

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Root, Charles Lathimer Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 8 Oct 1856 Chester, Massachusetts

2. Marriage (s) date place

Thora Hiborg 17 Dec 1884

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was president of the Root Land Company; he was admitted to the bar in 1879

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Independent Order of the Odd Fellows; Knights of Pythias; Elks Lodge

C. Profession Lawyer; real estate; insurance agency; boot and shoe business

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1894

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Clinton 1890-1894; alderman at large for Clinton 1896-1897

B. State

C. National

7. Death 28 Feb 1922 Lyons, Iowa; buried Oakland Cemetery, Clinton, Iowa

8. Children Aurelia C.; Charles H.

9. Names of parents Aurelia C. and Eliza

10. Education

11. Degrees

He attended Cornell College and then graduated from Northwestern University in 1878.

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- He began practicing law in Lyons, Iowa in 1879.
- In 1893 he organized the Root Land Company which carried on extensive real estate business.
- He was associated with his brother in the Root and Sons business in both Lyons and Clinton, Iowa.
- Beginning in 1890 he dealt extensively in farm lands in northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska.
- In 1891 he built his own block, the Root Block, on Main Street.
- In college he had become interested in military exercises being to benefit his health, so in 1889 he organized the C. L. Root Company, a drill corps of which he was captain. They performed in 1893 at the Chicago World's Fair.
- In 1892 he organized Company L, 1st Regiment of the Iowa National Guard at his own expense. At the beginning of the Spanish American War his company was recruited and became part of the 49th Iowa Volunteers. Captain Root had full charge of the company for two months.
- He could not pass the physical for duty in the Spanish American War. He the tendered his services as secretary of war.



# The Clinton Mirror.

News Items.

POST OFFICE, LYONS, IOWA.

Clinton, Saturday, Mar. 4, 1921.

EXTRA fine dairy butter at M. C. Lollich's.

STATERS can't calculate on nature's freaks.

NEW LINE of spring millinery at Mrs. J. W. Deen's.

FULL line of salt fish at M. C. Lollich's grocery.

FRIDAY morning at 7:15, 18 above, calm and the sun coming.

CACERES TIP-BITS and after dinner biscuits, at M. C. Lollich's.

KEEP in mind the coming city and judicial elections. Register if necessary.

BIG EVAS in London over a royal princess marrying a common nobleman.

WEEK to be the favorite dish for forty days and nights, from the 1st inst.

SILVER DRAGON the best uncolored Japan tea in the city at M. C. Lollich's.

LANG BULL has moved his bachelor household into the family place on the hill.

AT 7:30 Thursday morning 18 above, with light snow sitting on the ground and in the air.

MAN wanting shoes of any kind are referred to the Towle & Mypers ad on the fourth page.

THAT inch or so of snow a week or so ago, held its own even against the sun, for several days.

MARCH 14TH has been set as the day for opening bids on the proposed Lyons sewer—a doubtful project.

... after rising from a ... just ... on ... in ... dropped ... on ... he has not ... for some time, but ... did not understand that—his ordinary business apparently required perfect health. Born at Chester, Mass., in 1856, he came here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Root, in early life studied in ... and in higher institutions, graduated in law, and devoted his life to business, managing the affairs of the Root Land Co., the Lyons and Fulton Bridge Co., and other important matters, with significant ability. But he also found time and gave attention to apparent causes. He was at the head of the Root Drill Corps, famous in its day, and almost in a day turned it into a volunteer company at the opening of the Spanish war, but was ruled out of the service because of physical disability. He was a member of the Masons and several other fraternities; and found some time to devote to their aid, besides taking part in city and State affairs, was Mayor and Legislative Representative, etc. Surviving him is his sister, Mrs. Belle Siles, of Topeka, Kansas, Abbott A. of Cleveland, Ohio, and Herbert L. of Lyons; his wife, Mrs. Thora Wiborg Root, and two sons, Arthur C. and Charles W. of this city. His funeral was held at his home with services by Rev. W. M. Swann, and DeMolay Consistory ceremonies at the grave in Oakland. A man whose work in the business world will not be easily done by others.

In Monrovia, Cal., Feb. 25th, Miss Helen Howes, only daughter of Mrs. E. M. Howes. Mr. and Mrs. Howes reached DeWitt with the body Thursday morning, where they were met by Lawrence Howes of Missouri, and the funeral was held at the home of ... and buried by the side of her father.

MARCH TERM.—New cases are being filed daily as the term draws near for the opening of the March term of the Clinton county District court. Court opens March 21. March 16 is the last day for filing cases to be heard at that. S. C. Rosetter, et al. filed suit today against George W. Wilson, et al, asking judgment for \$15,000.00.

