

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Whelan, Martin K. "Mark" Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Emmet, Dickinson, and Decatur Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 22 Feb 1853 Mullinger, Ireland

2. Marriage (s) date place  
① Elizabeth Hilton 2 Jul 1883 Estherville, Iowa

② Jennie Combs Burr 1921 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Vice president of the First National Bank for several years until it collapsed

B. Civic responsibilities Mason

C. Profession Real estate

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1896 and 1898

6. Public Offices

A. Local Emmet County Sheriff for 5 terms; mayor of Estherville - 2 terms postmaster 1898-1906

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

C. National Delegate to the National Republican Convention in the early 1920's

7. Death 9 Mar 1940 Estherville, Iowa; Buried Oak Hill Cemetery, Estherville, Iowa

8. Children \_\_\_\_\_

9. Names of parents John and Bridget (Kearney) Whelan

Whelan, Martin K.

10. Education \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- He came to America at age 19 in 1872 and in 1877 to Emmet County, Iowa
- His first wife, Elizabeth, died Aug 1917, buried Oak Hill Cemetery, Estherville, Iowa
- His second wife, Jennie, died 22 Aug 1936
- His first job was as a teacher in the rural schools
- After retiring he spent a lot of time in real estate business and in traveling. He met his second wife in California
- A few people called him "Nort" which later changed to "Mark".

Whelan, Martin, K.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>Obituary</u>			- <u>The Estherville Daily News, Estherville, Iowa,</u> <u>Dat. March 9, 1940, p. 1, col 1 + 2</u>
- <u>Esther's Town</u>			1980, p. 171
- <u>Emmet County History</u>			<u>Volume 1976, p. 445</u>
- <u>ancestry.com</u>			(accessed 25 Apr 2009)
- <u>familysearch.org</u>			(accessed 25 Apr 2009)
- <u>Emmet County Branches</u>			<u>NPA</u>

# M. K. WHELAN PASSES AWAY AFTER STROKE

## Held Several Public Offices Here

M. K. Whelan, 87, a prominent citizen of Estherville and Emmet county for 65 years, died at 6:30 a. m. today at his home from a paralytic stroke he suffered at about 1:30 a. m. today.

Mr. Whelan held several public offices in Emmet county and Estherville during his lifetime. He was sheriff, a member of the state legislature, and mayor of Estherville.

Mr. Whelan came to Emmet county in 1877, and taught in county rural schools for several years. He got his first certificate to teach school in this state in the fall of 1877. The first school he taught was in High Lake township.

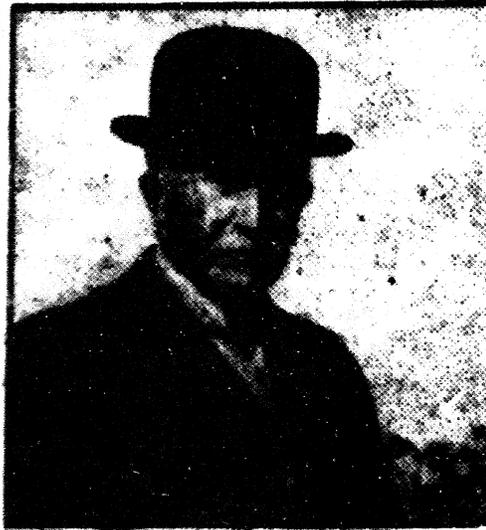
### Becomes Sheriff

Later he taught at a rural school in Armstrong Grove township.

In 1882 there was a vacancy in the office of sheriff, because of the resignation of Robert Roan. The county board of supervisors appointed Mr. Whelan to the office. He took office soon after he had become a naturalized citizen. He was sheriff for 11 years, having been elected to the office for five straight terms. At the time of his appointment the county seat was seven miles southeast of here on the banks of Swan Lake.

In 1895 he was elected to the state house of representatives from Emmet county. He served

## EX-MAYOR DIES



M. K. Whelan, 87, former mayor of Estherville and representative to the state legislature, died this morning.

## GIRL HURT IN CRASH STILL UNCONSCIOUS

Milford, March 9—Elna Sorenson, one of the play cast from Langdon involved in the fatal accident just south of Milford at 9 p. m. Thursday, remained in a coma at the Spencer hospital late yesterday and doctors continued to search for a cause for her failure to rally.

