

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Patterson, Levi Franklin Senator _____
Represented Pottawattamie County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 27 Mar 1855 Hawvatoon, Harlan

2. Marriage (s) date place

① Martha J. Wood Nov 1881

② Mrs. Stella Grace Marsh Dec 1909 Kanaw City, Missouri

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was associated with Citizens State Bank, Oakland, Iowa;

First National Bank Harlan Iowa and Shelby County State Bank, Harlan, Iowa;

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Harlan Command Post; Shelby

County Chamber of Commerce; Sons of American Revolution; Iowa State Historical Society;

C. Profession Banker; teacher; mercantile business; large land
owner

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 26th and 27th General Assemblies 1896 and 1898

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Oakland 2 terms; Treasurer Shelby County Live Stock
Exchange

B. State President of the Iowa Bankers Association 1903

C. National Delegate to the National Republican Convention 1908 in Chicago

7. Death 8 April 1928 Harlan, Iowa; buried Harlan Cemetery, Harlan, Iowa

8. Children By 1st wife - no children; by 2nd - 2 Mapfield St

9. Names of parents Levi Brigham and Elletta (Kenzel) Potter

10. Education He was educated in the schools of his native land,

11. Degrees He attended Ripon and Beloit Colleges in Wisconsin

12. Other applicable information Republican

- In 1839 his father from New England to the wild west part of Wisconsin and made a home in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.
- He requested his homestead to his family one of a homestead in the town
- After college, for 3 years he taught school, then he made a trip west to look for places in Pottawattomai County in 1876. He was impressed by the opportunities he wanted for attaining success and he remained.
- He located in Oakland, Pottawattomai County, and engaged in mercantile business until March 1884 when he became a bank cashier of the Citizen's State Bank of Oakland. He was connected with this bank for 36 years.
- He lived in Oakland until 1899 when he moved to Harlan, Shelby County, Iowa to have a wider field of opportunities.
- There he organized the First National Bank of Harlan until its merger with the Shelby County State Bank in January 1906.
- In 1911 he retired because of failing health and to relinquish his position to three younger than he and disposed of his land holdings.



Barkman Won District Declamatory Contest

By Victory He Advances to the
State Contest, at Algona
Friday, April 20

The district declamatory contest held at Afton last Friday night, April 6, Kenneth Barkman emerged the winner over the contestants of the humorous section. In speaking with the single critic judge after the contest, Miss Von Hoene, who has directed Kenneth's work, stated that the judge, Mrs. Juanita Shaw of Drake University, said she had no suggestions to make, for according to her scorings, Kenneth approached so nearly the point of perfection that in her estimation she graded him 99% out of a possible 100%. The school and community will no doubt regret the loss to our faculty of Miss Von Hoene, since she declined her election to the faculty for the coming year. Miss Von Hoene and Kenneth will go to Algona Friday, April 20, to enter the state declamatory contest.

C. M. Christensen Body to Harlan for Burial

The body of C. M. Christensen of Rapid City, S. D., was brought to Harlan Tuesday night, and laid to rest in the Harlan cemetery Wednesday afternoon following 3 o'clock funeral services at the home of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Sorensen on Walnut street.

Report reached Harlan Sunday and gained large circulation to the effect that Mr. Christensen had taken his own life by shooting. We have not verified this report, although we have tried through several sources. He died Saturday in Rapid City.

During his residence in Shelby county, where he was born, and where he lived until perhaps fifteen years ago, he was an influential and highly respected gentleman. He lived on various farms of the county until young manhood. He at one time held the office of county recorder for four years, and was later a district agent of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. He was a shrewd business man, and at times in the past has been a large land owner. He also did considerable buying and selling of farm and town properties.

Concerning his life since he departed from Harlan we are not familiar. Rumor had been responsible for the impression that he was at one time a large loser in a Minnesota land deal. It is certain that the slump in the purebred livestock market caused him large financial loss in both the breeding of Duroc Jersey swine, in which he had become largely interested, and in the publication of a Duroc Jersey breeding journal which he established at Harlan, Ia.

Within the last several years he has paid this office pleasant visits, and the publishers held him very highly in esteem. He was a well-informed man, vitally interested in his fellow men, and a lover of home and family. He was an ardent republican.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Records. Mrs. Donald Miller, Dwight,

L. F. POTTER SUCCUMBED TO PNEUMONIA AT HOME IN HARLAN AT 11:45 SUNDAY NIGHT

Was One of the County's Most Progressive and Influential Citizens—Had Been Legislator, Banker and President of State Bank Association

Hon. Levi Franklin Potter, 73, one of the leading citizens of Harlan for the last 29 years, died at his home in Harlan Sunday night at 11:45, following an illness of toxic bronchial pneumonia which had kept him confined in bed for the last two weeks. Those well informed were without hope of his recovery. The ravages of disease and high fever left him unconscious, the greater part of the time, of the identity of his loved ones.

Two weeks before his last illness, he had arrived home from a business trip to Mississippi. Until his final call, he managed his own affairs and gave his attention to his large interests.

The funeral was held yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the Congregational church.

His activities before and since coming to Harlan have been many and varied. He was a tireless worker, not only for the advancement of his personal affairs, but for the better good of the communities in which he lived. If any particular line of endeavor should be used to classify his activities, it would be that of banking. He has spent the major portion of his life in that service. Many owe their start in life to his wise counsel and his foresight in affairs of finance.

