

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Chamberlain, William H. Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Buchanan County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place Feb 1841 near Chelsea, Orange County, Vermont

2. Marriage (s) date place

Kate Wilson fall 1870

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Traveling salesman for the Iowa Grocery Company

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

C. Profession Merchant

4. Church membership \_\_\_\_\_

5. Sessions served 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies 1884, 1886

6. Public Offices 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1890, 1892

A. Local Independence City treasurer 1879-1880; Chairman of the Buchanan County Central Committee 1882-1883; postmaster at Independence 1894-1898

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

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

7. Death 7 Apr 1901 Excelsior Springs, Missouri; Buried Oakwood Cemetery, Independence, Iowa

8. Children Rolfe

9. Names of parents \_\_\_\_\_

Chamberlin, William H.

10. Education Attended the academy at Royalton, Vermont  
for 3 years.

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information

Democrat

- His first 12 years were spent on the farm where he was born  
near Chelsea, Vermont.
- In 1853 he moved with his father's family to Ferrisville, Vermont  
where the elder Chamberlin was engaged in the hotel business.
- In 1855 they moved to Royalton, Vermont where he attended the  
academy for 3 years.
- In Royalton, Vermont he was employed in a general merchandise  
store for 2 years. Then he went to Northfield, Vermont  
and was employed by John P. Davis for 3 years.
- He came to Independence, Iowa in 1864 and worked with his  
brother, B. R. Chamberlin, in the grocery business, but soon sold  
out. He then formed a partnership with P. C. Hilcof and  
R. M. Chesley, but this didn't last.
- He returned to Vermont to spend the summer. He returned in  
January forming a partnership with P. C. Hilcof, R. M. Chesley,  
and H. H. Merce.
- He had many partnerships and businesses for several years, he  
had a traveling salesman business with a Dubuque, Iowa  
crocker house until fall 1870
- After his marriage he again engaged in the mercantile business  
in Independence, Iowa for 20 years.
- Hard times came in the 1890's so he had to close.

(over)

Chamberlin, William H.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source      Non Applicable      Applicable      Information obtained

~~Obituary - The Independence Conservative; Independence,  
Iowa, Wed. Apr. 10, 1901, p. 5, col. 4~~

# THE CONSERVATIVE.

GOEN & MILLER.

Ms. \$1.50 Per Year

Official Paper of City and County

INDEPENDENCE, IA., APR. 10, 1901



See my Slick Line of New Century Wall Paper. H. W. OLIVER.

### Week's Weather.

More clear and warm than heretofore. Rain all day Friday. Spring-like and warm latterly.

—Mrs. Willis Gill went to Hazleton, Friday.

—H. L. Waterous returned to Chicago, Friday.

—Buy a ticket to the charity ball, April 15.

—Charity Ball, April 15, at Munson Building.

—Miss Kate Schwartz is ill of malarial fever.

—A. M. Shellito returned to Chicago, Wednesday.

—Dr. Addison Ferry was up from Delhi, Sunday.

—J. W. Miller spent Sunday at his old home in Greene.

—Dick Skellev, of Ft. Dodge, visited here over Sunday.

—Miss Daisy Gelser visited at Manchester, Saturday.

—Bert Rider is in the city for a stay among old friends.

—E. E. Hasner was at Brandon on business, Saturday.

—E. E. Hageman was down from Waterloo, over Sunday.

—A. N. Todd left, last evening, on a business trip to Illinois.

—Every body will have a good time at the Charity Ball, April 15.

—Charlie Parker has gone to Waterloo to work in the machine shops.

—R. B. Raines was in Manchester, Sunday, assisting in Easter music.

—Mrs. Mae Sherman Allison, left, Saturday, for her home in State Center.

—H. Cassiday, now the despatcher on the I. C. at Waterloo, spent Sunday here.

—Miss Etta Romig spent last week with friends at West Union, returning Friday.

—F. A. Barker, of Chicago, was a guest in the W. N. Davis home, over Sunday.

## W. H. CHAMBERLIN PASSES AWAY

At Excelsior Springs for His Health, He Finds Relief Only in Death.

Early last week word was received here by intimate friends that W. H. Chamberlin was very ill, with no hope of recovery, at Excelsior Springs, Missouri where he had gone in January for the benefit of his health. A telegram received Sunday forenoon conveyed the sad intelligence that the expected end had come, Mr. Chamberlin breathing his last at an early hour that morning. Death was directly due to enlargement of the liver, complicated with stomach complaint and a general breaking down of the system. Mrs. Chamberlin and their only son and child, Rolfe, were at his bedside when the final summons came. The remains arrived here at 10 o'clock, yesterday morning, and were conveyed directly to Oakwood cemetery, where they were laid to rest with brief and simple services at the grave.

