

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Bruce, James Joseph Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Calhoun and Pocahontas Counties Iowa

1. Birthday and place 6 Nov 1843 Oswego, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place \_\_\_\_\_

Mary J. Bruce 4 Mar 1867

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1882; he was a leader in in the organization of the Pocahontas County Mutual Insurance Company and was the secretary for many years.

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Education; merchant; journalist; prone physician; lawyer; real estate agent; farmer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly 1886

6. Public Offices

A. Local Elected Pocahontas County Superintendent of Schools in 1867; Justice of the Peace; county supervisor; county treasurer elected 1869; first Mayor of Rolfe;

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

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 29 Sept 1927 Rolfe, Iowa; buried Clinton-Harford Cemetery, Rolfe, Iowa

8. Children Mary Ellen (died in infancy 1882); Edward E. (died in 1915); George H. (died 1926); William H.; Marion; Robert; James; John E.; Bertha Belle (Mrs. Kelley); Harold C.

9. Names of parents Thomas and Mary (Auld) Bruce

10. Education Educated in the public schools Simcoe  
County, Ontario

11. Degrees Attended Normal School

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He was born at Oswego, New York while his parents and four siblings were on their way from County Monaghan, Ireland to Simcoe County, Ontario.
- His mother died when he was less than one year, so he was raised in homes of neighbors and by an older sister.
- He started teaching at age 13 and then attended normal school and continued teaching in the same district for 3 more years.
- He changed to a neighboring school to teach, the school board, a neighborhood quarrel developed and he left the community.
- He set out for the west to Chicago, then to Iowa Falls, He met David Hallow along the way who explained the advantages of Pocahontas County, Iowa and that is where he went, arriving in 1866.
- He was granted a certificate to teach school and taught throughout the county.
- In 1869 he moved to Old Rolfe, the county seat in three days.
- He lived there until the founding of the new town of Rolfe in 1882.
- He established a general store in Old Rolfe in which the post office was located with H. D. McEwen.
- He practiced medicine and had a drug store until Dr. H. H. Beam arrived in 1881.
- He established Pocahontas County's first newspaper, The Pocahontas  
Journal that was published 1869-1877.
- In 1888 he established a Rolfe newspaper - The Rolfe Reveille, the



**TOWNSHIP FARM  
HOLDS MEETING**

Township unit of the held a meeting at the an home on the even- 29. Considering road onditions there was a e. An excellent pro- nd , consisting of sical numbers by Rus- hy Bower and Warren es. Arlo Ives gave a the Pig Club Did for ne outstanding features had earned \$85.00 in airs. Others had done he work had kept him mployed at something - learning to care for ty Agent Bowers gave vations made while on outh. Various meth- he cited were interest- bservations on the oil / so. Mrs. VanBloom College gave a talk on work, first congratulat- n its attendance, musi- splendid programs, and the young folks are opp- rtunities offered in h Farm Bureau work. gave a talk on "What has Meant to Me." She work of the club for the stated its purposes for me of the work of the

# The Ro

Consolidated With

VOLUME XVIII. NUMBER 27.

ROLFE, POCAHONTAS COU

## Pocahontas Journal.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY AND NORTH WESTERN IOWA.

Rolfe, Pocahontas Co., Iowa, May 5, 1870.

No 88

**JAMES JOSEPH BRUCE**

Pioneer Educator, Journalist, Merchant and Lawyer, who passed away at his home in Rolfe, Thursday, September 29th, 1927

ROLFE

At the Pocahontas Club it Basketball at Rolfe 17-18. athletics big draw conducted successfully is very schools event nothing ity to the tournament

sader, an erary ab his Reve and associate of The

Has Meant to Me." She work of the club for the stated its purposes for some of the work of the shown at the Rolfe Fall county and state

Ives was elected a del-conference at Ames to 26-27. At the close of refreshments were ser-vice committee, after py forty present tend-Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman itality.

meeting of the Garfield t will be held at the n home Thursday, Oct., at which time officers

**MEMORIAL BUREAU SELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

enthusiastic meeting held Moines township school week Ernest Vaughn rector for the year 1928 . Ham was elected sec- the ng of a Women's was left over until the ting because the ladies cult to make a choice. dsen was very seriously the place, but it was d prefer to devote her the Girls' Club, as she of the Girls' Club com-

m committee was very gulated on its line-up stunts arranged for the ime games were played ng and humorous stunts This part of the meet- in the school gymnasium owed by a wienie roast.

