

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Bell William B. Senator _____

Represented Washington County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 1832 Muskingum County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.

C. Profession Mechanics

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 25th, 26th General Assemblies 1894, 1896

6. Public Offices

A. Local Postmaster of Washington, Iowa 1876-1884; Washington County supervisor;

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 9 Nov 1911 Washington, Iowa; buried

8. Children Harry; Mrs. W. W. Wilson; another daughter and son preceded their father in death

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____ *Republican*

- *He moved to Muscatine, Iowa in 1854 engaging in the trade of a blacksmith.*
- *He moved to Washington in 1856 and set up a wagon and carriage making trade with his friend, a Mr. Childs.*
- *Military Service - Civil War - Co. C. 8th Iowa Infantry, chosen Captain*
- *After the war, he returned to Washington, Iowa and his shop. He went back into the blacksmith shop until 1882 when he retired.*



William B. Bell.

The Old Colonel Has Heard Taps.

For the old Colonel, taps has sounded and he will await the call of the reveille on the morning of the resurrection.

Col. Bell died suddenly at the home of one of his most intimate friends, Wake Neal, Friday evening as he was engaged in a friendly game of Crokinole. A few of the Methodist friends had gathered at Mr. Neal's to perform some church work, among them being Rev. U. S. Smith and wife, S. J. Cocklin and wife and a little later Col. Bell, J. T. Matthews and Geo. Eckerman dropped in for a game of Crokinole.

As the game proceeded, suddenly, Wake saw that the Colonel was not playing when his turn came and he said to him: "Col. it is your play". He did not respond and Wake rushed to his side and called for aid and it was thought to be a faint. Rev. Smith suggested fresh air and



Col. Bell in War Times.

felt for his pulse which was still active but intermittent. In a short time it ceased but not till after Dr. Boice had reached his side and given an epidermic. This stimulated heart action for a moment and then the last battle had been fought and the Colonel was at rest.

Col. W. B. Bell was perhaps one of our best known men. He was known all over Iowa by his soldier record and by his public services. He was a member of the Iowa legislature several times and he had been post master for years and held the office of county supervisor at one time, by appointment. He was postmaster from 1876 to 1884 when Cleveland was elected and George Rodman succeeded him. He was always faithful to every trust and his

and it may be that 248 were killed from various companies and regiments, but of this we are not certain. We are certain that it was such a hot place that it is noted in all extended war histories and no account of the Battle of Shiloh is ever written that does not speak of it. He was taken prisoner there, with his men and 3500 of General Prentiss's soldiers and they spent a part of their time at Libby Prison. He was at Vicksburg and for his extraordinary services, he was made a Lieutenant Colonel at Black River Mississippi.

He was on provost duty at Memphis and repelled an attack by Gen. Forrest who by the way, is one of the most interesting men of the rebellion. He was an unlettered ignorant trader, judged by refined standards, but as a soldier, as a fighter who went where he pleased, being mostly on detached duty, he had no superiors and few equals. So that, this repelling of Forrest was one of Col. Bell's greatest triumphs and a victory of which he had a right to be proud, as he was. He was discharged from the army in June, 1865 and he came back to Washington to his shop which he had left to go to the front.

He went into the blacksmith shop where he remained till 1882, since which time he lived a retired life, except when postmaster and when serving in the various offices he has held.

In 1893 he was elected to the legislature and served four years. He served on important committees and although he was a Republican and the writer is a Democrat, the truth compels us to say that he was a man of force and leadership right from the first and nobody had any trouble knowing his views on any and all topics of general public interest. He was a strict church man and we believe he always lived up to the highest type of citizenship.

He was active in the First U. P. church and it took no smart man to know what Col. Bell believed and why he believed it. He was so positive in his views that he often was misunderstood and was often censured for taking a stand contrary to some of his associates, but when he was well known, it was appreciated that his firm way of doing and saying things was not at all meant to be offensive and his best friends were those who knew him the best. So it was no more than fitting that he should die at the home of one of his best friends. He and his friends, one may say, "The day be-

- Samuel Matthews
- James Palmer
- G. I. Vincent
- J. P. Hunter
- Harve Porter
- Rob't. Minder
- James Hawthorne
- Isalah Taylor
- Jno. M. Taylor
- Charles Carrette.
- Bruce Dill
- Chas. Deuel
- Frank Macon
- W. J. Hamilton.

Another funny thing we just heard. He and Henry Stichter of this town were in the Battle of Shiloh, both being in his first fight, they also were at the fall of Mobile which was the last fight for each. A few days ago, Chas. Cunningham says he heard him telling Henry Stichter to be sure and make his plans to go to Shiloh with him the next time he went. He said, "Now, don't you go back on me." But the Colonel had made his last trip and the bugle call came for him in a moment.