TROLEN AUTOS.—State and Federal agents are reported at work in Clinton tracing autos said to have been stolen from owners in other parts of the country and disposed of through an agency that has since closed its doors here. Several cars are said to have been located yesterday and taken from their erstwhile owners. A. F. Petersen of Clinton, whose Dodge touring car, stolen on the night of February 18 from in front of the Scottish Rite, Masonic, cathedral, has been found near Monmouth, Ill., has gone to Monmouth to recover the car. William Ottum, 821 Fourth avenue, whose Nash touring car was stolen on the night of February 12 and was found abandoned in Davenport, went to Davenport yesterday to get the car. He found it badly damaged and the speedometer indicated that it had been driven 1600 miles. Presence of a bottle of Canadian whisky in the car led to the theory that the thief may have driven the car to the Canadian border and back.

POSTPONEMENT.—Meeting at the city hall last night in adjourned session, the City Council received objections to the adoption of a proposed resolution of necessity for the construction of a main sewer in sewer district No. 7 and deferred action for further consideration. Objections to the proposed construction of the new main sewer in Lyons were made by 33 property owners, who declared that the proposed sewer would not be large enough to carry off storm water and would be useless for sanitary purposes owing to a lack of city water supply.

SIX HOUR WORK DAY.—In her talk on working condition for women, given last evening at the First M. E. Church, Miss Mary McDowell predicted that a six hour day was coming. She addressed a room practically filled with an interested audience, drawn by the desire to learn of the proposed changes in the settlement districts.

THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
OF  
CLINTON COUNTY,  
IOWA.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
1901

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has three children; Nancy M., born April 1, 1872, is the wife of Thomas Kneen, of Artesian, South Dakota, and has two children; Margaret R., born in Canada, May 22, 1874, and Albert Parker, born in Canada, July 10, 1876, are at home; Phebe May, born in Clinton county, October 19, 1878, died at the age of nine weeks; Obadiah Joseph, born in Clinton county, November 11, 1880, was killed in the cyclone in May, 1898, at the age of nineteen years; George, born in Clinton county, November —, 1884, is attending school at Delmar; James G., born in this county, September 30, 1887, is also a student in school.

After his marriage Mr. Allison took up his residence on a farm five miles north of Lyons, in Clinton county. He purchased sixty-two acres and cultivated the fields for three years, after which he removed to Lyons, where he remained for thirteen years, when he returned to Delmar. He purchased a small tract of land but soon afterward sold it and bought one hundred acres in Brookfield township, making his home thereon for seven years. On the expiration of that period he sold his farm and purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section sixteen, Bloomfield township, to which he has added until he now owns two hundred and seventy-five acres of valuable land. His fine farm was in the path of the cyclone, which swept over this portion of the country at half past four o'clock in the afternoon of May 18, 1898. It was in this storm that his son lost his life and his wife was nearly killed. The violence of the storm swept all before it. Trees were uprooted, and Mr. Allison had property destroyed to the value of ten thousand dollars. He lost two hundred fifty hogs, fifty-nine cattle and seven horses, and his buildings were demolished, and four miles of fence blown away, there being

nothing left but the land; but, with determined energy and resolute will, he undertook the task of retrieving his lost possessions, and has since erected a commodious and attractive residence, large barns, and other farm outbuildings, and has made splendid improvements. He put in tile to the value of three hundred dollars, and since the cyclone has raised twenty thousand bushels of corn. Such losses as came to him would have utterly disheartened a man of less resolute spirit, but his indefatigable energy and strong determination enabled him to push forward and to-day he is numbered among the men of affluence in the community.

#### CHARLES L. ROOT.

In every community are found men who, by reason of their forceful individuality, ability and keen foresight, are recognized leaders in business circles. Their influence is widely felt as a determining agent in public progress, and their efforts result not alone in individual prosperity but also promote the welfare of the community which they represent. Such a man is Charles L. Root, the president of the Root Land Company, of Lyons, and a well-known attorney and real estate and insurance agent. He has also won distinction in military circles, and no history of this section of the state would be complete without an extended mention of his life work. He comes from an ancestry honorable and distinguished and his lines of life have been cast in harmony therewith.