**MEMORIAL BUREAU LEADER VISITS TO COUNTY**

VanBloom of Dayton county last Thurs- VanBloom is leader of the rk for the Iowa Farm leration in the sixteen this

# J. J. Bruce, Pioneer Citizen of County, Called to Reward

J. J. Bruce died at his home in this city at 5:30 p. m., Thursday, Sept. 29, 1927, after an illness of eight months almost to the minute after being confined to bed. It was on the 29th day of January at about 5:00 p. m. that he was assisted to bed, not to leave it again during his lifetime. It soon became apparent that he had suffered a stroke of paralysis that had rendered his left side helpless. In the early part of his illness he seemed to suffer from stomach trouble, but if in the later months he suffered pain, he did not admit it, and always in response to inquiries said he felt good and had no pain. He was a patient sick man; never complained during his illness. He feared nothing, not even death, and had repeatedly said he was ready to go when the call came. He was appreciative of every-thing done for him.

### Early Life in Canada

James Joseph Bruce was born at Oswego, New York, Nov. 6, 1843, while his parents, Thos. and Mary (Auld) Bruce, were on their way from County Monaghan, Ireland, to Simcoe County, Ontario. He was the youngest of five children, all of whom he out-lived by many years. His mother passed away when he was less than two years of age, and he was raised in the homes of neighbors and by an older sister. He was educated in the public schools of Simcoe county, and at the age of eighteen years, taught his first term of school. After this he attended normal school for a few months and then returned to teaching and continued three years in the same district. Slightly after the school building was burned, a neigh-

the then county superintendent, W. D. McEwen, at Old Rolfe, and granted a certificate to teach. We have often heard Mr. McEwen speak of the splendid qualifications shown and examination passed. There were only four school houses in the county at the time, and Mr. Bruce first taught in the Walsh school of Lizard town-ship. In 1867 he erected a school house in District No. 3, the Wiese district, and in 1868, assisted by Michael O'Shea, one in No. 4, the Boyd district. In 1867 he was elected county superintendent of schools. At this election he was also elected to two other offices — justice of the peace and county supervisor.

### Married in 1867

On March 4, 1867, he was united in marriage to Mary J. Price, a resident of the township since 1865. Mrs. Bruce survives him, and during his last illness was constantly at his side, night and day, if needed. She refers to their life of sixty years together as a happy one, without a misunder-standing or trouble of any kind. They have truly been lovers for sixty years. To this union were born ten children, eight sons and two daughters. Of these Mary Ellen died in infancy dur-ing the typhoid epidemic of 1882; Edward E. departed this life in 1915 at the age of thirty years; and Geo. W. passed away in 1926 at the age of fifty-three. The living children are William U., Omaha, Neb.; Marion, Robert and James, of Rolfe; John E., Des Moines; Bertha Belle Wilcox of Rolfe; Harold C. of Des Moines. All of them appreciate the advantage of having had a kind and loving father, always setting a Christian example and giving good advice. In addition to the he leaves nineteen grand-children and fifteen great-grandchild- ren.

### Member of Old Rolfe

In 1869 Bruce was elected to the off of county treasurer and moved to Old Rolfe, the county seat in that early day. Here he lived until the founding of the new town of Rolfe in 1882 upon the arrival of the rail-

etary of his Res- far and associat- of The later J.

Thus a pione- pioneer in all a fairly the eye- law an 1882 by moter a the De- built th- labored bought to org- Co., wh- this lir- was on- ization Mutual ber of spite o- time fo- and wa- interest- try. O- say th- his ton- had ev- power- him al-

After town c- mayor, the sch- peace. eighth- houn co- in 1886 the cou- years o- ties, five chairm- county- a valu- rendere- lessly. inger's various he find a faithf-

## LEADER S VISIT TO COUNTY

VanBloom of Dayton Pocahontas county last Thursday. VanBloom is leader of the party for the Iowa Farm Bureau in the sixteen districts of this congressional district to a group of ladies Thursday afternoon, and at the Township Farm Bureau Friday night.

VanBloom said that: "The Iowa Farm Bureau is to be an organization strong and the same comforts, opportunities and the same treatment and labor as people in the cities enjoy."

## LIND MARRIED

Lind and Mr. W. W. VanBloom married in Minneapolis. Miss Lind has held a position with the Glass Brothers for about twelve years, and the last two years has been a city salesman for Lennox Lumber Company in Minneapolis.