His holdings increased as he became older, and at times he has been possessed of large land holdings. If we are not in error, he died possessed of about 1200 acres of Shelby county land. He believed essentially in the intrinsic merit of land ownership as a safe and profitable investment. Not only in land holdings, however, did his wealth accrue. He became possessed of mining stock and various other sources of wealth, with the extent of which we are unfamiliar.

Mention of his activities should not, however, elevate the material, even though he has been highly successful as a business manager, but upon the educational and human service features. He was devoted to the educational and moral progress of his friends and neighbors far more than in material increases. This phase of his interest and endeavors was manifested in various ways.

Two Terms in Legislature.

While a resident of Oakland, he represented Pottawattamie county in the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh general assemblies of the state legislature, and in the special session in 1897 which met to completely codify the laws of the state. In the state house of representatives, Mr. Potter's work was so outstanding that he was named chairman of the important ways and means committee in the twenty-seventh assembly.

Always a republican, Mr. Potter's allegiance to his party welfare was noted in his selection as legislator. Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

earlier career. While it was still on the old independent foundation in Harlan, Mr. Potter served four years as president of the organization which brought to Harlan some of the outstanding persons in the spotlight of American fame.

Mrs. Potter, his surviving wife, states that perhaps his home stood in first place of his love, then his church. His love of home has been well known. Perhaps no other home in Shelby county contains so large a library. Mr. Potter's appetite for truth was voracious. He was a keen student of the literary masterpieces, as well as of current affairs of history and politics, and his home housed those sources of information. He loved music as well, and encouraged such voluntary local organizations as have from time to time, been started.

He was a member of the Congregational church, which church is richer for his membership not only in a material sense, but from that of brotherly love.

Fraternal life demanded a portion of his time, and he was a loyal member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and passed, in that organization, into the Knights Templar and Shrine degrees.

Up until the last his interest in his home town enriched it with service and gifts. His recent gift to the town is known as Potter Park, an increasingly beautiful social center in the warm months of the year, a place beneficial also to tourists, for whose convenience it is being equipped.

Although he was physically handicapped to some extent, he devoted his time cheerfully to the labors of the Harlan Park Commission, to which body he was elected and but recently re-elected to succeed himself.

His Domestic Life.

He was born at Wawatosa, Wisconsin, March 27, 1855. He was the son of Levi B. and Hilly Wenzel-Potter. His ancestors traced back to the best of New England stock. His great grandfather was identified with valiant service in the Revolutionary war.

His education extended through the public schools of his home county and through Ripon and Beloit Colleges. In 1876, he made a trip into Pottawattamie county, and was so impressed by the possibilities for the future offered by the fertile Western Iowa country that he moved to this part of the state in 1879, and had since lived either in Pottawattamie or Shelby counties. He entered a mercantile business in Oakland, and was thus engaged for several years. In 1884, he became cashier of the Citizens State Bank, and later president of the same bank.

Mr. Potter was twice married. His first bride was Martha J. Wood of Oakland. She died in 1914.

On Dec. 21 of 1921, Mr. Potter Stella Grace Marsh.

Mrs. Potter, her son, Maxwell,

Auxiliary President,
Mrs. Bedell, Coming

State Organization President Will
Address General Meeting on
National Defense

Mrs. Virginia Bedell, state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, a fiery little live wire of Spirit Lake, will address a public meeting, to which a general invitation to attend is extended, at the court room, Tuesday evening, April 24. The meeting is sponsored by the local American Legion Auxiliary chapter.

Mrs. Bedell recently attended a national defense meeting, one attended by all the patriotic organizations of the country, held at Washington. She is able to present attractively and quite convincingly one phase of the national defense problem.

This Week's Lyric Program Very Fine

Lovers of the best in pictures have an opportunity, beginning this evening, to witness during the coming week three of the best pictures ever filmed.

Starting tonight is "Sorrell & Son," a play in which father love is shown at its best. This will run two nights, and Saturday night one may see Buck Jones in a lively western.

Sunday and Monday nights, "The Student Prince," will be shown. The stars in its presentation will be Ramon Navarro and Norma Shearer, two of the best appreciated artists in pictures.

Tuesday to Thursday of next week "Seventh Heaven" will be shown. In this film a girl street wail is taken in charge by a laughing boy and carried to the seventh heaven of complete happiness.

If our people think good pictures should always be shown, they should make their showing possible by a sufficient attendance when good ones are shown.

Camp Fire Council Chose New Officers

The council of the Camp Fire organization met at the Hotel Davis dining room Tuesday noon, elected officers and discussed the plans of the Camp Fire organization.

Mrs. Chas. Paulk was elected president of the organization, succeeding Mrs. C. E. Anthony, and Mrs. Oscar Hansen was chosen secretary-treasurer, succeeding herself.

Plans for the annual Camp Fire girls' camp were discussed. The girls will go to Little Sioux this year, instead of Crete, Neb. Instead of one large group, the Harlan aggregation will be divided into three groups, each attending camp one week. The Harlan girls will be chaperoned by guardians, as heretofore.

