

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Edwards, Joseph A. Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Johnson County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 1. Sept 1845 Putnam County, Illinois

2. Marriage (s) date place \_\_\_\_\_

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.

C. Profession Lawyer; law professor

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 27th General Assembly 1898

6. Public Offices

A. Local Attorney for Iowa City 1880

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

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

7. Death 6 Aug 1898 Davenport, Iowa; buried

8. Children Anna;

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

10. Education

11. Degrees

Attended the University of Illinois; later graduated from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa law school in 1873

12. Other applicable information

Democrat

- He spent his early years on the family farm in Putnam County, Illinois
- Military service - Civil War - Co. B. 139<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry entered June 1864 at age 18
- After graduation from law school he opened a law office in Iowa City, Iowa. In the latter 1880's he was a law professor at the State University of Iowa



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Obituary.

EDWARDS

Saturday morning there came from Davenport news of the death at Mercy hospital, in that city, of Hon. Joe A. Edwards. It was startling news—shocking news, and difficult to believe, for 99 persons out of every 100 supposed that Mr. Edwards was in good health and that he had no need for the services of a physician. In an incredibly short space of time the entire city knew of his death, and it is no stretch of the truth to say that the entire city was in mourning.

The end came suddenly, and totally unexpectedly. Mr. Edwards had been at Mercy hospital for two weeks to undergo an operation for hernia under the eyes of Dr. Middleton, dean of the medical department of the university. The operation was apparently most successful and Mr. Edwards was recovering fully as satisfactorily as could be hoped for. He was very cheerful over the result and expected to be out and home within two or three days, writing a letter to that effect Friday afternoon to a friend living in this city.

With this belief strong in his mind Mr. Edwards went to bed. A little later he felt a strange coldness creeping over him. It increased even though efforts were made to stop its progress by the usual means. Within half an hour he was dead. The physicians were surprised and shocked. They were positive it had nothing to do with the operation performed and ascribed his death to the formation of a blood clot, which may have been in his circulation for a long time, but just at this time lodged where its presence would be fatal.

As soon as word was received in this city the lawyers held a meeting and deputized Judge Fairall, Judge Ney, A. E. Swisher and Chancellor McClain to go to Davenport and accompany the remains

to Iowa City to study law in the university here, graduating in the class of 1873. He immediately opened an office in this city and has made his home here, gradually but surely building up a law practice and a circle of friends hardly equalled in the city.

In the latter part of the 80's Mr. Edwards was a professor in the state university, delivering lectures on contracts and negotiable paper and handling the moot court work. In politics he was not at any time an office-seeker. In 1880 he was city attorney and was sought to direct the campaign work of the county as chairman of the county committee in 1881. He was prevailed upon to be a candidate for the state senate in 1895 and made the canvass in the face of a normally overwhelming democratic majority, with the result that he needed but 120 votes to elect him, so great was his popularity. Two years later he was nominated for the legislature and was triumphantly elected by a large majority, the greatest gains being made where he was best known.

In the legislature Mr. Edwards was on a number of important committees and one of the hardest working and most influential members there, though he had little to say on the floor. When the letter from Congressman Curtis, declining to again be a candidate was sent Mr. Edwards was immediately thought of as a man who would honor the district in the position, but he gave no encouragement to the idea.

As a man Mr. Edwards made an unusually high place for himself in the estimation of his fellow citizens. He was quiet, unostentatious, ever ready to do a favor even at the expense of inconvenience to himself. He was popular, and yet it is probable that not one of his innumerable acts of kindness and generosity had in it the least thought of what it might gain for

Be it resolutely beloved can recognize the most worthy and trusted and him; of a citizen best interest state