William H. Chamberlin was entering the sixty-first year of his life, having been born on a farm near Chelsea, in Orange county, Vermont, in February, 1841. The first twelve years of his life were passed on the farm where he was



born. In 1853 he removed with other members of his father's family to Gaysville, Vermont, where the elder Chamberlin engaged in the hotel business. Two years later they removed to Royalton, where William attended the academy for three years. He was employed there for two years in a general merchandise store, going then to Northfield, at that time an important railroad town, where he was employed for three years with John P. Davis, a part of the time having entire charge of the

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75 Petticoats in good color and price.

40 separate Walking Skirts blues and blacks from \$1.99

An entire room is devoted to "Wear" department, at convenience for trying on garments.



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business in their restaurant.

—Barney Gibson, who is now employed at Chicago with the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railway, has been spending the past few days in the city.

—C. M. Roberts spent Sunday at Fairbank, returning Monday with his two little girls, who have been spending the vacation there with relatives.

—None need hesitate to go to the Presbyterian church for supper, Friday evening, April 12, as the ladies have provided better facilities for seating and serving the people.

—Martin and John Hagan returned the latter part of the week, from Iowa City, where they have been attending the Medical school. John resumes his position at the Hospital.

—The city council as a board of equalization has been in session for a week past. The board expects to finish its labors and post notices of changes in assessments, this week.

—Lincoln Bowder is filling a vacancy in the Illinois Central road for a few weeks, for the Chicago Railroad News Co., running from Dubuque to Soo Falls, Soo City and Lyle, Minn.

The dance given at the Munson building, Monday evening, for the benefit of Company E was largely attended, 70 tickets being sold. Music was furnished by the Plummer orchestra.

—Frank Leytze, Fred Agnew and Ober Stephenson, who have been attending Jefferson Medical College, are expected home for the summer, next week. The school year closes there this week.

—The Ladies' Literary Club will meet, Thursday, April 11, at 2:30 p. m., with Mrs. H. E. Palmer. Officers will be elected for next year. All who have not signed the new constitution may do so at this meeting.

—P. J. Sheehan is home from Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he spent the past six weeks for the benefit of his health. He is enthusiastic over the springs and baths, claims he never felt better in his life and looks it.

—The Sunday morning train north on the B., C. R. & N. met with a wreck, four miles north of Oelwein, the rails spreading and derailing five cars of freight. Fortunately the engine and caboose did not leave the track and no one was injured.

—Country roads in this section have not been in worse condition in years past than during the past week, being simply impassable in places. Trade in the city has suffered in consequence, farmers not being able to make their customary visits.

—Henry Wiltke, of Illinois, has been visiting at the home of John Brandenburg, the past week. Early last week he gave the city physicians a life size shock with what was at first thought to be a small pox, but later developed into chicken pox, to which Mr. Wiltke had been exposed before coming to Iowa.

His very first venture of a political nature was to accept the nomination for city treasurer in 1879. He was elected, served his term, but refused a renomination. In 1881 and 1882 he did yeoman's service to his party as chairman of the Democratic county central committee. In 1882-3 he was chairman of the Third district congressional committee. In 1883 the Democrats of this county nominated him for representative in the state legislature, and he vindicated their judgement by overcoming the large Republican majority and accomplishing his election. In 1885 he was unanimously renominated and was again elected. In 1887 he met defeat at the end of a hard fought campaign, in which he was the target for the best efforts of the opposition. Prior to this, in the fall of 1886, he served his party faithfully as the candidate of a hopeless minority for member of congress from the Third district, having as his opponent Col. D. B. Henderson. In 1889 and 1891 he was re-elected to the legislature, representing this county in the lower house for four times, despite the fact that all this time the county had a substantial Republican majority. In 1890 he was the Democratic nominee on the state ticket for secretary of state, being defeated by the narrow margin of 3,366 votes. In 1894 he was appointed postmaster at Independence, serving his full term of four years. After retiring from the postoffice, he accepted a position as traveling salesman for the Iowa Grocery Co., serving until compelled to give up last fall, by chronic disorders. On the 21st day of last January he bade good-bye, for the last time as it proved, to Independence friends and departed for Excelsior Springs, in a vain quest for health.