Upon motion of Miss Frieda Schuster, the chair was empowered to appoint a secretary of employment, the purpose being to get together parties desiring the efforts of any of the Camp Fire girls, for any kind of labor with the source of the labor. It was suggested that the Boy Scout organization service, if their leaders should be favorably inclined.

responsible for the impression that he was at one time a large loser in a Minnesota land deal. It is certain that the slump in the purebred livestock market caused him large financial loss in both the breeding of Duroc Jersey swine, in which he had become largely interested, and in the publication of a Duroc Jersey breeder's journal which he established at Rapid City.

Twice within the last several years he has paid this office pleasant visits, and the publishers held him very highly in esteem. He was a well-informed man, vitally interested in his fellow men, and a lover of home and family. He was an ardent republican.

Mrs. Christensen and four children survive him. The children are: Mrs. Donald Miller, Dwight, Lowell and Faunell. There are also three brothers, Andrew of Harlan, Will of Minnesota and John of Oakland, Calif. He also has one sister, Miss Dora, of California.

His schooling was gained in the rural schools of this county and a later course at the Woodbine Normal school. Following his school years, he taught several years in this county.

He was married to Miss Gertrude Sorensen in Harlan, April 19, 1904. Immediately following his Shelby county residence, he and his family lived in Wayne county, Neb., and for the last twelve years have lived at Rapid City.

He has been an active worker in the Baptist church since he was 16 years old. He served as deacon and trustee in the Rapid City church.

Roids to Celebrate Golden Anniversary

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Rold of this city are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the marriage of their parents on Friday, April 20, at their home on 7th street.

Mr. and Mrs. Rold are pioneer settlers in Shelby county and have seen the county develop into one of the finest and wealthiest in the state of Iowa.

Despite their age, Mr. and Mrs. Rold are blest with unusual good health, and both are active and enjoying life to the full. Friends are expected from a distance to congratulate the couple and to spend the day.

The honored couple will be at home to their friends and neighbors after 2 o'clock. They have our best wishes.

The Frederickson building, east of the Standard Oil Company, is being rushed toward completion. I. H. Stoffersen, who will manage the local branch of the Manning Creamery Co., to be housed in the building, says that he expects to be given possession in about two weeks.

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Always a republican, Mr. Potter's allegiance to his party welfare was noted in his selection as a delegate to the republican national convention which nominated Wm. Howard Taft for the presidency, in 1908.

Perhaps the memories greatest prized by Mr. Potter were his selection as chairman of the house ways and means committee and his election to the presidency of the state bankers' association in 1903.

He was charitably inclined far more than is generally known. Many private charities, concerning which information is yet coming to light on occasion, were among those things in which he delighted.

For a Better Harlan.

During his Harlan residence, his desire to serve was apparent to the last. For several terms in its earlier existence, Mr. Potter served as president of the Harlan Commercial Club. He was treasurer of the Harlan Fine Stock Exchange, an organization of breeders of purebred live stock of Shelby county, in those earlier days when Shelby county was at the pinnacle of live stock fame in America.

With five others, most of whom have preceded him in death, he made heavy investment in the foundation in Harlan of the Western Iowa Vocational College, an organization patterned after the famous Vaiparaiso University. The history of the W. I. V. C. is already known to most of the Republican readers. For a time it flourished, and in its best year almost met the expense of operation. The college long since ceased to exist, and from the standpoint of enduring success was lacking. But from the standpoint of the conscientious efforts of those men, devoted to the advancement of educational opportunity and human betterment, it evidenced perhaps more than any other undertaking ever credited to Harlan residents the right to be placed at the top of the list of wholesome devotion.

Believing that more and greater truths were disseminated by the chautauqua organization than by any other similar method, Mr. Potter was one of the most reliable supporters of that educational institution. During its

the public schools of his home county and through Ripon and Beloit Colleges. In 1876, he made a trip into Pottawattamie county, and was so impressed by the possibilities for the future offered by the fertile Western Iowa country that he moved to this part of the state in 1879, and had since lived either in Pottawattamie or Shelby counties. He entered a mercantile business in Oakland, and was thus engaged for several years. In 1881, he became cashier of the Citizens State Bank, and later president of the same bank.

Mr. Potter was twice married. His first bride was Martha J. Wood of Oakland. She died in 1914.

On Dec. 21 of 1924, Mr. Potter was united in marriage to Mrs. Stella Grace Marsh.

Mrs. Potter, her son, Maxfield, and Mr. Potter's brother, Milton B., of Wawatosa, Wis., are the only immediate surviving relatives, other than nephews and nieces.

Because, despite its importance, it seems to have been relegated to a secondary importance in his career, in comparison to his voluntary public services, we would mention his Harlan banking career.

In 1899, Mr. Potter came to Harlan, and here established the First National Bank, in the building now occupied by the Corner Inn. He served as president of this bank until 1906, when it was merged with the Shelby County State Bank. He remained as president of the merged institution until 1911, when failing health made his retirement advisable. He has since kept his directorate, however. He served as director of the Citizens State Bank of Oakland and at one time of the Defiance Savings Bank, but his interests in these institutions had been disposed of.

This reporter, who earned some of his first spending money by nightly reading for Mr. Potter, in what then seemed interminably dry and meaningless books and magazines, but which he since has learned are the best authoritative sources of information and literary inspiration, had a high appreciation of Mr. Potter. The reporter, during the summer following his graduation from the Harlan high school, was employed on a large ranch owned by Mr. Potter in Holt county, Nebraska.

