gone through with their great sympathies and carefully handling him to his room, he jumped up and danced all over and down stairs and over the hotel, and all wound up in a hilarious time during the evening. But "Pomp" could work both sides of such a joke to perfection, and on good sized scale.

"POMP" M'CORMACK ON THE COUNTY CAPITOL LOOKATORY.

This time the joke was on "Pomp" himself. One Sunday forenoon a bunch of the court house officials set up a job, and induced all hands, including "Pomp," to go up on Mt. Aetna to the top of the capitol building, the "Court House Lookatory." It worked, without "Pomp" hooking on, and all hands landed in the cupola. Keeping "Pomp" engaged in conversation, they one by one slid down the ladder in the attic, and drew the ladder after them, leaving "Pomp" as monarch of all he surveyed. For some reason, he had no means of escape. The court house rats for once in their lives all went to church, but first passing the word all along the line, around the square and at hotels, that "Pomp" was holding Sunday services up on high, but that no one should listen to him nor attend upon his services. He remained there until sometime in the afternoon. It was one time that he thought justice was called for.

DIG TILL I COME BACK.

It was Col. Osmond M. Barrett, an attorney at Sheldon and for eight years state senator of this district, who loved a game of chess. He hired an Irishman to dig and prepare a hot bed in the spring. He started the man at work by platting off the size desired, and told him to dig away until he returned and went down town. He was soon engaged in a game of chess. He did not return until nearly night. As he approached his home he could see some spadefuls of dirt coming up over a great pile. The man had proved faithful. He had dug a great hole some ten or twelve feet deep. He had dug until he came back. It took another day to fill it up.
O. M. Barrett Dead.

Our community was greatly shocked and surprised when the news came over the wire last Wednesday, that one of Sheldon's former citizens, an old pioneer of this county and at one time a representative of this district in the state senate, O. M. Barrett, had died at his home in National City, Cal.

Mr. Barrett was well known all over northwest Iowa and the length of time he served as state senator from this district gave him a wide acquaintance all over the state.

He was one of the early settlers of Sheldon, coming here in 1873. He formed a law partnership with Charley Allen, which firm, Barrett & Allen, continued in business here for years until Mr. Allen's removal to the west. Then he formed a partnership with Judge Morton, and later joined himself with Charley Bullis. The inexorable law of nature has now carried every member of those last two firms, Barrett, Morton and Bullis, into the great beyond. His last partnership was formed with Judge Calvert, who is now located in the state of Washington.

Mr. Barrett, like all of the rest of us, had his virtues and his faults, his enemies and his friends. He was a devoted worshiper of Mammon and deeply absorbed in the accumulation of worldly goods in which pursuit he was highly successful.

He moved to California about eight years ago and in his frequent visits here since was full of praise of the land of fruit and flowers.

Mr. Barrett was endowed with a very tender nature. A pathetic and touching story would immediately fill his eyes with tears and his love of home, wife and children, and keen sympathy for the unfortunate and suffering was great indeed. As a lawyer he never distinguished himself, though his firm always had their share of the business while he was located here, a period covering nearly a quarter of a century.

He was about sixty-five years of age, leaves a wife and several children, now residing at National City. None of us knew of his sickness, and it is supposed that his death was sudden and unexpected. It was a surprise to all here, who knew him, but the summons of the heavenly Father gave him no warning and when least expected.

Local Happening

- Barrett Bros. have a new ad.
- The Eagle office for job print.
- Henry Gram went to Omaha.
- L. F. Barnett was over from S. yesterday.
- E. J. Skewes was here from I yesterday.
- Get your sale bills printed in Eagle office.
- T. C. Lewis, of Hartley was in the city last Monday.
- S. E. Gannon was in the city last Tuesday.
- County Attorney Waldsmith in Minnesota Thursday.
- Miss Jesse Wilber came down here last Friday afternoon.
- For a neat job of printing call at the Eagle office.
- Miss Harriett Burnell attended the Holliet-Roe wedding last Tuesday.
- When needing anything in the city, turn to the Eagle.
- Miss Lucile Keith spent Friday with relatives at Rock Island.
- First church of Christ, Scientist, services 10.45 a.m.; Subject "Substitution".
- If you have lost, found, want, or sell anything, advertise in the Eagle.
- Curt Cutting, the popular Mexican restaurant man, was in the city today.
- N. F. Worth, the only one Cloutier in Sheldon has a new look.
- The Collins boys shipped their farm to South Dakota from Boyden, Thursday of the week.
- It is reported that the "Ice Cream Separator man" caused the loss of many a meal.
- Mrs. Geo. Barragar went up to Montana Tuesday morning to visit in a cot days with her daughter, Mrs. Brown.
- C. D. Ray, who now has his own store in Sheldon, has made a professional trip to St. Paul Sunday.
Montgomery has been announced candidate for Representative in county in addition to Bailey others. As Representative Bailey Mr. Montgomery both live in the township there is every pres-that there will be a "hot time"eton when the Reading caucus is

**STARRETT BROS.**

Leaders of Popular Prices and Correct Styles.

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**THE LATE COL. BARRETT.**

Complimentary Press Tributes to the Memory of the Deceased Pioneer Citizen of Sheldon.