She is the daughter of Mr. VanBloom of Rolfe. While she was known as a charming, talented and affable stranger to Rolfe congratulations are offered to her by friends of Mrs. Bruff in the city.

## WARD PASSES

The venerable father of the late W. W. VanBloom, Wm. VanBloom, passed away at the age of 85 in this city Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, after a considerable duration of illness. He was one of the family, four in all, who have been with him during the last few days. The funeral is being held Friday afternoon. An obituary notice will be published next week.

in the public schools of Simcoe county, and at the age of eighteen years, taught his first term of school. After this he attended normal school for a few months and then returned to teaching and continued three years in the same district. Slightly after this he changed to a neighboring school, the school building was burned, a neighborhood quarrel developed and Mr. Bruce decided to leave the community. Armed with a first-grade certificate, he started for the land of promise — the west. Fate led him to Chicago and then over the route of the Illinois Central Railway, then building, to Ackley, Iowa, the end of the road. A stage took him to Iowa Falls, and there, falling in with David Wallace, another Canadian journeying west, the advantages of Pocahontas county were presented to him and he decided it was the land of destiny. The journey from Iowa Falls, thru Fort Dodge to Lizard township, was made on foot. The distance was more than seventy miles, and the belongings needed for immediate use were carried on the back. Streams had to be forded and other obstacles overcome, but it was these conditions that made the pioneer a man of courage, faith, perseverance and physical strength. Mr. Bruce was not among the first settlers of the county. Ten years previous a colony had settled on the Lizard, and a few had settled in the northeast corner of the county. After the Civil War opened settlements ceased and those who were already in the county had to abandon it temporarily to earn a living, or remain therein on starvation rations and amidst great hardships.

## Arrived in County in 1866

Following the war the county began to fill up, and it was during this second influx of citizens that the subject of this sketch arrived in the county during the summer of 1866. The population of the county at that time was slightly over two hundred. August 20, 1866, he was examined by

to the county leaves nineteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

## Me Old Rolfe

In 1869 Bruce was elected to the office of county treasurer and moved to Old Rolfe, the county seat in that early day. Here he lived until the founding of the new town of Rolfe in 1882, upon the arrival of the railroads. In an early day, in partnership with W. D. McEwen, he established a general store at the old town, in which the postoffice was conducted. It was the community center of those times. The community was without a physician, and the only means of calling one was by riding on horseback over poor roads, first to Fort Dodge, and later to Humboldt. To fill an emergency he practiced medicine and conducted a drug store until the arrival of Dr. W. W. Beam in 1881, when he gladly gave up this responsibility, which he had filled only to be of service to humanity.

## Establishes First Newspaper

We find him in other activities, for in 1869 he assisted in establishing Pocahontas county's first newspaper, The Pocahontas Journal, the first issue of which appeared June 17 of that year, and the second issue being circulated in Lizard township July 12. This paper was printed by the late B. F. Gue at Fort Dodge and was called into existence because of the need of a newspaper for official publications. The laws having changed and the necessity no longer existing, the publication was discontinued in 1872. As was the case in so many of his activities, W. D. McEwen was associated with him in the publication of this newspaper at first, and later Thos. L. MacVey was his associate. This newspaper venture must have been pleasing to him, for in 1888 he founded The Rolfe Reveille at the new town and continued as its editor for several years. During this experience he came into prominence as an able writer. He was a born cru-

chairman of the county is a valuable rendered less. inger's various he rendered a faithful ever qu integrity either county's mote the

For the Bruce in ing a re a stren an acre of late city, wh ship of visits of came as was un but he His de rugged result a total tobacco manhood mind he evitable death to

Funer Presbyt noon, f conduct friends, standing tances filled th the last parted mon wa a pion eleventh with th The dep riarch,

sader, an open fighter, had much literary ability and a penchant pen, and his Reveille was known and quoted far and wide. Frank H. Plumb was associated with him in the publication of The Reveille for a few years, and later J. H. Lighter was a partner.