He had the reputation of being a close dealer in making his acquisitions, no doubt a New England characteristic inherited. But he was fair, and would go "to the last ditch" with a partner or business associate in protecting him. With all to whom we have talked, we have not been able to learn of an occasion when Mr. Potter "squealed" because of a business reverse. He was a game winner and a game loser. He fought his business life in a business way, and his extra-business career—that greater sphere of activity devoted to humanity without thought of personal com-

secretary-treasurer succeeding herself.

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Hans Boysen Bought Large Estate Interest

Hans Boysen has purchased the interest of the estate of his late deceased partner, Carl Lage, and effective last week, became the sole owner of the general store which has been known for many years past as Boysen & Lage.

Immediately upon the completion of the deal, Mr. Boysen started on a small program of remodeling. A new floor has been laid in the grocery section of the store, and shortly a large plate glass display window will be placed in the west wall of the grocery section.

The business will be conducted in the same courteous and pleasing manner as during the past several months.

—seemed to me dictated by the highest motives of unselfish service.

Funeral Wednesday.

The funeral of Mr. Potter was held at the Congregational church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. It was attended by many relatives, friends and neighbors, many from Oakland and other distant neighborhoods. The display of floral offerings was large and beautiful.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Tilton of Omaha, and a gentleman whose name we did not learn, were the singers. The former rendered two duets very beautifully and the latter a solo.

Rev. Bast, local pastor, and Rev. J. L. Blanchard (twice pastor of Congregational churches of which Mr. Potter was a member, one of them the local church, Mr. Blanchard being now a municipal judge in Council Bluffs) delivered the sermon. Himself and Mr. Potter had been very close personal friends for 34 years, wherefore he was able to say more of the good qualities of deceased than could a less informed pastor.

All present showed by their demeanor the very high regard in which they held Mr. Potter, and their sorrow at his passing.

Biographies and Portraits

... OF THE ...

Progressive Men of Iowa

Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions

TOGETHER WITH
AN ORIGINAL AND AUTHENTIC

History of the State

... BY ...

Ex-Lieutenant-Governor B. J. Gue

Des Moines
Conaway & Shaw, Publishers
1899

re-elected for three subsequent terms to the same position. He was elected mayor of the city of Council Bluffs, in 1868 and in 1870 was an alderman. He went to Utah in 1870, and for four years was engaged in silver mining. He was deputy United States mineral surveyor in that territory during two years of that time. He returned to Council Bluffs in 1874, and since that time has been for several terms county surveyor of the county and city engineer of the city. He is the inventor and patentee of several useful inventions, the latest being a combined protractor and parallel rule for surveyors and architects.

During the war Mr. Tostevin was appointed captain of artillery in the Iowa militia, but was not sent to the front. He was one of the first organizers of the Union League in that section of the state and was president of that order for three years. He has been a republican since the organization of the party.

He was married October 31, 1852, to Miss Harriet Gibbs, who was born in Schoharie county, N. Y., June 17, 1832. They have had nine children, four of whom are now living, Walter J., born October 31, 1861; Julia L., born July 30, 1863, and now Mrs. E. E. Harvey, of Denver, Col.; Albert T., born November 6, 1865; Ida, born August 8, 1867, and now Mrs. W. H. Wakefield, of Omaha, Neb.

POTTER, HON. LEVI FRANKLIN, banker of Oakland, Pottawattamie county, and one of the leading members of the legislature, was born in Wauwatosa, Milwaukee county, Wis., March 27, 1855. His father, Levi Brigham Potter, who settled in Wisconsin in 1839, was of New England stock, and prominent in municipal and church affairs. His mother, Hitty Wenzel Potter, was a woman of marked ability and of great influence in her community. Ebenezer Potter and Col. Levi Brigham, great grandparents of the subject of this sketch, were veterans of the great struggle for the independence of the colonies.

Levi Franklin Potter completed his education in Ripon and Beloit colleges, and after teaching three years came to Oakland in 1879 and there engaged in mercantile business. In March, 1884, he became partner and cashier in the Citizens bank, now the Citizens State bank, of that town, which position he now occupies. He is a prominent member of the Iowa Banking association, having served as a member of the executive council and on the legislative committee of that body.

Prominent in municipal affairs, he has twice been mayor of Oakland. Always affiliating with the republican party, he was elected by a flattering majority to represent the county in the Twenty-sixth Gen-

eral Assembly, which met in 1896, and in extra session in 1897, to complete the codification of the laws of the state. He was re-elected to the same representation in the Twenty-seventh General Assembly, which met in 1898. Mr. Potter's record as a legislator is one in which his constituency have just pride. During his first session he was chairman of the committee on telegraph, telephone, and express, and member of the committees on ways and means, code revision, banks and banking, municipal corporations, police regulations, and labor. His work on the ways and means committee of that session so attracted the



attention of its chairman, Hon. J. H. Funk, that when Mr. Funk was elected speaker of the Twenty seventh General Assembly one of the first chairmanships he determined was that of ways and means, which went to Mr. Potter. In this session Mr. Potter was also member of the committees on railroads and commerce, banks and banking, telegraph, telephone, and express, municipal corporations, rules, and labor, and a member of the joint committee on retrenchment and reform.