Alton Democrat: Col. O. M. Barrett was a brave soldier, a pioneer of the northwest, a lawyer of ability, Col. Barrett was a notable figure in state politics a number of years ago, was a strong Republican in his political beliefs, but loved justice. He possessed a genial and sunny nature that was a pleasure to come in contact with; he was large-hearted and his hand clasp was like a benediction.

Only a few months ago Col. Barrett was in the city looking after the old Alton House property which he owns, and while here paid us a pleasant call. At that time he seemed to be in excellent health and spirits, and remarked that "the climate was so mild and salubrious out in California, that one just lives on until they get so old that they grow tired of living, and enjoy every minute of it."

Many will sincerely mourn his sudden death, for it might be said of Col. Barrett, that he was a good man and made the world better for having lived in it.

Des Moines Capital: Former State Senator O. M. Barrett, a pioneer settler of O'Brien county, died recently in California. There was an honest, candid trait of character about Mr. Barrett that caused him to be highly esteemed among his associates in the general assembly, all of whom will learn of his death with sincere regret.

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Southwest O'Brien Items.

Paulina Times: One hundred signers have been secured to the association agreement to build a German hall on the Ewald farm just east of town.

D. H. Adkins and family will leave Paulina about the 10th for their new home in Tehama county, California.

A little bird sat on a telephone pole,
Sunning its soft brown breast;
It sang of MASTER'S SPECIFICS and said:
"Now this is the very best, best."

E. L. BARRAGAR,
Manufacturer,
CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,
Sheldon, Iowa.

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Not How Cheap
But How Well!
The Sheldon dramatic company, composed of Pomp McCormack, Wm. Strong, N. H. Barnum, F. T. Piper and others, visited LeMars.

H. B. Wyman was mayor, treasurer and school director.

O. M. BARRETT DEAD.

He Died Suddenly on Wednesday Morning at His Home in San Diego, California.

H. B. Wyman received a telegram soon after noon on Wednesday stating that O. M. Barrett had died at 9 a.m. that day. The telegram was from J. P. Christiansen, presumably a neighbor. No particulars were given, nor has any further word been received up to this time, either by Mr. Wyman or Mrs. Bullis, Mr. Barrett’s sister. It is not known by anybody here that Mr. Barrett had been ill, hence the presumption that his death occurred suddenly.

Sheldon people were shocked by the announcement, and additional intelligence is awaited with anxious interest. Mr. and Mrs. Barrett visited here several weeks last fall. Mr. Barrett was known to be afflicted with a kidney trouble, but he was naturally so genial and uncomplaining that people here were not at all prepared to hear of his death, and are at a loss to know what the immediate cause of his decease could have been.

Mr. Barrett was 62 years of age. During his many years’ residence in Sheldon he was prominent and popular. He served several terms in the House of Representatives and Senate from this part of the state and had an extended acquaintance and a great many personal and political friends. A man of means, he lived well and was especially devoted to his family, which in turn was more than ordinarily attached to him. He came to Sheldon from Burr Oak, Iowa, nearly 27 years ago. Some seven years ago he moved with his family to San Diego, California. His life was insured in the Northwestern Mutual of Milwaukee for $8,000, and in the Bankers' Life for $4,000. His sister, Mrs. Mary Bullis, understands that he carried other life insurance, in all aggregating $20,000 or more.

THE SECRET OF A SUCCESS.

Case of Arthur Stewart—How He Is Prospered By a Few Years’ Industry and Good Management.

Arthur Stewart and family depart for their newly-acquired farm near Valley Springs, S. D., this morning.

Arthur is a noteworthy example of a man who can do as he wishes. About twenty years ago he began work in the Prairie elevators on the moderate of $23.00 per month. He had stiled a few hundred dollars he accumulated up to that time eighty acres of Sioux county land. A year later he bought 100 acres of more, and $1,100 in cash. For twelve years he supplied the Arlington with milk for service which he lived another income of $35.00 month. Both Mr. Logan and Mr. Becker speak in high terms of him. His way of managing things, steady industry and the increase in the value of the 80-acre farm he owned, resulted in his becoming exceptionally well-to-do in only a few years.

Mr. Arthur has done other men do. His success shows that by working early and late and by being vigorous, careful and temperate one can get on in the world, even if he begins at the bottom and has only a small income to go on. It often is the amount of a man's revenue that makes the difference, and even when a man is suffering from illness or from any other cause, he is the more sure of his success if he can continue to work hard.

Sanborn will have three millinery stores this summer. Ought to be a good place to buy hats.

The young people of the Epworth League will hold a "Shingle Social" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Wolf Saturday evening, March 4.

The young people gave a party in honor of her two daughters Thursday evening.

Rev. Clearwater of Lake Park preached at the Methodist church last Sunday. The pastor, Rev. Hugger, was conducting revival meetings at that place.

Many of our citizens expect to attend court at Primghar next week. The case of Parsons comes up, also the fellow who stole a harness from H. Telkamp.

The Franklin township Eating club gave Wm. Dummit and family a great surprise last Wednesday. About thirty people attended the party and had a royal good time.

Theo. Zimmerman of northwest Franklin township sold a load of live fat cattle to the East Side meat markets, the buyers a few dollars more. He bought 100 nice sheep from Geo. Peck.

Cedar Rapids Republican.