Admitted to Bar

Thus far we have found Mr. Bruce a pioneer educator, pioneer merchant, pioneer physician, pioneer journalist, in all of which fields he was counted fairly successful. But this was not the end of his activities. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1882 by Judge Duffie. He was a promoter and real estate agent, and when the Des Moines Valley Railway Co. built thru from Tara to Ruthven, he labored for the voting of a tax and bought the right-of-way. He helped to organize the Northwestern Land Co., which owned the townsites along this line, and was its president. He was one of the leaders in the organization of the Pocahontas County Mutual Insurance Co., and for a number of years was its secretary. In spite of all these activities he had time for the study of things spiritual and was known as one of the most interesting class leaders of the country. Of him we have heard ministers say that "he had more Scripture at his tongue's end than any man they had ever known." His remarkable power of memorizing continued with him almost to the end of life.

Rolfe's First Mayor

After the incorporation of the new town of Rolfe, he became its first mayor, also serving as president of the school board and justice of the peace. He represented the Seventy-eighth District, Pocahontas and Calhoun counties, in the state legislature in 1886-1887, and was a member of the county board of supervisors nine years during the 'eighties and 'nineties, five of which years he acted as chairman. His knowledge of the county in every department made him a valuable servant in any office. He rendered conscientious service fearlessly. Of his public service Tucker's County History says: "In the

haifer, her sales amounted to \$414.00. But the training she received in club work was worth more than her profits.

Marjory was on the beef demonstration team that won first place at the Iowa State Fair, Walter Campney being the other member of the team.

A new calf club is to be organized soon, and anyone interested may get complete information from County Agent Bowers. Bankers have already indicated that they will loan money to any reliable farm boy or girl who wants to buy a good steer. The corrected figures on the sale of the calves in Chicago Tuesday of last week are given below:

Marjory Vaughn	900lbs.	\$16.00
Archie Layton	820lbs.	15.25
Walter Campney	840lbs.	15.25
Virgil Vaughn	1000lbs.	15.25
Wilbert Layton	860lbs.	14.00
Walter Campney	750lbs.	13.75
Robert Melson	860lbs.	13.25
Marjory Vaughn	840lbs.	12.50
Edward Flaherty	900lbs.	13.00
Virgil Vaughn	890lbs.	12.00

Ten head: total weight 8,660lbs.; average weight, 866lbs.; total money, \$1,215.93; average price, \$14.04.

D. M. T. WOMAN'S CLUB TO MEET

The D. M. T. Woman's Club will meet Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the school building. Each member is urged to invite one person to unite with the club. Don't forget that this will be dues-paying day.

from his home country on faith and sought a new home in a land of promise. He drew the analogy still further by stating that he took the faith of his fathers with him, and clung to it to the end. Reference was made to a Scriptural quotation contained in a letter of recent years from the departed to Rev. Lester which showed that his faith had been unshaken by the disappointments of life and the frailties of human nature. Christ was his hope, and without Him there was none. The floral offerings were profuse. The departed loved them, but had said he preferred them in life rather than afterward. He had them both places. The music beautiful. Everything about the service was lovely, and the members of

students of the Spe spring contracted with Lyceum Bureau for the quality numbers for the plan to start their tick campaign tomorrow and the support and encourage people of Rolfe and co

The students are showing confidence in our people price of season tickets Adult tickets will cost for the three number can hardly give the ex ing able to afford to at the children. Tickets numbers for grade Junior High will cost cents. For children Senior high schools th will cost only sixty ce usually low prices w sale of many tickets, I know that Rolfe will

The programs for th provide for varied ent instruction. The first are combinations o music and readings. readings will feature ber. Eleven different i be presented to the at them being harp, violin, saxophones and The first number, th Trio, is scheduled for Oct. 21. A packed I ticket holders should bination on their appe The other numbers c evening, No. 18, and T Feb. 28. The students hearty response in the campaign.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Annual Guest I Woman's Club will be E. church on the after Oct. 7. Mrs. W. F. E will give a number of hope every member c Club will be present guests.

FUNERAL HOME

The McIntires have for the Trick residence

years during the dignities and im-  
ties, five of which years he acted as  
chairman. His knowledge of the  
county in every department made him  
a valuable servant in any office. He  
rendered conscientious service fear-  
lessly. Of his public service Flick-  
inger's County History says: "In the  
various offices to which he was called  
he rendered the people of this county  
a faithful and efficient service. None  
ever questioned his ability or his in-  
tegrity of purpose, and no one was  
either better acquainted with the  
county's affairs or endeavored to pro-  
mote them more unselfishly than he."

