

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Muffit,
John T. - Represented Cedar and Jones Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 8 Jul 1862 Mechanicville, Iowa
in Cedar City, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Married Elizabeth Hecht 28 Sept 1892 Clarence, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Member of Cedar County, State and American Bar Associations;
Trustee of Cornell College

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Shriner; Tipton Chapter of Commerce;
Knights of Pythias

C. Profession Attorney; Judge of the District Court

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 28th, 29th General Assemblies 1900, 1902

6. Public Offices

A. Local Cedar County attorney 1905-1910; Tipton city councilman 1893-1896
Tipton mayor 1896-1898

B. State District Court Judge 1915

C. National Delegate to the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis in
1892

7. Death 11 Nov 1947 Tipton, Iowa; Buried Masonic Cemetery, Tipton, Iowa

8. Children Margaret (Mrs. Henry Young Plotter)

9. Names of parents Alexander and Martha (Poteet) Muffit

Moffitt, John J.

10. Education He was educated in the common schools of Cedar City, Iowa
near his neighborhood 1868-1876. He then spent three
years in the McDonnell Iowa High School

11. Degrees Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa - BA degree 1884
and MA in 1887; University of Michigan - Law degree
in 1886

12. Other applicable information Republican

- In 1886 he began practicing law in Lipton, Iowa as a partner of
Mr. Charles E. Wheeler
- Two years later he became a member of the Allison, Jewin and
Moffitt law firm in which he practiced until 1927.
- He stepped down from the bench in 1942 when his hearing became
defective.
- Military service - 21 years of military experience, 1879-1884 as a
member of the Cornell College cadets - National Guards in 1885
to the end of the Spanish American War attaining the rank of
Lieutenant Colonel
- Member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell College
- His wife died several years before he did.
- His father, Alexander Moffitt, also served in the Iowa Legislature, 16th General Assembly,
1876, in the House of Representatives

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Hon. John T. Moffit,
Tipton, Dies Monday

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John T. Moffit, 85, widely known
and highly esteemed retired district
court judge, passed away early on
Tuesday morning at his home in
Tipton, following a long illness.

the county seats of the Eighteenth
judicial district.

He was keenly interested in the
activities and progress of his home
community, and had only recently
written his views and suggestions on
projects to be emphasized by the

Final rites were conducted at the



home Thursday afternoon this week,
Nov. 13, the Rev. Stanley Schlick
conducting the committal service,
Mr. W. R. Brodave... and Dr.
Russell Cole of Cornell College, Mt.
Vernon, and State...
Judge Moffit served on the judicial
bench for 27 years, holding court in

Greater Tipton Club whose annual
meeting was held Wednesday even-
ing, after his death. He had keen
efforts in behalf of the community
were potential in the success of a
Born near Mechanicsville, July 8,
1862, he attended Mechanicsville

Source: Iowa State Historical Society collection compiled by... State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Russell Cole of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, assisting in the service.

Judge Moffit served on the judicial bench for 27 years, holding court in Cedar Rapids, Anamosa and Tipton,

"Smilin' Thru" - The Junior Class Play - November 21st

"Smilin' Thru", a three-act comedy by Allen M. Martin, will be presented by the Tipton high school junior class on Friday, November 21 in the school auditorium. Curtain time is 8 p. m.

The play has a present-day setting in Ireland and a "flash-back" to the first world war. Dick Witmer, who has the lead, has the difficult job of portraying both an old and a young man in the same production. Forrest Cobb also portrays one of the more difficult roles with Witmer. Nancy Norris and Marilyn Howard have the female leads.

Advance sale tickets are available at the school for students and patrons through student purchase on Friday, Nov. 14th. Activity ticket number 8, when signed, may be exchanged by students for a reserved seat ticket.

Tickets are available to the general public beginning Friday night at Zager's Drug store. Sale of tickets at Zager's will continue until 1 o'clock Friday, November 21st.