At first it was believed the girl suffered mostly from shock but at 5 p. m. yesterday she had shown no sign of regaining consciousness. A Milford doctor who attended her Thursday night stated that a brain concussion is undoubtedly the injury but that it is not outwardly apparent. She was sitting on the lap of the girl who was killed.

Dorothy Ginger, 17, Iowa State Teachers college co-ed was killed in the crash, died instantly according to a physician who examined her immediately.

# FARM SENATE TO CU

## Hear F. Conc

Washington. senate approved more than 4 year's farm the senate supply bill The committee item voted yesterday attempts to r ments.

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the resignation of Robert ...  
 The county board of supervisors appointed Mr. Whelan to the office. He took office soon after he had become a naturalized citizen. He was sheriff for 11 years, having been elected to the office for five straight terms. At the time of his appointment the county seat was seven miles southeast of here on the banks of Swan Lake.

In 1895 he was elected to the state house of representatives from Emmet county. He served two terms in the state legislature, and then was appointed postmaster in 1898. He was postmaster until 1906. He was out of active politics until April, 1931, when he took office as mayor of Estherville, and served until April 1, 1935.

**Born in Ireland**

He was born on Feb. 22, 1853, in Mullinger, Ireland, and came to the United States when he was 19 years old. He was married to Elizabeth Tilton at Estherville on July 1, 1883. She preceded him in death in August, 1917. In 1921 he married Jennie Barr, and she died Aug. 23, 1936. He was vice-president of the old First National Bank for several years, and was interested in several banks in this part of the state.

He was preceded in death by five brothers and three sisters. Four of his brothers and one sister died in Ireland. The other brother and two sisters died in New York state. His only survivors are nieces and nephews, several of whom live in California. Mrs. Anna J. Mullen, a niece, 232 West Lime Ave., Monrovia, Calif., has helped care for Mr. Whelan since Jan. 19.

**Ill for Some Time**

Mr. Whelan has been in failing health for some time, and has been confined to his home since last May. It wasn't until about three weeks ago, that he was confined to his bed, however.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2 p. m. at the Mahlum and Anderson chapel. The local Masonic Lodge will conduct the rites. Burial will be at Oak Hill cemetery. Those in charge of funeral arrangements have requested that friends omit flowers.

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Dorothy Ginger, 17, Iowa State Teachers college co-ed was killed in the crash, died instantly, according to a physician who examined her immediately. It is believed she was killed as the coupe struck the truck.

She was sitting on the outside of the seat nearest the doorpost which was torn entirely away. She was thrown out of the car. Her injuries included a basal skull fracture and punctured lung caused by the breaking of her collar bone.

Her companions later said she was dead when they reached her as soon as the car stopped whirling.

Gertrude Ginger and Dale Kabrick, driver of the car, also from the Langdon and Spencer neighborhoods, received only slight injuries and were able to be taken home after the accident. They received treatment in Milford.

**Today's Weather**

**OFFICIAL TEMPERATURES**

Maximum yesterday: 41  
 Minimum last night: 26  
 Noon today: 29  
 Snow: 1.2 inches.

**THE FORECAST**

Partly cloudy in north and east portions, occasional light snow in extreme southwest and southcentral portions tonight. Sunday partly cloudy, somewhat colder in west and central portions tonight.

**PREDICTIONS FOR WEEK**

Weather outlook for the week beginning Monday. Upper Mississippi valley, generally fair weather with temperatures slightly below normal beginning of week, following a period of cloudy days, and slowly rising temperatures.