According to family tradition, the name of Root is of French origin, and the earliest American records show that John Root was married at Badley, Northamptonshire, Eng-

land, to Mary Russell, in 1600. Their son, John, after his father's death, went to live with his uncle, a man of wealth, who was advanced in years. He belonged to the nobility and was a staunch Puritan. This uncle insisted that the nephew should enter Cromwell's army and fight against Charles I. and the English crown, but the aversion which John Root felt to war led him to join a body of pilgrims and, with them, he came to the United States, settling at Farmington, Connecticut. There, in 1640, he wedded Mary Kilbourne, a daughter of Thomas and Frances Kilbourne. The next in the line of descent was their son, Thomas, born in 1648, and the line is traced down through John Root, who was born December 25, 1676; Elishu, born February 28, 1703; Joseph, born December 5, 1743; Joseph A., born May 2, 1784; Aurelius Clark, born November 19, 1818; and Charles L., of this review. The grandfather, Joseph A. Root, married Aphina Clark, and his death occurred in 1844, at the age of sixty years. His wife was of English lineage, and was a daughter of Joseph Abbott, who was born and reared upon a farm, redeemed by his grandfather, in the mountains of Hampden county. He, too, was of a sturdy Puritan family, and he died at the old home, at the age of eighty-four years. The maternal grandmother of our subject, and the wife of Joseph Abbott, was Polly Buchanan, and she was of English and Irish lineage, while from his mother's family, the Clarks, Mr. Root is of French and English extraction. His maternal grandfather was a member of George Washington's staff, and was distinguished for his splendid physique. The grandfathers on both sides of the Root family were officers in the Revolutionary war.

Aurelius C. Root was born in Hampden county, Massachusetts, November 19,

1818, and his boyhood and youth were passed upon a farm. He acquired a practical education in the public schools, and, at the age of eighteen, he became a traveling salesman. Later, in connection with his brother, he opened a store at Blandford, Massachusetts, conducting the enterprise from 1838 to 1841, when he removed to Chester, Massachusetts, and opened a general store. In connection with the management of both mercantile houses he sold goods upon the road, carrying his merchandise in trunks, hauled on wagons, and calling the same traveling stores. He thus carried on business until 1860. In 1852 he became identified with western interests, locating at Belvidere, Illinois, where he accepted a position as cashier in the bank. There he worked for a year and, in 1853, he came to Lyons, then a small but promising town, and here he established the first bank, and in the business was still associated with his brother, under the firm name of Root Brothers' Bank, the institution being established in a small building at Exchange and Water streets; but in 1856 he erected a fine brick block, to which he removed his banking business, now owned by the First National Bank, of Lyons, and became extensively interested in real estate transactions, in which he was very successful, handling large tracts of land in northern Iowa, southern Missouri and Nebraska. He had considerable property in Lyons, including a fine residence. He was also treasurer of the Iowa Air Line Railroad, and his business interests were of so important a character that they had a marked influence on the upbuilding and improvement of this section of the state. Mr. Root was always very active in educational matters, and the cause of education found in him a warm friend. He was one of the most energetic, determined

and reliable business men of the county, active in establishing enterprises and carrying forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken.

In political affairs he has been very prominent, and his wide reading enabled him to support his position by intelligent argument. He was a Democrat in early life, but in 1860 he joined the Republican party and has remained one of its most stalwart advocates. He represented his district in the Massachusetts legislature, and has filled a number of local offices, serving as mayor, alderman, supervisor and justice of the peace in Lyons, Iowa.

His wife is still living, and they are the parents of six children: Joseph C., of Omaha, Nebraska, who is a founder and organizer of the fraternal organizations known as the Modern Woodmen of America, also the Woodmen of the World. Hattie B., who died in 1875, and Abbott A., a retired shoe merchant of Lyons. Belle E., who became the wife of George A. Stiles, of Topeka, Kansas. Charles L., and Herbert D., who is living retired in Lyons.

Charles L. Root, whose name forms the caption of this review, was born in Chester, Massachusetts, October 8, 1856. He pursued his education at Cornell College and was graduated at Northwestern University in 1878. Subsequently he read law under the direction of A. R. Cotton, and was admitted to the bar in 1879, after which he began to practice at Lyons. In 1893 he organized the Root Land Company, and under that name has carried on a very extensive real estate business. He purchased the Dennis Warren plat, of one hundred and twenty lots, and has since disposed of most of it, and it is among the finest residence portions of the city. He was associated with his brother in the boot and shoe busi-

ness, in both Lyons and Clinton, for a few years, but since 1890 he has dealt extensively in farm lands in northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska. In 1891 he built the handsome Root block on Main street. This is a modern structure, divided into stores and offices, the dimensions of the building being eighty-eight feet by eighty feet.

