

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Senator HARPER, THOMAS G.

Represented Des Moines County Iowa

1. Birthday and place 10 January 1853, Green County, (Iowa)

2. Marriage (s) date place

Minnie L. (-----) (c. 1859, Ill. - prob. between 1920 and 1925), probably in Illinois (obit refers to wife as Pearl, but census 1900-1920 shows Minnie.)

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Lawyer

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

C. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

4. Church membership no church; funeral at Christian Science Ch

5. Sessions served 25th and 26th GA, 1894-1897, SD 9, Des Moines County

6. Public Offices

A. Local alderman; school board 3 years

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

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

7. Death 5 December 1917, at home, Burlington, after two week illness. Bur Aspen Grove

8. Children (1) Beryl BURG (May 1885 - ); (2) Edna Helen POWERS, (Aug 1890 - ), of Salt Lake City

9. Names of parents Parker B. and Nancy (Grieve) Harper, from Ohio to Illinois 1857, to Monmouth, Ill. 1861 until death. He was contractor and builder, 1st capt. in Civil War, doing construction work.

10. Education public schools and academy, Xenia, Ohio; read law in Monmouth

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

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12. Other applicable information Admitted to bar in Mt. Vernon, Ill., 1880; practiced in Roseville 1880-1883. Came to Burlington 1883 as attorney for Burlington Insu. Co. As senator instrumental in getting semi-centennial celebration in Burlington, and helping fund Crapo Park. Then began practice of law in Burlington. Was national attorney for Chicago School of Naprapathy.

Nine years president of Iowa State Good Roads Committee. Was Iowa delegate and chair of committee trying to get Congress to appropriate money for roads in area.

Odd Fellow; Ancient Order of United Workman (grand master); Maccabee; Woodmen of the World

Survived by wife and two daughters. Obit refers to wife as Pearl, but she is Minnie in 1900, 1910 and 1920 census. Bios do not give name of wife.

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is widely known in this connection. Practically his entire life has been passed in Burlington, and he has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

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#### HON. THOMAS G. HARPER.

At the bar of Burlington Hon. Thomas G. Harper has gained distinction. He is well known as a writer and perhaps even better known because of his public service as a member of the upper house of the general assembly and his close identification with various movements looking toward the welfare and upbuilding of the commonwealth. Far-sighted, sagacious, level-headed and public-spirited, there has been no question as to the intrinsic value and worth of his efforts for the public good.

Mr. Harper was born in Greene county, Ohio, on the 13th of January, 1853, a son of Parker B. and Nancy (Grieve) Harper, the former a contractor and builder, who in the year 1857 removed with his family to Mercer county, Illinois, where he resided until 1861 and then went to Monmouth, Illinois. At the time of the Civil war he was commissioned captain by Governor Yates and was put in charge of a construction crew. He built the bridge over the Tennessee river at Chattanooga after the battle of Lookout Mountain and throughout the remainder of the war was with the command of General Thomas doing construction work. When hostilities were over he returned to his home in Monmouth, Illinois, where he remained until his death. His son, Robert M. Harper, was a soldier of the Seventeenth Illinois Infantry and was killed at the battle of Pittsburg Landing.

Thomas G. Harper acquired a public-school education and also attended the academy at Xenia, Ohio. He determined upon a professional career and, thinking to find the practice of law congenial, he began reading under the direction of Judge William C. Norcross at Monmouth, Illinois, and was admitted to the bar at Mount Vernon, that state, in November, 1880. He then located for practice at Roseville, Illinois, where he remained until 1883, when he came to Burlington, Iowa, as attorney for the Burlington Insurance Company, which he thus represented for thirteen years. On the expiration of that period he was elected to the Iowa senate and served through the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth general assemblies and through the special session of the twenty-sixth. He was connected with much

important constructive legislation and he gave most careful consideration to every question that came up for settlement. He was instrumental in holding the semi-centennial of Iowa at Burlington and he secured the passage of a number of bills aiding in the construction of Crapo Park. His influence and his efforts were ever on the side of progress and improvement and he left the impress of his individuality for good upon the laws enacted during his connection with the senate.

Upon his retirement from the general assembly Mr. Harper opened a law office in Burlington, where he has since engaged in general practice. He has a keen, rapid, logical mind plus the business sense, and a ready capacity for hard work. An excellent presence, an earnest, dignified manner, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law, and the ability to accurately apply its principles are factors in his effectiveness as an advocate. In following his profession he has practiced for individuals and not for corporations. He is national attorney for the Chicago School of Naprapathy, a system of treatment which attributes all disease to disorders in the ligaments and connective tissue, whereby healing is effected through manipulation of the flesh. He has never lost a case in defending his clients of that school.

While enjoying a large and distinctively representative clientage that makes heavy demands upon his time and energies, Mr. Harper, nevertheless, finds opportunity to cooperate in public movements and his service has been of inestimable value along many lines. Ever a friend of the public-school system, he did active work in its behalf during three years' connection with the board of education. He served for nine years as president of the Iowa State Good Roads Committee and has long been interested and active in furthering the movement for the establishment of an adequate system of fine public highways. He was sent as the Iowa delegate to Washington to a meeting composed of delegates from all the states to aid in securing the passage of the Latimer-Brown bill asking for an appropriation of twenty million dollars to be distributed among the various states for the development of good roads. Of that committee Mr. Harper was elected chairman. He succeeded in having the bill introduced, but the law was never passed. His political allegiance has always been given to the democratic party.

Mr. Harper has two daughters: Mrs. Beryl L. Burg, the wife of Herbert E. Burg, of Burlington; and Edna Helen, at home. The latter is a graduate of the State University and was given a life teacher's certificate, but has never engaged in teaching. Mr. Harper

belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and has been grand master of the latter, while at the present time he is the sitting past grand master. He is also connected with the Maccabees and the Woodmen of the World. He is not identified with any church, but is a worker for good, and is a writer of note on religious and other subjects. Nature endowed him with keen mentality and his mental powers have been used not only in the solution of intricate legal problems but also in solving questions which have to do with the welfare and progress of city, county, state and nation. His life's activities have been far-reaching in their interests and purposes and his service has been one of benefit and value to his fellowmen.

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#### A. J. BENNER.

A. J. Benner is president of the Benner Tea Company, one of the important business concerns of Burlington. He was born in Pella, Iowa, June 18, 1869, and the following year was brought by his parents to this city, where at the usual age he became a pupil in the public schools and supplemented the training therein received by a year's study in Elliott's Business College. He left school when fifteen years of age and received practical training in commercial methods as an employe in a dry-goods store. He secured a situation with the firm of Boesch & Company and it was while with that house that he pursued his commercial course in Elliott's Business College. For fifteen and a half years he remained with the firm of Boesch & Company, advancing step by step as his powers developed and he proved his capability and trustworthiness. It was with deep regret on the part of his employers that he severed his connection with the business, but he was desirous of engaging in business on his own account and entered into active connection with the tea trade as a stockholder in what is now the Benner Tea Company.

This business was founded about thirty years ago by Otto Lorenz and was conducted under the name of Latona Mills. In 1899 Mr. Benner purchased the interest of Mr. Lorenz in the business, which was reorganized under the name of the Home Tea Company. In 1908 the business was incorporated and became the Benner Tea Company, with A. J. Benner as president; W. F. Rensch, of Waterloo, Iowa, as vice president; and P. G. Benner as secretary. Theirs is one of the important industries of this character in the state. The