At this session Mr. Potter introduced and secured the passage of several important bills, among which were House file 199, providing shorter forms for assessment rolls and assessors' books, an important act that will save hundreds of dollars every year to each county; House file 165, appropriating \$25,000 (in addition to the \$10,000 appropriated at

the previous session) for the Iowa exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi exposition; House file 101, extending the term of school treasurers from one to two years (a measure the merit of which is appreciated by those who have noticed the efforts of banks for control of school funds); House file 147, providing severe penalties for the adulteration of candy.

At his first session Mr. Potter had charge of, and secured the passage in the house, of the senate bill taxing express companies 1 per cent on the gross amount of business done by them in the state, and in the Twenty-seventh General Assembly he supplemented this work by introducing and securing the passage of House file 234 doubling the taxes so paid by these companies. He was also deeply interested in the encouragement of the beet sugar industry, and the value of his work on these lines ranks him among the pioneers of this important enterprise.

Mr. Potter was married in 1881 to Miss M. J. Wood, and has established a delightful home in Oakland, where he and his wife are important factors in all local matters tending to advance the education, morals, and well being of the community.

MILLS, OLIVER, of Lewis, Cass county, has been for nearly fifty years a resident of Iowa, and through his connection with the State Agricultural society, which lasted for about twenty years, became well known to the people of our state. For three successive terms he served as president of the society, and was for many years a director and one who took a leading part in building up the society and making it a success. He, like many others of our prominent citizens, is a native of Ohio, born at Gustavus, Trumbull county, February 1, 1820. This village is situated in northeastern Ohio, about fifty miles east of Cleveland and almost in sight of the beautiful Lake Erie.

Harlow Mills, the father of Oliver, was of pure New England stock and a native of Hartford county, Conn. He was a prosperous farmer and dairyman and married Faith Ann Spencer, also a native of that county, but of German descent. In 1819 they emigrated to what was then the wild west and located in northeastern Ohio. In this beautiful lake region, known then as the western reserve, Oliver was born and grew to manhood. He attended the district schools in that locality, which were then excellent, until he was 14, when he went to Farmington academy to finish his education.

When old enough to start out for himself he engaged in farming and stock raising, in which he was very successful. April 17, 1839, he married Sophia Arnold. Attracted by the fame of the wonderful prairie west of the Mississippi, in 1850 he removed his young family to Lee county, Iowa, and settled at Denmark. Since that date he has been active in building up the industries of the new state and has managed his own business with a sagacity which has enabled him to accumulate a competence.

After residing at Denmark nearly eight years he removed to Lewis, Cass county, in 1857; at that time almost all of the country west of Des Moines was a prairie wilderness. It is now, 1899, a thickly settled and most beautifully improved country. Mr. Mills still resides at Lewis, at the age of 78 years, with mind as bright and clear as ever, with interest unabated in state and nation.

Mr. Mills was originally a whig, but since the organization of the party has been an active and influential republican. He has held several minor offices and was a



member of the Fourteenth General Assembly, representing Cass, Montgomery and Adair counties, then forming the Twentieth representative district.

Since the early age of 14, Mr. Mills has been a member of the Congregational

PAST AND PRESENT
OF
SHELBY COUNTY
IOWA

By
EDWARD S. WHITE, B.A., LL. B.



ILLUSTRATED

1915
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

In politics, Mr. Bomberger was a staunch Republican until 1912, when he affiliated with the newly organized Progressive party. Religiously, he was reared a German Lutheran and Presbyterian, although he is now a loyal member of the Congregational church of Harlan.

Mr. Bomberger was married in 1882 to Arbella DeButts, of Leaf River, Illinois, whom he met while attending college. She is the daughter of Enos and Catherine (Thomas) DeButts. Her grandparents on her father's side were Addison and Barbara (Coffman) DeButts; on her mother's side her grandparents were Elias and Susan (Rice) Thomas, natives of Maryland. The Thomas family came overland to Leaf River, Illinois, in 1835. Mr. and Mrs. Bomberger are the parents of two children, Arthur and Henrietta Ada. Both the children are graduates of Lake Forest University and are now giving expert assistance to their father in his horticultural work. Henrietta is a student in the Art Institute in Chicago, where she is specializing in commercial art.

HON. LEVI FRANKLIN POTTER.

In the largest and best sense of the term Hon. Levi Franklin Potter is distinctively one of the influential and notable men of his day and generation, and as such his life record is entitled to a conspicuous place in the annals of his county and state. As a citizen he has been public spirited and enterprising. As a friend and neighbor he has combined the qualities of head and heart that have won confidence and commanded respect. As a banker he has achieved a notable success and won the highest recognition for his attainments in financial circles possible for an individual in the state of Iowa. As a legislator he became recognized throughout the state for his signal services in behalf of the people and won fame as a true representative of the people. His interests while in the halls of the state legislature as one of the law makers for the people were purely and unselfishly impersonal and he sought only to accomplish what he deemed right and just. Eminent as a financier, useful as a progressive and enterprising citizen, esteemed highly as a friend, he is one of the valued members of the community in which he has resided for fifteen years or more and has rendered valued service as the fitting climax to a long and successful career in public life.