To speak of the personal characteristics of one so widely known is almost a matter of supererogation. His election time and again to offices of trust and honor, when political majorities were strongly against him, speaks for itself of his popularity. He was strongly magnetic and possessed to an unusual degree the capacity for making and retaining personal friendships. He was equally open hearted and open handed, always genial and approachable, looking perpetually on the bright side of things, courting and enjoying companionship. Few, if any, residents of our city possessed more or firmer friendships. Until stricken with his last illness the years had touched him lightly, and not the least charm of the man was his almost boyish geniality and sense of enjoyment. His public duties were performed with fidelity. His personal relations, both in his home and among his fellow citizens, were particularly happy. His memory is enriched with numerous acts of kindness and generosity. His death is met with general mourning and kind words for the departed. He is survived by his wife and their only child, Rolfe, a young man of 30, to both of whom the sympathy of all reaches out in the hour of bereavement.

nova street, along lots 1 and 2, of block 1, original plat of Independence.

Sidewalks ordered on west side of Eighth avenue N.E., from Third street to Fourth street.

Petition of property owners for ditch along Fifth street N.E., from First avenue to river, was referred to street and alley committee.

The sewer committee, with city attorney, were instructed to draft an ordinance establishing charges to property owners for attaching to public sewers of the city.

The various city officers presented their annual reports, as follows:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Independence:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to transmit to you my first annual report.

I have collected and paid to city treasurer	457 83
Bought material of sundry persons to the amount of	803 30
Expended on streets for labor	2,615 60
Collected poll taxes, in cash	0 00
Collected poll taxes, in labor	262

WILLIAM BILLING, Street Commissioner.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of the City of Independence, Iowa:

GENTLEMEN—The following is a report of work done by your police department for the year, beginning April 1, 1900, and ending April 1, 1901:

Total number arrested during year	459
For intoxication	260
Burglary	4
Vagrancy	175
Larceny	10
Assault and battery	5
Blasphemous and obscene language	1
Befrauding hotel keeper	2
Riding bicycle on sidewalk	1
Allowing stock to run at large	1
Search warrant served	1
Doors left open at night	61
Goods left out at night	15

O. E. FINUR, City Marshal.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

To the Honorable City Council:

GENTLEMEN—Your committee on electric light would respectfully submit the following as a report of the financial condition of the electric light fund for the year commencing March 12, 1900, and ending March 11, 1901, showing receipts and disbursements, as per monthly reports of city collector:

RECEIPTS.	
Received for commercial current	\$ 7,313 90
Received for labor and material	1,460 22
Received for public lighting	2,793 00
Received from general tax	1,606 06
Transferred from general fund	1,000 00
Total	\$14,260 18

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Paid overdraft of March 12, 1900	\$2,765 00
Paid salaries of engineer, collector and lineman	1,779 84
Paid fuel account	4,250 54
Paid oil, waste and packing account	196 82
Paid sundry expense and repair account	1,118 84
Paid interest and commission account	1,002 50
Paid transformer account	71 12
Paid meter account	668 10
Paid labor and material account	1,481 16
Balance March 11, 1901	523 17
Total	\$14,260 18

WATERWORKS.

To the Honorable City Council:

GENTLEMEN—Your committee on waterworks would respectfully submit the following as a report of the finan-

to work in the machine shops.

—R. B. Raines was in Manchester, Sunday, assisting in Easter music.

—Mrs. Mae Sherman Allison, left, Saturday, for her home in State Center.

—H. Cassiday, now the despatcher on the I. C. at Waterloo, spent Sunday here.

—Miss Etta Romig spent last week with friends at West Union, returning Friday.

—F. A. Barker, of Chicago, was a guest in the W. N. Davis home, over Sunday.

—Frank Truair and wife, of Oelwein, were guests of Wm. Truair and family, Sunday.

—Mrs. J. F. Mulkern, of Waterloo, was the guest of relatives here, over Sunday.

—E. E. Carroll, who is now located at Clinton, was an over-Sunday visitor in the city.

—Frank Aborn, of Sheffield, visited relatives in this city from Saturday to Monday.

—Geo. Parker was here over Sunday from Coggon, where he is working in a drug store.

—Mrs. Wm. Lotts returned, Friday, from a visit in the home of her son, Ernest, at Dows.

—Mrs. Mabel Burnard went to Emmetsburg, Friday, to visit her sister, Mrs. Letta Peddie.

—Miss Frances Bain went to Sumner, Saturday, to take up her work in the schools of that place.

—Mrs. G. W. Burris arrived home, Saturday, from an extended visit at Keokuk and Des Moines.

—Mrs. H. G. Chalfant came up from Cedar Rapids, Wednesday, to visit her parents, John Langneckard and wife.

—The Presbyterian ladies assure you plenty to eat at the church, Friday evening, April 12, from 5:30 to 8 o'clock.

—Chas. Mattice was at Coggon, a couple of days of last week, erecting a new windmill on the farm of Wm. Lawless.

—Mrs. R. Glenn, of Oelwein, has been spending the past week here, at the home of her parents, A. G. Beatty and wife.