And we believe he was ready to meet his Maker. We cannot forget an address he made when Crocker's brigade was here, at the campfire. He said his last days had been his best. He spoke along the lines of the Life that is to come and his remarks were very touching and came from the heart of a Christian gentleman, a soldier and patriot, as we verily believe.

His children are Harry Bell of the post office department, Mrs. W. W. Wilson who lives at home and who cared for him in his illness of a few years ago and two children a daughter and a son are dead. His wife died a few years ago.

His familiar military figure will be sadly missed. He was one of our old landmarks. We have heard nothing but words of sorrow at the good old soldier's end. Col. Bell led an exemplary life and we trust the youth of the community may look to it for inspiration. Peace to his ashes.

Col. Bell's funeral was largely attended in spite of the storm Saturday afternoon. He was an active member of the G. A. R. Post and 28 old soldiers were in line at the funeral. The preachers who conducted the services were his own pastor, Rev. Fisher, who preached the sermon, Rev. Comin made the opening prayer and Rev. Sawhill the closing prayer and Rev. Coon talked about him as a neighbor. He and Col. Bell had come to be great friends, as neighbors. The pall bearers were Col. Palmer, C. H. Wilson, S. A. ...

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Notes on the

The 57th the Iowa ter Moines last Saturday. Al lington city all about 50 derived muu from the pr Thursday spent in vis and High S in the after liminary me partments v sociation; v Elementary, gnts and Ri of school we ed. One of addressed by lumbia Colle its standard instruction. Thursday sociation wa address of l who was foll Berea Colleg press told ing in the ba ...

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Col. Bell was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1832. He came to Muscatine in 1854, where he set up a blacksmith shop, that being his trade. C. H. Wilson knew him well there and they have been friends ever since. He came to Washington in 1856 and set up on the west side of the square with a Mr. Childs, the firm being Childs and Bell and they engaged in wagon and carriage making. In 1861, the war began and we can imagine Col. Bell, who was a strong Abolitionist, being anxious to get into the game, for he was never a man to shirk that he supposed was his duty, and the first call of Lincoln he enlisted and was chosen Captain of Co. C. 8 Iowa Infantry.

They went to Camp McClellan at Ravenport and in September 1861 were transferred to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, where they were quipped for the field. He got into his first fight at the Battle of Shiloh and he was with his company and regiment, the Eighth, the center of the big fight, the place known as "Hornet's Nest" and was a perfect hell of shot and shell and of their regiment 248 men were killed. This is from memory

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He taught a men's class at Sunday school each Sunday and they loved him. This is no exaggeration. Frank Macon said when we apprised him of the Colonel's death. "Well, I will never forget his talk on last Sunday's Sunday School class on the life of Esther and her pleading for the Jews."

His class was composed of:
J. P. McCutlery
Hugh McCausland
J. E. Gault

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Resolutions of respect in memory of Colonel W. B. Bell by his Sabbath school class of the First United Presbyterian church Washington, Ia. In the allwise providence of God who has by death removed our teacher, we recognize the loss of a faithful friend and teacher. One whose aim was to teach the word of God in its simplicity and purity and one whose general knowledge of things in the world prepared him to teach. We also recognize that we are again warned by his sudden death to be also ready for in such an hour as we think not the Son of man cometh. And herewith we tender our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family and friends.

By Order of the Committee.

LOCAL

Charley Stewart the one called "Chick" is quite ill with typhoid fever. He was working at Wayland and there is some of the disease there.

It is now Hon. John Bowman of Alamogordo, N. M., thank you, by 104 majority although New Mexico went hellbent for the Democrats except in his district for senator.

Silk waists at one-half and a third off at **Bowmans.**

Hen Gittinger of the Chariton Leader has fallen into evil ways. He has gone to setting his editorials double column. If there is anything we hate it is double barreled editorials. Hen is too good a writer to waste his ammunition that way.

Wm. W. Shannon, factory inspector for Iowa was in Saturday to see if we had anything about the plant that was dangerous to employes. The most dangerous thing we have is a typewriter and nobody seems to be much afraid of it either. We have

spent in visit and High School. In the afternoon preliminary meetings with departments with association; viz Elementary, High School and Rural of school work. One of them addressed by Columbia College its standards instruction.

Thursday association of P who was following Berea College dress told of ing in the back tucky and Tennessee.

Friday morning general session Greenwood of the annual Supt. Mr. Gregory. He urged vivid connect of the every of History. State Supt. about the matter which has been in educational ion that this the present c is under way country.

Friday afternoon some 24 Rooms



Comfortable Feet!

You can always sleep peacefully if your feet be warm. You can't half sleep when your feet are cold.

What's the use of having cold feet these winter nights? A hot water bottle solves the problem; and if some cold night you tuck your feet against one of