Levi Franklin Potter is a son of Levi Brigham Potter, a descendant of an old New England family. In his veins flows the best blood of New England ancestors and he has had the inspiration given by the deeds of illustrious



A. J. Potter

forbears who, far back in the days of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods of the nation's history, rendered valiant service in behalf of the struggling Republic. He was born in Wawatosa, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, March 27, 1855. His mother was Hitty (Wenzel) Potter. Levi B. Potter, his father, was the grandson of Ebenezer Potter, a valiant soldier of the Revolution. Col. Levi Brigham, his great-grandfather was also a veteran in the American war for independence. Levi B. Potter was the son of Ebenezer Potter, Jr. The maternal grandmother of Mr. Potter was Susanna Brigham, a daughter of Lieutenant Levi and Tabitha (Hardy) Brigham. She was a mother of Ebenezer Potter, Sr.

In the year 1839, Levi B. Potter emigrated from his ancestral home in New England to the wilds of Wisconsin and there carved a home from the forest in Milwaukee county. He was one of the race of empire builders who broke the way and endured the hardships which were necessary for the development of the middle West. He lived and died on the homestead which he created with his own hands. He bequeathed to his country a family of eight children, only three of whom are now living: Milton B., residing at Wawatosa, Wisconsin; Mrs. Susan De Graff, a widow, formerly a resident of Colorado, but now making her home with Mr. Potter; Levi Franklin, with whom this narrative is directly concerned.

L. F. Potter received his primary education in the public schools of his native county and attended the Ripon and Beloit colleges of Wisconsin. For a period of three years he taught school. While still a young man in years he hearkened to the call of the west and made a trip into Iowa as far as Pottawattamie county, Iowa, in 1876. The possibilities of attaining success in the new country impressed him apparently, for, in 1879, he came again to the state and here he has remained. He located in the town of Oakland and engaged in the mercantile business. He continued in business until March of 1884, when he became the cashier of the Citizens State Bank, of Oakland, and for the past thirty years has been connected with this institution. Here it was that his latent ability for financial attainments found an opportunity for full play and he has since achieved high prestige in banking circles. He resided in Oakland until 1899, when he came to Harlan for the purpose of having a wider field for his operations.

During his residence in Oakland he was one of the leading citizens of the city and county. He was twice elected mayor of the city. Mr. Potter was there elected a member of the twenty-sixth General Assembly, representing Pottawattamie county, which convened in 1896 and again in extra session in 1897 for the purpose of effecting a complete codification of the laws of the state.

Mr. Potter made an enviable record for statesmanship while a member of the legislature. While serving in the twenty-sixth General Assembly, he was chairman of the committee on telegraph, telephone and express and was a member of the important committee on ways and means, and also a member of the code revision, banks and banking, municipal corporations, police regulation and labor committees. His fine work on the ways and means committee attracted the attention of chairman J. H. Funk, so that when Mr. Funk was elevated to the speakership of the house of representatives of the twenty-seventh General Assembly to which Mr. Potter was elected in 1898, he appointed Mr. Potter chairman of this committee. During the session of the twenty-seventh General Assembly he was a member of the following additional committees: Railroads and commerce, banks and banking, telegraph, telephone and express, municipal corporations, rules, labor, and was a member of the joint committee on retrenchment and reform. Mr. Potter introduced and was successful in having passed the following bills: House bill number 199, providing for shorter forms for assessment rolls and assessors' books, an important money-saving act and the operation of which has saved hundreds of dollars every fiscal year to each county; house bill, number 165, providing for the appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars (in addition to ten thousand dollars appropriated at the previous session), to defray the expenses of the Iowa exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition; house file number 101, extending the term of school treasurer, the merit of which measure is fully appreciated by those who have noticed the efforts of banks to control the school funds; house file number 147, providing severe penalties for the adulteration of candy. During his first session, Mr. Potter had charge of and secured the passage in the house of the senate bill taxing express companies one per cent. on the gross amount of business annually done by them within the state. Prior to the passage of this bill, the express companies had avoided the payment of any considerable amount of taxes in the state. While a member of the twenty-seventh General Assembly, he supplemented this statute by introducing and securing the passage of house file, number 234, which doubled the taxes heretofore paid by the express companies. He was also interested in legislation having for its object the encouragement of the beet sugar industry within the state.

When Mr. Potter took up his permanent residence in Harlan he organized the First National Bank and served as the president of this concern until its merger with the Shelby County State Bank in January, 1906. Mr. Potter had previously secured the controlling interest in the Shelby County State Bank and the merger was the natural result of his financiering and the cul-

mination of well-laid plans to establish in Harlan a strong and aggressive financial institution. He became president of this flourishing bank and its activities were considerably broadened while he occupied this responsible position. In June of 1911, failing health compelled Mr. Potter to relinquish the presidency of the Shelby County State Bank and he retired to make way for a younger man who would relieve him of the burden of directing its affairs. Since that time he has been devoting his time to the attending of his personal affairs and indulging in well-earned recreation. His elegant home on Baldwin street in Harlan is equipped with what is probably the most extensive library in the county and one of the best and largest libraries in western Iowa which is evidence of his educational and literary attainments. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Potter had considerable land holdings but has recently disposed of his Shelby county farm land. He is president of the Citizens State Bank of Oakland and of the Bank of Defiance in Shelby county. All of the banks in which Mr. Potter is interested are members of the Iowa Bankers Association. Another great honor which came to Mr. Potter is the presidency of the Iowa Bankers Association, to which position he was elected in 1903, having previously served two years as treasurer and one year as vice-president.