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**MRS. A OSBERG AT D**

Dunnell, Ma Osberg, 61, die terday from ca after a month will be held at home and at 2 Lutheran churc O. Montan offi be in Lake Fre Mrs. Osberg husband; four

VOLUME III

EMMET COUNTY HISTORY  
and biographies of  
Families living in the county prior to 1946



Compiled by the  
EMMET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AS A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

This project funded in part by the Iowa American  
Revolution Bicentennial Commission

1976

Inter-Collegiate Press, Inc.  
Shawnee Mission, Kansas

The family has been active in the United Methodist Church of Estherville. Kenneth served on various boards and committees, one being the building committee of the new church complex. He has been active in community activities a long period of time, a member of Farm Bureau and the Republican Party. He was a member of the board on the Estherville Cooperative Creamery, the Emmet County Draft Board, and a field assessor. He is presently a member of the County Zoning Commission, and Superior Cooperative Elevator Board. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Abu Bekr Shrine, and also the local Elks Lodge.

As he approaches retirement, it is with much interest and pride to have had a small part in the technical advances in farming and in the community in general.

## Mark K. Whelan

M. K. Whelan was born in Mullinger, Ireland, February 22, 1853. In 1872 he came to the United States and in 1877 to Emmet County. On July 1, 1883 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Tilton, who died in August, 1917.

After coming to Emmet County Mr. Whelan was engaged as a school teacher in the rural schools of High and Armstrong Grove Township. In 1882 he was appointed by the board of supervisors to fill the office of county sheriff made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Roan. He was elected to the office of county sheriff for five consecutive terms.

Following this term of public office Mr. Whelan was elected to the state house of representatives from Emmet County. In 1898 he was appointed postmaster after serving two terms in the state legislature. In 1906 he retired from the postoffice.

Following his retirement he spent much of his time in real estate business and in traveling. While in California he married Jennie Barr and they returned to Estherville to make their home. She died in 1936.

In April 1931 he made his next venture in politics when he took the office of Mayor of Estherville which he served for two terms leaving that office in April 1935.

Mr. Whelan died March 9, 1940 in his home and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

He was a charter member of the North Star Lodge No. 447 A. F. & M. Jephtha Chapter 128, Royal Arch Masons and Esdraelon Commandry No. 62. He was the last living charter member of the Masonic Lodge. He was also a charter member of the Presbyterian Church organized in Estherville in 1880. In his earlier years he was vice president of the First National Bank. He was a delegate to the national Republican Convention in the early 20's.

## Jack B. White

Mr. and Mrs. Jack B. White became residents of Estherville, Iowa in August of 1936. In late December Mr. White began operating a Frozen Food Locker Plant. This he continued to operate until the business was sold in May of 1962.

Jack was born August 18, 1914. He was raised on a farm in Pottawattamie County near Carson, Iowa. He graduated from Simpson College in 1936 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration.

Ruth Lindsey White was born October 18, 1916. She was raised in Ida Grove, Iowa. She attended Simpson College. Upon finishing college the White's were married in 1936.

A son John was born in September of 1939. He attended the University of Iowa, graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering. John Dianne and three sons, Jackie, William and Steven live in Houston, Texas where John is area manager for the Square D Company.

A daughter Susan was born in August 1941. She attended the University of Iowa majoring in Elementary Education. Her husband, Richard King, is a professor of History at Midwestern State University at Wichita Falls, Texas. They have two children, Gregory and Sara.

A son James Thomas was born June 5, 1953 and died February 12, 1968.

The Whites were members of the First Presbyterian church and were active in several civic organizations.

Jack served seven years as a member of the Estherville City Planning Commission and one term as chairman.

Elected to the Estherville City Council in 1958 he served two terms. In 1962 Jack was elected Mayor of Estherville and served until September of 1965 when he resigned to accept an administrative position with the University of Iowa.

During his tenure as mayor, Jack also served as president of the Northwest Iowa Mayor's Association. Also, he served on the Governor Hughes Committee on City and Local Government.

Jack and Ruth continue to live in Iowa City and both work for the University of Iowa. He is Assistant Director in the Department of Examination Service and Ruth is Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College of Engineering.