—Mrs. I. Merlbart and daughter, Louise, returned home, Thursday, from a visit of several weeks with relatives in Winnebago county.

—The Oakwood Cemetery association will hold their next meeting with Mrs. J. O. Littlejohn, Thursday evening, April 11th, at 7:30 o'clock.

—Miss Agnes Carey, teacher in the Marshalltown schools, spent her vacation here with her parents, returning to Marshalltown, Sunday.

—Jimmie Murphy was up from Vinton over Sunday. He reports the firm of Primus & Murphy to be doing a fine business in their restaurant.

—Barney Gibson, who is now employed at Chicago with the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railway, has been spending

born. In 1853 he removed with other members of his father's family to Gaysville, Vermont, where the elder Chamberlin engaged in the hotel business. Two years later they removed to Royalton, where William attended the academy for three years. He was employed there for two years in a general merchandise store, going then to Northfield, at that time an important railroad town, where he was employed for three years with John P. Davis, a part of the time having entire charge of the large business of his employer. He came to Independence in 1864, at the age of 23 years, and in connection with his brother, B. R., engaged in the grocery business in the old Brewer block, still standing just east of King's hall and now used as a livery barn. Not long after they removed to the Wilcox block, lower down Main street, and in March sold out. In December following Mr. Chamberlin formed a partnership with P. C. Wilcox and R. M. Chesley, but the firm sold out, next spring, to Lawton & Curtis and he went back to his old home in Vermont and spent the summer. Returning to Independence, in January he entered into a partnership with P. C. Wilcox, R. M. Chesley and W. H. H. Merse. This continued until the death of Mr. Wilcox in 1868, during the last few months Mr. Chamberlin being at Webster City in charge of a business conducted under the firm name of Wilcox, Chamberlin & Co. Upon the demise of the senior partner the Webster City business was closed out, the Independence business sold to Chesley & Morse, and Mr. Chamberlin went on the road for Sadler, Goff & Co., a Dubuque crockery house, remaining in that position until the fall of 1870 when he was united in marriage to Miss Kate Wilson, of this city, and left the road to again engage in the mercantile business in Independence. His venture this time was Oak Hall, a name still familiar to thousands of people in this vicinity and in its day one of the best known establishments of this section. In this business he was first associated with Lorenzo Moore under the firm name of Moore & Chamberlin. After the great fire of 1874, Mr. Moore retired, selling to Mr. Chamberlin, who for twenty years after conducted the business alone. For years he was accounted among the successful and responsible business men of the city, but in the hard times of the early nineties business reverses compelled him to close his doors and make an assignment. The stock was closed out and thus ended Oak Hall and Mr. Chamberlin's connection with the commercial undertakings of the city.

Mr. Chamberlin was known throughout the state for his connection with politics. He was a staunch Democrat of the old school, and all his training, sympathies and enthusiasm forbade to him the seat of a neutral or noncombatant. His very first venture of a political nature was to accept the nomination for city treasurer in 1879. He was elected, served his term, but refused a renomina-



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## Council Proceedings and Department Reports.

The regular meeting of the city council was held at the clerk's office, Monday evening, all members present.

The report of the city treasurer showed receipts as follows: from fines, \$61; from licenses, \$55; scale fees, \$4.42; electric light, \$818.25; waterworks, \$209.55. Paid out for electric light, \$900.61; fire department, \$192.44; general fund, \$542.86; street fund, \$95.00; waterworks, \$612.60. Balances: library fund, \$13.04; electric light, \$1107.47; sinking fund, \$26.08; general fund, \$841.96; waterworks, \$392.22. Overdrawn, fire department, \$192.44; street fund, \$1,028.12; sewer fund, \$801.53.

Memorandum presented from county treasurer stating that city taxes in county treasury of \$4,971.10 could be drawn about Thursday.

Street commissioner reported \$89.65 expended on streets during the month past.

City collector reported receipts for month: From waterworks, \$209.55; from electric light, \$818.25. Disbursements: Waterworks, \$2,447.40; electric lights, \$950.93.

Receipts of city scales for month, \$8.85.

City assessor reported assessment under mulct law of five saloons at \$800 each per year.

Ordinance passed fixing grade of park and sidewalk on Fourth street N.W., from Seventh avenue to Fourth avenue, it from 6 inches to 24 inches above crown of roadbed.

Sidewalk ordered in First ward on north side of Sixth street, from Third avenue to Sixth avenue.

Sidewalk ordered on west side of Sixth avenue N.E., commencing at north end of Sixth avenue running to south side of lot 4, in block 18, Scarcliff's addition.

Sidewalk ordered on west side of Canova street, along lots 1 and 8, of block

Sidewalks ordered on west side of Eighth avenue N.E., from Third street to Fourth street.