From 1890 to 1894 Mr. Root served as mayor of the city, and the latter year was elected on the Republican ticket to represent his district in the Twenty-fifth General Assembly. He was also alderman at large of the city of Clinton in 1896 and 1897. During his college days he became interested in military exercises, hoping thereby to benefit his health, and in 1889 he organized the C. L. Root Company, a drill corps, of which he was made captain. This company won the championship of Iowa, in the year 1889, at Council Bluffs; 1890, at Marshallton; 1891, at Cedar Rapids; and in 1893, at Chicago, having the same twenty-seven men under drill for five years. In 1893 the company escorted the governor on his tour of inspection at the World's Fair, in Chicago, where the military organization won much praise. In 1892 he organized Company L, First Regiment, Iowa National Guards, at his own expense. In 1897 this company acted as escort to the governor in Chicago at dedication of the Logan monument. At the first call for troops for the Spanish-American war, he received orders to have his company in readiness. He discharged all married men and minors of his finely drilled military organization. In three days he recruited his company to the standard and reported in Des Moines, Iowa, where the company became part of the Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteers. Captain Root had full charge of his company for two months. He tendered his services in the volunteer serv-

ice. But the United States Board of Surgeons would not pass him on physical examination. He applied to the State Board, but they refused to pass him. He then tendered his services to the Secretary of War. Captain Root is a splendid disciplinarian, with a thorough knowledge of military tactics, is cool and collected and, while demanding implicit obedience, he is, at the same time, considerate of his men and enjoys the highest regard of those serving under him.

Captain Root was married December 17, 1884, to Thora Wiborg, daughter of E. G. Wiborg, of Lyons, and they have two children: Aurelius C., and Charles W. Both Mr. Root and his father were members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the former still belongs to the organization. He likewise holds membership in the Masonic society, and the Woodmen, the Knights of Pythias and the Elks fraternities, and is a member of various social clubs. He is to-day one of the most popular, prominent and honored representatives of Lyons, having wide influence among his fellow men by reason of his personal qualities, as well as on account of his business ability and prominence.

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PETER V. CLARKE.

The subject of this biography is the well-known proprietor of the livery, sales and boarding stable, located at 117 and 119 Fourth avenue, which is one of the best barns in the city, being well equipped with a fine line of modern vehicles and about twenty good horses. Mr. Clarke was born in Clinton December 24, 1872, and is a son of Peter and Ellen (Spaulding) Clarke. The father was a native of Ireland and a

son of Patrick Clarke, who settled in Center township, Clinton county, Iowa, in 1861, and continued to make his home there throughout life, his time and attention being devoted to farming. He died in 1889, when about eighty years of age. His wife had passed away several years previous. The mother of our subject was born near Boston, Massachusetts, and was a daughter of Patrick Spaulding. Her father died in the east and her mother subsequently came to Iowa and spent her last days in Clinton county.

Peter Clarke, our subject's father, was one of the early settlers of this section of Iowa, and was a pioneer merchant of Clinton, being the second to engage in the grocery business in that city. In early life he conducted a grocery store, and also carried on a saloon in connection with it. He continued in the former business from 1862 until his death, in 1875, his store being located on the corner of Third avenue and Second street, in the neighborhood of J. L. Clarke's undertaking rooms. He had four children, of whom two are still living, these being: P. V., our subject; and J. L., who is engaged in the undertaking business. After the father's death the mother married James Sheppard, who was also an early settler of Clinton, and was for many years in charge of the wood yards of W. J. Young & Company, of this place. Since that business has been abandoned he has lived retired at 619 Seventh avenue, where he has a pleasant home. Unto James and Helen Sheppard were born five children, those living being: Lizzie, Gertie, Charles and Thomas.

Mr. Clarke, of this review, was reared and educated in Clinton, and at the age of fifteen years began his business career as clerk in a grocery store, where he was em-

JAMES SIMPSON BELLAMY was born in Switzerland County, Indiana, February 12, 1848, and died at Knoxville, Iowa, July 2, 1921. He came with his parents to Marion County, Iowa, in 1853, where they settled on a farm. He attended country school. In 1870 he went west and spent the three following years on ranches in Kansas, Colorado and Texas. In 1875 he became a member of the firm of S. K. Bellamy & Sons, which dealt in grain, lumber, and live stock. Later he became the founder and president of the Knoxville Electric Company, operating telephone and electric lighting systems. He was not only an active and able business man but was a leader in practically all local welfare movements. He was a familiar figure in district and state conventions of the Republican party for many years. He was grand master of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in 1896 and 1897, and was representative in the Sovereign Grand Lodge of that order in 1899 and 1900, and was a lay delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Saratoga, New York, in 1916.