Mr. Potter was married in November, 1881 to Martha J. Wood, a daughter of William Wood of Oakland, Iowa. He is a member of and liberal supporter of the Harlan Congregational church. He is fraternally connected with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is a Knight Templar. Mr. Potter is president of the Harlan Country Club, an organization whose object is to provide recreation for its members.

Mr. Potter has been a life-long Republican in his political preferment and has taken a rather active part in local and state politics. He was a delegate to the national convention of his party which nominated William H. Taft for the presidency in Chicago in 1908. His influence has been felt in various ways at different times along political lines. Besides attaining eminence as a financier and serving his state as an honored and capable member of the legislature his sense of civic responsibility has found outlet in the performance of those duties which are the part of the average citizen. He was one of the promoters of the Shelby County Chautauqua Association, an institution which has met with popular favor and been very successful each year. He was president of the Chautauqua Association for four years. He was one of the prime movers in the inception of the Harlan Commercial exchange which numbers among its members the most progressive and hustling citizens of the city and has for its object "A greater and better Harlan."

He filled the office of president of this organization for several years. Mr. Potter is also connected with the Shelby county Fine Live Stock Exchange as its treasurer. This is one of the first if not the first organization of its kind in the United States and has accomplished wonders in advertising the greatness of Shelby county as a fine live stock producing center and bringing the producers together to work harmoniously.

By virtue of his ancestry, Mr. Potter is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is also a member of the Iowa State Historical Society. Another organization of which he is a contributing and active member is the famous Burbank corporation, composed principally of men of means who are banded together for the purpose of promoting publicity of the discoveries and propagations made by Luther Burbank, the California scientist and naturalist.

Sufficient has been said to indicate the character of Mr. Potter and to show his high standing in the community which has been his residence for the past fifteen years, and it only remains to be said that throughout his entire financial and civic career he has been animated by good motives and made personal considerations subordinate to the claims of duty. Broad and liberal in his views, his associations with his fellowmen have been characterized by the best of fellowship and his record bears out the idea that a man gifted with talents supplemented with an educational training, can, with little or no assistance other than that afforded by his hands and brain, overcome obstacles and achieve a high position and success even in the smaller communities. This review is intended as an appreciation of the accomplishments of Mr. Potter and will ultimately prove an inspiration to those of a younger generation who are seeking to find a way to rise above the average. Of such men does history mainly treat. The historian records the acts accomplished by men, and the biographer chronicles the personal facts regarding the individual. Thus is a complete and concise history of any community created.

REV. PETER BROMMENSCHENKEL.

There is no higher earthly calling than the ministry of the Gospel; no life more uplifting and grander than that which is devoted to the amelioration of the human race; no life which demands more sacrifices. The true minister is willing to cast aside all earthly crowns and laurels of fame in order to follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life, for its

STATE OF IOWA
1929

Journal of the House
OF THE

Forty-third General Assembly

REGULAR SESSION
CONVENED JANUARY 14, 1929
ADJOURNED APRIL 12, 1929

JOHN HAMMILL, Governor
J. H. JOHNSON, Speaker of the House
ARCH W. McFARLANE, President of the Senate

35285
Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased in care of Mr. N. L. Stiles at Cherokee, Iowa.

C. C. R. BUSH,
WILBER F. HUBBARD,
G. W. SMITH,

Committee.

Unanimously adopted April 8, 1929.

HON. LEVI FRANKLIN POTTER

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee which was appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character and services of the late L. F. Potter of Shelby county, beg leave to submit the following:

Levi Franklin Potter was born at Wawatosa, Wisconsin, March 27, 1855, and died at his home in Harlan, Iowa, April 8, 1928.

Mr. Potter was educated in the schools and colleges of his native state and in 1876 made a trip to Pottawattamie county of this state where he received his first impressions of the possibilities of western Iowa.

He located at Oakland, Iowa, and represented Pottawattamie county in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies of the state legislature and in the special session in 1897, which met to completely codify the laws of the state; and was also chairman of the ways and means committee. Mr. Potter's activities since he came to his adopted state have been many and varied.

If any particular line of endeavor should be used to classify his activities, it would be that of banking, and many people owe their start in life to his wise counsel, his financial aid and his foresight in affairs of finances.

He was elected to the presidency of the State Bankers Association in 1903, and served creditably to himself and the association.

He was a member of the Congregational church, and it can be truly said that the church is richer, not only in a material sense, but from that of brotherly love. He was also a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and passed in that organization into the Knight Templar and Shrine degrees.

There are left to mourn his loss his wife, Mrs. Stella Grace Potter, and his son.

Due to his business acumen his holdings in land ran into the hundreds of acres.

His work is done. It is recorded today in the history, in the statutes, and in the affections of the people of the state in which he lived and died, and which he loved so well. He was one of the last of the old oaks, sturdy, steadfast and true to all in which he believed and held convictions.

He has finished his course and he has kept the faith as he conceived that faith.

The last chapter of his life has been written, and the book is closed. It can be truthfully said of him, "Well done."