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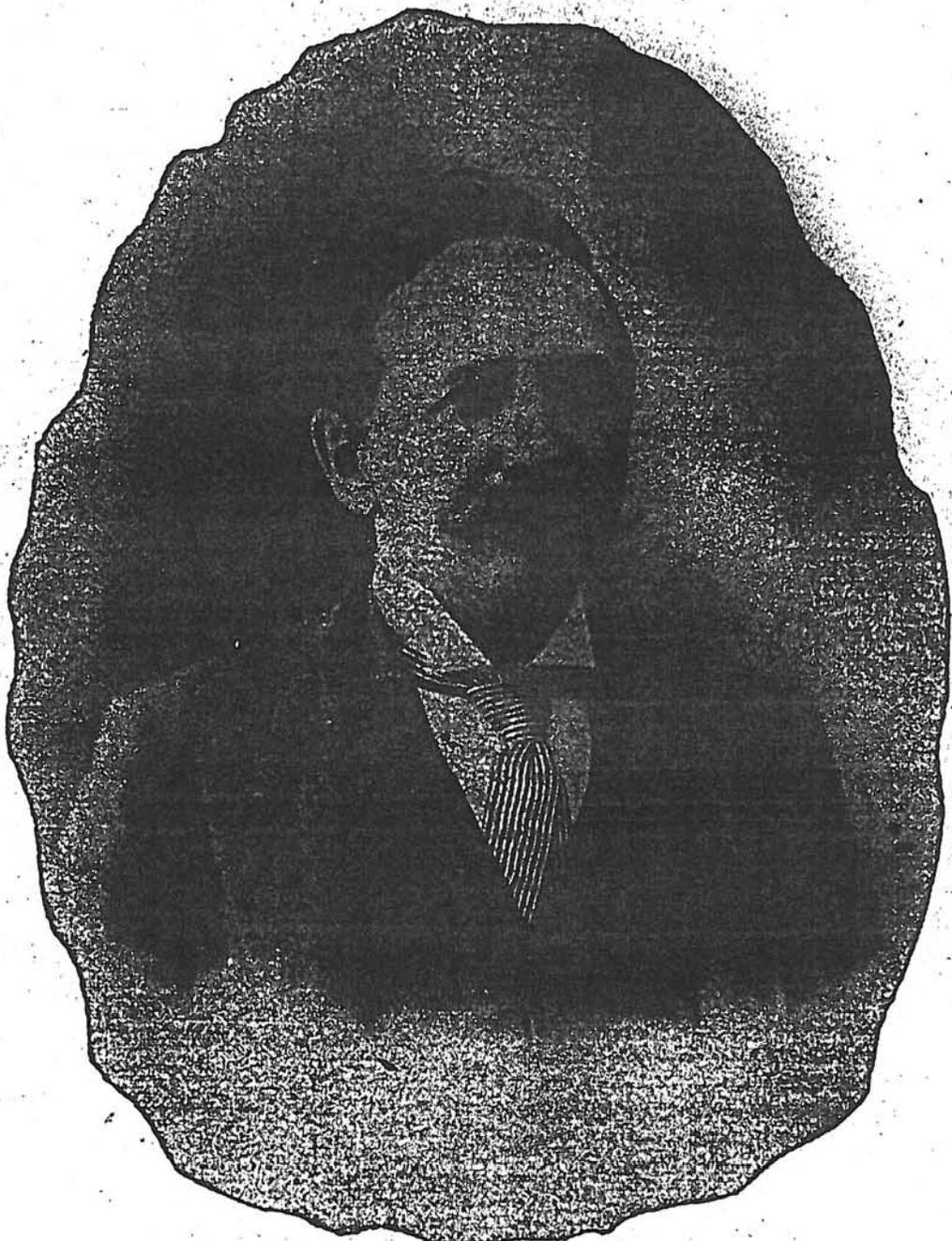
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back to Iowa City and do anything else  
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 quire. Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Hosford,  
 Miss Mae Coldren, Miss Winnifred Purdy  
 and other friends also went to Davenport  
 to meet Miss Anna Edwards, the only  
 daughter, who had been visiting in Chic-  
 ago. Saturday night the body was brought  
 home and was met at the train by a num-  
 ber of veterans, lawyers and old friends.

Monday afternoon the funeral occurred,  
 with services at the house, conducted by  
 Rev. Dr. Bullock of the Congregational  
 church and Rev. Dr. McCord of the

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 kindly nature of the man which prompted  
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 love which existed between himself and  
 the daughter, who alone is left to mourn  
 his death, was one of the chief adornments.  
 A brother, living in Illinois, also survives.  
 With a brother-in-law also from Illinois

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Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Rev. Dr. Bullock of the Congregational  
church and Rev. Dr. McCord of the  
Methodist church. Samuel J. Kirkwood  
post attended in a body, as did also, the  
Bar association, and citizens were there  
from every walk of life, for the man whose  
memory they honored by their presence  
was one who did not permit possessions  
nor position to separate him from those  
less fortunate in life.

The services at the house were impress-  
ive. The tributes were earnest and elo-  
quent. The plain, unvarnished truth  
about the life of this man was praise  
enough. The music was by a quartet  
composed of W. P. Hohenschuh, Mrs.  
Grant Lawyer, Mrs. S. O. Hahn and  
Clyde McCord, and the hymns were  
sweetly and feelingly rendered.

After the service the casket was borne  
out by the pall bearers, Messrs. Jayne,  
Allin and Hubner from the grand army  
post and Judge Wade, Geo. W. Ball and  
C. S. Ranck, representing the bar, and the  
cortege took up its way to the cemetery.  
Seldom has there been so general a trib-  
ute to the worth of a man in Iowa City as  
was indicated by the number of people  
who followed the remains to their  
last resting place. There a short grand  
army-service was pronounced by the post  
commander.