W. S. C. S. OF THE METHODIST CHURCH HOLDS REGULAR MEETING

The November meeting of the Methodist Women's society was held at the church Friday afternoon, Nov. 7. A luncheon was served in the dining room with Mrs. Pearl Sherwood, chairman of arrangements and Miss Ruby Wingert, dining room chairman. At the afternoon meeting, a business meeting was held followed by the devotionals, conducted by Mrs. Henry Walters. The lesson theme was "An Orderly World for Our Children" and was presented by Mrs. B. J. Maxwell. A complete list of officers for the ensuing year was read: Mrs. Howard Hamilton, president; Mrs. Emmett Wayland, vice president; Mrs. Thornton, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Raymond Spencer, recording secretary; Mrs. Grant White treasurer; Mrs. Clyde Kuhn, secretary of Christian Social Relations

were potential in the success of a many a project.

Born near Mechanicsville, July 8, 1862, he attended Mechanicsville high school. He received his bachelor of arts degree in 1884 from Cornell College, and his master of arts in 1887 from the same school.

He was graduated with the bachelor of laws degree in 1886 from the University of Michigan, which 50 years later awarded him an honorary master of laws degree.

In 1886 he began the practice of law in Tipton, as a partner of Mr. Charles E. Wheeler, well known for his part in the Jones county calf case. After 10 years he became a member of the firm of Grimm, Trewin & Moffit. He continued his law practice for 27 years until he became district court judge in 1915.

He retired from the bench in 1942 when his hearing became defective.

Judge Moffit was a state senator from his district from 1900 to 1904, Cedar county attorney from 1905 to 1910, a member of the Tipton city council from 1893 to 1896, and was mayor of Tipton from 1896 to 1898.

He was a delegate to the Republican national convention in Minneapolis in 1892. Secretary of his law class since graduation, he had compiled a comprehensive history of each member of the class.

Judge Moffit had 21 years of military experience. He served from 1879 to 1884 as a member of the Cornell college cadets. He enlisted as a private in the Iowa national guard in 1885 and was mustered out at the end of the Spanish-American war as a lieutenant colonel.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa; of the Cedar County, Iowa State, and American Bar Associations. He was a member of the board of trustees of Cornell college and of the board's executive committee. He was affiliated with the Masonic lodge and was a Consistory and Shrine member in Cedar Rapids. He was a former curator of the State Historical Society and a member of Tipton Presbyterian church.

Judge Moffit was married Sept. 28, 1892, to Winifred Hecht of Clarence who died 11 years ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Margaret Platner of Evanston, Ill.; a brother, W. A. Moffit of Mechanicsville, and two sisters, Mrs. Martha Stokey of Mechanicsville, and Mrs. Mary Reeder of Vinton.

Beginning Dec. 1st, the office of

NOTICE

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

from that institution June 8, 1880. Mr. Mosher attained his present position as an attorney by no marked flashes of advancement, but the growth of his practice has been marked by steady and continued development. He has now quite a reputation as a criminal lawyer, and has been employed in all the criminal cases tried in his county for years. He was prosecuting attorney in the case of the State of Iowa v. T. P. Edgerton, indicted and tried for murder. He secured a verdict of murder in the second degree, being a verdict for the highest degree of killing sustained in any like case in Iowa, namely, the killing of another who was in the act of procuring and carrying away the property of the assailant.

In politics he has always been an ardent republican, and has held the office of mayor of his city, justice of the peace, and was elected prosecuting attorney for his county in 1894 and again in 1896. He is a member of the Odd Fellows, having filled all the offices in a subordinate lodge and been in attendance at the grand lodge a number of times. He is also a Knight Templar, thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the order of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Mosher has been twice married, the first time to Elizabeth Jones, who died, leaving three children, Edward Everett, born August 1, 1879; Maggie M., born April 30, 1881, and Arthur A., born July 27, 1884. He was married again in 1888, to Maud Young, at Beaver, Pa. They have five children living, Lemuel Leigh, born February, 19, 1890; Wendell W., born December 12, 1891, Donovan D., born December 12, 1895; Edith E., born March 2, 1897, and Hugh H., born March 14, 1899. Mr. Mosher is an active member of the Methodist church.