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-third General Assembly, That in the passing of Honorable Levi Franklin Potter, this Assembly express its realization of the loss of one of the leaders in the state, a man of strong character and sterling worth, a man of high ideals in Christian living, and the House would tender by this resolution its sympathy to the family who survive.

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly enrolled copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

WILBER F. HUBBARD,
GEO. E. MILLER,
HARRY M. GREENE,

Committee.

Unanimously adopted April 8, 1929.

HON. THOMAS EDWIN POWERS

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee appointed to prepare memorial resolutions commemorating the life, character and public services of the Honorable T. E. Powers, a former member of the General Assembly of Iowa, begs leave to report the following:

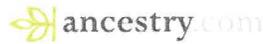
Thomas Edwin Powers was born in Clarinda, Page county, Iowa, on November 29, 1857, and received his elementary education in the Clarinda schools, graduating in one of the earliest classes of the Clarinda high school. Later he entered the Missouri Medical College, now the Medical College of Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri, and graduated therefrom on March 4, 1881. Dr. Powers started the practice of his profession at St. Louis, Missouri, immediately after his graduation but practiced there for only a short time, and returned to his native city because of the illness of his father, and from that time on had been a resident of Clarinda, Iowa, and one of its prominent citizens and physicians. He was assistant superintendent of the Clarinda State Hospital for the Insane from 1891 to 1893, at which time the present superintendent of the hospital, Dr. Max E. Wittee, and Dr. Powers formed bonds of affectionate friendship that continued on down through the years.

Dr. Powers was married to Miss Anna Peterson, then a teacher in the Clarinda high schools, on May 25, 1882, and she survives him.

In the year 1897, Dr. Powers became affiliated with the Masonic lodge and became an active and esteemed member of the lodge; served four years as Master of the Nodaway Lodge of Clarinda, Iowa, and for a number of years immediately preceding his death he served in the position of district lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M.

He was first elected as a member of the House of Representatives of this state in 1922 and reelected in 1924, serving in the two regular sessions and in the special session in 1924. During the years 1926-1927, Dr. Powers was president of the Iowa State Medical Association and in 1928 was appointed to the State Board of Health by Governor Hammill.

Dr. Powers died at his home where he had resided since he was seven years of age, on February 14, 1929, and was buried at Clarinda, Iowa, February 17, 1929.



You searched for **Levi F. Potter** in Iowa

1900 United States Federal Census

Name: **Levi F Potter**
[Levi F Polter]

Home in 1900: **Harlan, Shelby, Iowa**

Age: **45**

Birth Date: **Mar 1855**

Birthplace: **Wisconsin**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

Relationship to head-of-house: **Head**

Father's Birthplace: **New Hampshire**

Mother's Birthplace: **Massachusetts**

Spouse's name: **Martha Potter**

Marriage Year: **1881**

Marital Status: **Married**

Years Married: **19**

Occupation: [View on Image](#)

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

| Household | Name | Age |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----|
| Members: | Levi F Potter | 45 |
| | Martha Potter | 43 |

Source Citation: Year: 1900; Census Place: Harlan, Shelby, Iowa; Roll: T623_459; Page: 15B; Enumeration District: 165.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.



Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 185-4 rolls.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Levi F. Potter** in **Iowa**

1920 United States Federal Census

Name: **Levi F Potter**
 Home in 1920: **Harlan Ward 2, Shelby, Iowa**
 Age: **64**
 Estimated birth **abt 1856**
 year:
 Birthplace: **Wisconsin**
 Relation to Head **Self (Head)**
 of House: **[Head]**
 Spouse's name: **Stella G Potter**
 Father's Birth **Michigan**
 Place:
 Mother's Birth **Wisconsin**
 Place:
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Race: **White**
 Sex: **Male**
 Home owned: **Own**
 Able to read: **Yes**
 Able to Write: **Yes**

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

| Household | Name | Age |
|-----------|--|-----|
| Members: | Levi F Potter | 64 |
| | Stella G Potter | 51 |
| | Maxfield Franklin Potter | 14 |

Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: Harlan Ward 2, Shelby, Iowa; Roll: T625_513; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 188; Image: 658.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc. 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.



Original data: Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#). Note: Enumeration Districts 819-839 are on roll 323 (Chicago City).

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census, the Fourteenth Census of the United States. It includes all states and territories, as well as Military and Naval Forces, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Panama Canal Zone. The census provides many details about individuals and families including: name, gender, age, birthplace, year of immigration, mother tongue, and parents' birthplaces. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1920 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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Levi F. Potter

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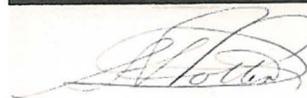
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Birth: 1855
Death: 1928

Levi F. Potter was born in 1855. He was united in marriage to Stella Grace Beebe at Kansas City, Mo. in December of 1909. They then came to Harlan, Iowa where he lived until his passing. Levi and Stella were blessed with one son, Maxfield W. Potter.
Burial in Harlan Cemtery.

Burial:
[Harlan Cemetery](#)
Harlan
Shelby County
Iowa, USA

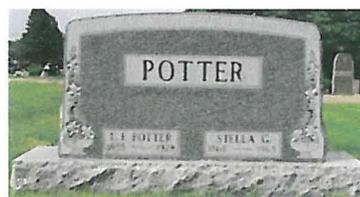
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