Joe A. Edwards was born in Putnam  
county, Ill., Sept. 1, 1845, and spent his  
early years on his father's farm. In June,  
1864, at the age of 18, he enlisted in Com-  
pany B, 139th Illinois infantry, serving his  
country with the same fidelity to the cause  
in which he was enlisted as was evinced  
in all his later years in whatever connec-  
tion. After being mustered out he enter-  
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A brother, living in Illinois, also survives.  
With a brother-in-law, also from Illinois,  
he was present at the funeral. They are  
not alone in their deep sorrow, for a whole  
city mourns with them a great loss,

ACT. ON OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION.

Monday afternoon the Bar association  
met to take action on the death of Mr.  
Edwards, several members of the Iowa  
county association being also present.  
Judge Wade was elected chairman and S.  
A. Coldren secretary, with M. A. Raney,  
of Marengo, as assistant secretary. The  
following committees were named:

To draft resolutions—Charles Baker, A.  
E. Swisher, Chancellor McClain, J. H. Fee-  
nan, Hon. J. N. W. Rumble.

To present the resolutions to the su-  
preme court—Judge M. J. Wade, Hon. Mil-  
ton Remley, Judge C. Hedges, J. T. Beem.

To present the resolutions to the local  
district court—Hon. Geo. W. Ball, Hon. C.  
S. Ranck, Judge J. J. Ney, Geo. A. Ewing,  
Hon. O. A. Byington.

To present resolutions to the Iowa coun-  
ty court—Hon. J. N. W. Rumble, James H.  
Feehan, J. M. Dower, T. Stapleton, C. S.  
Lake.

The resolutions will be presented to the  
district courts the first day of next term.  
The presentation to the supreme court  
will be at the convenience of that body.

KIRKWOOD POST RESOLUTIONS.

Samuel J. Kirkwood Post, No. 8, G. A.  
R., has made the following entry upon its  
records:

Again we have been summoned to ac-  
company to their last resting place the  
remains of one of our number, Comrade  
Joe A. Edwards.

Comrade Edwards was a private in Co.  
B, 139th regiment, Illinois volunteers and  
as a private soldier did faithful and val-  
iant service until mustered out October,  
1864, at the expiration of his term of ser-  
vice.

Iowa City to study law in the university here, graduating in the class of 1873. He immediately opened an office in this city and has made his home here, gradually but surely building up a law practice and a circle of friends hardly equalled in the city.

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Be it resolved, That in the death of our beloved comrade, Joe A. Edwards, we recognize the passing away of one of our most worthy members; of a comrade trusted and respected by all who knew him; of a citizen who ever had at heart the best interests of our community and our state.

That while we bow in submission to the will of our Great Commander, yet we mourn the loss of our comrade whose many virtues and deeds should be emulated by us, the surviving members of this post.

That we tender our warmest sympathy to those most nearly connected to the deceased by ties of kinship and to his many warm and personal friends.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased comrade and also be spread upon the records of this post, and a copy be furnished the city papers for publication.

W. A. WILLIS,  
S. S. LYTLE,  
J. C. SWITZER,  
Committee.

#### HEINOLD.

At her home, corner of Bloomington and Linn streets, at 12:30 Wednesday morning, occurred the death of Mrs. Mary Heinold, a well known and long time resident of Iowa City. The funeral occurred this (Friday) afternoon from the family residence.

#### TOMLIN.

At his home, No. 413 North Gilbert street, Monday morning at 6.20 o'clock, occurred the sudden death of George Tomlin, jr., the well known barber. Heart disease was the cause. Deceased had been in his usual health up to a few minutes before his death, though heart disease had troubled him for years. He leaves a wife and one child, also his parents to deeply mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate son, husband and father. The funeral occurred Wednesday afternoon from the family residence.

#### Weddings.

At the German Lutheran church, at 8 o'clock Thursday morning occurred the marriage of Dr. Carl Heinrich Graening

## At Four S Dr. Miles' Nervine Res



**UNOLE EZEKIEL OBE**  
tax collector, Beverly passed the 80th life in "Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine" great deal of good. I suffer sleeplessness and nervous. Would feel weary and using, had no ambition and a burden. A friend recommended Nervine, and I purchased protest as I had tried so many successfully. I thought it gave me restful sleep, a good restored me to energetic grand good medicine, and I anyone inquiring, full part satisfactory experience."

Dr. Miles' Remedies are sold by all druggists under a positive guarantee, first bottle benefits or money refunded. Book on diseases of the heart and nerves free. Address, DR. MILES MEDICAL CO

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Postmaster-elect Overl watching operations at Mar than a patriotic interest.