CHARLES LATHIMER ROOT was born in Chester, Massachusetts, October 8, 1856, and died at Clinton, Iowa, February 28, 1922. He was a son of Aurelius C. Root. He was graduated from Northwestern University in 1878, read law with A. R. Cotton at Lyons, was admitted to the bar in 1879, and commenced practice at Lyons. In 1889 he organized a drill corps and was elected its captain. This organization won many premiums for excellence in drill. It escorted Governor Boies in his visit to the Columbian Exposition. In 1893 he organized the Root Land Company and became an extensive and successful real estate dealer and business man. He was mayor of Lyons from 1890 to 1894, was elected representative in 1893 and served in the Twenty-fifth General Assembly, and was an alderman-at-large of Clinton during 1896 and 1897. He organized Company I, First Regiment, Iowa National Guard, but failing to pass the physical examination, was thus prevented from entering the Spanish-American War.

JOHN H. MORRELL was born in Liverpool, England, March 13, 1864, and died at Ottumwa, Iowa, December 4, 1921. In 1880 he entered the service of John Morrell & Company, Ltd., dealers in meats and provisions, in their Liverpool office. In 1883 he removed to Chicago and entered the office of the company there where he remained until 1888 when he went to Ottumwa, Iowa, and was associated with the late Thomas D. Foster in the management of the American business of the firm. On the death of Mr. Foster in 1915 he was elected president of the corporation which position he held at the time of his death. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was active in the Y. M. C. A., had been president and was a director in the Ottumwa Chamber of Commerce, was interested in many corporations and clubs, was a member of the State Council of Defense during the World War, and was a most useful citizen.

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## Charles L. Root

Memorial

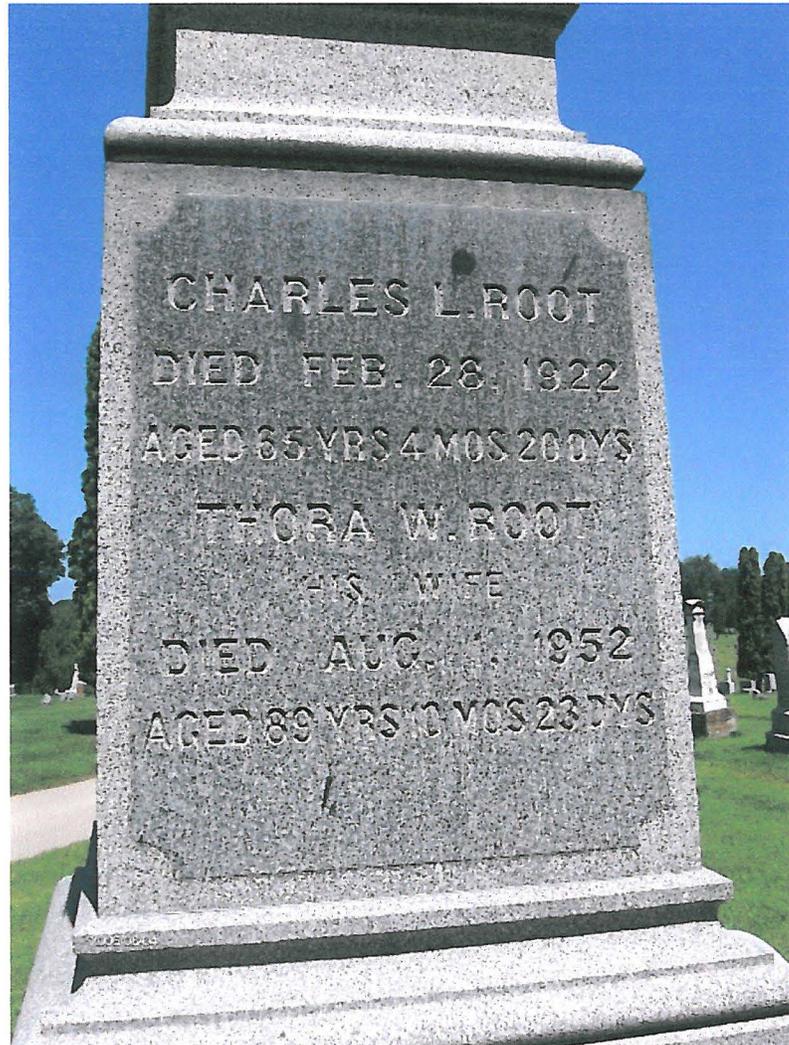
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