Jack B. and Ruth White

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# Esther's Town

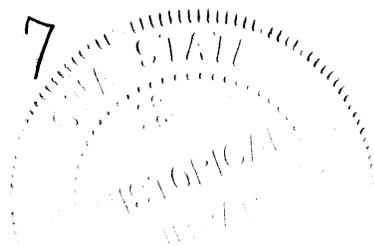
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DEEMER LEE

Iowa State University Press

AMES / 1980

62,607



The spring of '31 unfolded on one of the town's most lively municipal elections, at which Mart Whelan defeated M. H. Schloeman for mayor. Whelan was about as acceptable to the Groves crowd as John Lilley, whom Schloeman had defeated four years before. A distinguished-looking man, Whelan dressed immaculately and in summer always wore a straw sailor hat. He had been prominent in community affairs for a long time. He was a conservative (standpatter) Republican and had been vice-president of John Kirby's First National Bank until it collapsed. After his election as mayor he made Lilley his chief of police.

What most voters who marked their ballots in 1931 had forgotten or never knew was that Whelan had been appointed sheriff of the county forty-nine years before. In 1886 he and his deputy, Thomas Storhow, stirred the community with their courage by tracking down and capturing two horse thieves who had hidden themselves and their stolen horses near Raleigh station. But a few old-timers remembered those days and gave their votes to Mart. Some people erroneously called him Mark, but his given name was Martin, as it is chiseled in stone at Oakhill Cemetery.

Although the mayoralty race got out a share of the vote, the most heat was generated in the election of councilmen. Charles Kilgore, a colorful hardware merchant, and Hans Gaarde, a conservative and wealthy land-owning Dane, ran for the council because they disapproved the extravagant notions of the incumbents. How Estherville should economically procure an adequate, safe supply of drinking water was at issue. The old council had been accused of willingness to spend the taxpayers' money loosely for filtration facilities and engineering services seen by the insurgents as unneeded and wasteful.

The voters elected Kilgore, Gaarde, Rube Green, merchant George Shadle, and M. C. Petersen to guide the city's destiny for the next two years, but the *Estherville Enterprise* was unhappy with the outcome. It had supported the incumbent council, the members of which were well respected in the community but simply victims of the water issue. Although the losers soon forgot and forgave, editor Kirt Allen did not. And his *Enterprise* not long after found an issue with which he could assail those who had unhorsed his friends in the council chamber. The city government had purchased some supplies from alderman Kilgore's K & K Hardware Store, and the *Enterprise* thought that smelled bad.

# Individual Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

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**Martin K. WHELAN (AFN: 14BC-4Q3)**

Sex: M

[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

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**Event(s)****Birth:** Abt. 1867

&lt;Hamilton, Wentworth, Ontario&gt;

**Death:** ~~1939~~ 1940Estherville, Emmet Co., Ia

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**Parents**

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**Marriage(s)****Spouse:** Mary Jane "Jennie" COMBS (AFN: 14BC-4R9)[Family](#)**Marriage:** 1924/1926Estherville, Emmet Co., Ia

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**Submitter(s)**[Details](#)

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**About Ancestral File**

Ancestral File is a collection of genealogical information taken from Pedigree Charts and Family Group Records submitted to the Family History Department since 1978. The information has not been verified against any official records. Since the information in Ancestral File is contributed, it is the responsibility of those who use the file to verify its accuracy.

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**Please Note**

Names and address of submitters to Ancestral File and those who have a research interest are provided to help in the coordination of research. The use of this information for any other purpose, including commercial use, is strictly prohibited.

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◀ All U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925 Results

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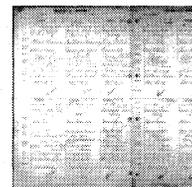
### Make a Connection

Not sure where to start? Often it's helpful to contact others who share your research interests:

[Find others searching for Martin K Whelan](#)

## U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925

Name:	<b>Martin K Whelan</b>
Birth Date:	22 Feb 1858
Birth Place:	Sligo, Ireland
RESIDENCE:	Estherville, Iowa
Passport Issue Date:	17 Jan 1920
Father Name:	John Whelan
Father's Birth Location:	Ireland
Father's Residence:	Deceased
Passport Includes a Photo:	Y
Source:	Passport Applications, January 2, 1906 - March 31, 1925 (M1490)



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Attach this record to a person in your tree as a source record, or save for later evaluation.

**Save**

#### Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Original data:

- Passport Applications, 1795-1905; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M1372, 694 rolls); General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59; National Archives, Washington, D.C.