#### Years of Retirement

For the past twenty-five years Mr.  
Bruce has lived in retirement, enjoy-  
ing a rest from what must have been  
a strenuous life, part of this time on  
an acreage adjoining the city, and  
of late years in a modest home in the  
city, where he enjoyed the compani-  
ship of a loving helpmate, and the  
visits of friends and relatives as they  
came and went. Towards the last he  
was unable to converse with friends,  
but he always said he knew them.  
His declining months revealed the  
ruggedness of his constitution and the  
result of clean living. He had been  
a total abstainer from liquor and  
tobacco during all the years of mature  
manhood. Long before the end the  
mind had reconciled itself to the in-  
evitable, but the physical body fought  
death to the last ditch.

#### The Funeral Service

Funeral services were held at the  
Presbyterian church Sunday after-  
noon, the pastor, Rev. J. P. Lester,  
conducting the same. Relatives and  
friends, many of the latter of long  
standing and who came long dis-  
tances under unpleasant conditions,  
filled the church to its capacity to pay  
the last tribute one can pay to a de-  
parted loved one and friend. The ser-  
mon was exceedingly appropriate for  
a pioneer. It was based upon the  
eleventh chapter of Hebrews, dealing  
with the nature and fruits of faith.  
The departed was likened to the patri-  
arch, Abraham of old, who went out

Christ was his hope, and without Him  
there was none. The floral offerings  
were profuse. The departed loved  
them, but had said he preferred them  
in life rather than afterward. He  
had them both places. The music was  
beautiful. Everything about the ser-  
vice was lovely, and the members of  
the family feel deeply grateful to  
all who participated, and to those who  
tried to smooth the rugged way dur-  
ing Father's illness as well as after  
the final blow had fallen. Interment  
was made in the family lot at Clinton-  
Garfield Cemetery.

The relatives from a distance who  
attended the funeral were: Mr. and  
Mrs. W. U. Bruce and Dr. and Mrs.  
Jerald J. Bruce of Omaha; Mr. and  
Mrs. D. C. Kent of Quimby; Mr. and  
Mrs. J. D. Kent of Des Moines; Mr.  
and Mrs. Dan Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs.  
James Bruce, Merwin and George  
Bruce of Fort Dodge; Mr. and Mrs.  
John E. Bruce and LeRoy Bruce, Mr.  
and Mrs. Geo. Thompson, Mr. and  
Mrs. Harold C. Bruce and daughter,  
Carol, and Mrs. Blanche Shaffer of  
Des Moines; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. H.  
Price of Sac City; Mrs. Cecil Dixon  
of Waterloo, and Mr. and Mrs. Al  
Turnquist of Chicago, who repre-  
sented the family of the older sister,  
Mrs. Keating, who had been a mother  
to Father in his younger days.

We are writing this sketch of  
Father's life as a letter to the many  
friends at a distance who have scan-  
ned the columns of The Arrow week  
after week to learn his condition and  
know they will be anxious to hear of  
Mother. She has stood the ordeal  
nobly, like the brave woman she is,  
and like she has been all thru his ill-  
ness. A more faithful wife and  
mother never lived. She has given of  
herself for an age for the comfort and  
care of others, and we are hoping that  
she may be spared to us yet many  
years, that we may show her our ap-  
preciation of her splendid worth.  
Mother is seventy-six; Father was  
nearly eighty-four years of age when  
he answered the final call.

hope every member of  
Club will be present  
guests.

#### FUNERAL HOME FOR

The McIntires have  
for the Trick residence  
of Garfield and Elm str  
remodel the lower floor  
home. The Leland McI  
was traded in on the  
family will occupy the  
the upper story, in fact  
moved. The lower floo  
be made over to fit t  
which work will be don  
further improvements  
later. The McIntires  
when they are thru wi  
Rolfe will have as fine a  
as can be found outsid  
Iowa. Funeral homes a  
demand more and more  
to be splendidly suppl  
line.

#### ROLFE BARBERS BO

The barbers of Rolfe  
with those over the sta  
their prices. We hold  
fend the barbers, but  
recently enacted a con  
greatly increases the c  
ing. It is in line with  
that have taken place  
twenty years to increa  
doing business, but it s  
lic must have it. The  
a business today that h  
cost of conduct increa  
percent on account of  
port a 'commission'  
rules. Often the rules  
sion cause more increas  
itself. The law presc  
towels, sterilized inst  
each operation, and ma  
take time and cost mo  
demand these things  
they must pay for thei

The Methodist ladies  
as the date for their