MOFFIT, JOHN T., of Tipton, lawyer and man of affairs, is a son of Hon. Alex Moffit who was a member of the Sixteenth General Assembly of Iowa. The father was born in 1829, in the county of Tyrone, Ireland, and came with his father to America and settled in Cedar county in 1840, where he has since resided. He is a farmer and lives on his farm and personally directs the management.

The mother's maiden name was Martha J. Poteet, who was born near Dayton, Ohio, in 1840, and came to Iowa in 1857.

John T. Moffit was born on his father's farm, near Mechanicsville, Cedar county, Iowa, July 8, 1862. He attended the common schools of that county from 1868 until 1876, after which he spent three years in the Mechanicsville high school. In September, 1879, he entered the preparatory department of Cornell college, at Mt. Vernon, took the classical course, and on June 16, 1884, graduated with the degree of A. B. He was manager of the college base ball team for two years and held various offices in the Adelpian Literary society.

He then entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and July 1, 1886, graduated from the law department with the degree of LL. B.

In June, 1887, Cornell college conferred upon him the degree of A. M. In 1885 he enlisted as a private in the Iowa National Guard and rose successively to orderly-sergeant and second lieutenant in 1889, captain in 1890, and major in 1894.

Governor Shaw issued his call for volunteers for the Spanish-American war on April 25, 1898. On this day Lieutenant-Colonel Moffit had been in his office attend-



ing to business as usual and was called from his bed about midnight by a message directing him to report at Des Moines forthwith to be enrolled.

The next morning, after having trav-

elled across half the state, found him reporting to the adjutant-general for duty, at 9:30 A. M.

He was enrolled as major of the Fiftieth Iowa on April 26; mustered into the United States service on May 18th, and on August 20th was promoted to lieutenant-colonel of the Fiftieth Iowa Volunteer infantry.

This regiment was the first to leave Iowa for the south. He was regularly mustered out, with his regiment, on November 20, 1898.

After his college days were over he formed a law partnership with Charles E. Wheeler, under the firm name of Wheeler & Moffit, and commenced business November 1, 1887, at Tipton, Iowa. September 1, 1894, Judge J. H. Preston resigned his seat on the district bench and became associated with the firm of Wheeler & Moffit under the firm name of Preston, Wheeler & Moffit, and immediately the new firm opened an office in Cedar Rapids, to be conducted in connection with the one at Tipton. Mr. Wheeler withdrew September 1, 1897, and the firm is now Preston & Moffit. Judge Preston has charge of the business in Cedar Rapids and resides there, while Mr. Moffit looks after the practice in Tipton. They have been connected with all the important litigation of Cedar county and are regarded as a strong firm.

Lieutenant-Colonel Moffit has always been a republican. He was a delegate from Iowa to the republican national convention which met at Minneapolis in 1892, being but 29 years of age at that time. He was one of the youngest members of that body, certainly the youngest of the Iowa delegation. He takes an active interest in politics, but has never sought office. In the spring of 1896, Tipton was organized into a city of the second class and he was elected its first mayor under the new order, although against his wish. He was president of the Republican club of Cedar county in 1888, and held a similar office in the McKinley club of Tipton in 1896. He was married to Miss Winifred E. Hecht, daughter of Fred and Margaret E. Hecht, at Clarence, Iowa, September 28, 1892. Has one daughter, Margaret Eleanor, born May 6, 1897.

WORK, W. A., of Ottumwa, Iowa, is the senior member of the law firm of Work & Lewis, and is an enthusiast in his devotion to the law, his chosen profession. Mr. Work turns neither to the right nor left in

search for honors or preferment that will not come to him as a devoted laborer in the profession which he has chosen as his life work, and which he loves so well. Mr. Work was born on the 25th day of December, 1844, on a farm in Jefferson county,



Iowa. His father, Joseph Work, was a native of Clark county, Ind., and came to Jefferson county, Iowa, in 1843. The same year, before leaving Indiana, he was married to Miss Eleanor Huckleberry. They moved to Van Buren county, Iowa, near Birmingham in 1845, where young W. A. was reared on a farm and became inured to all the hardships, labor and privations incident to pioneer life. His father represented Van Buren county in the state legislature in 1872.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the old schoolhouse of pioneer days, where he attended a winter and a summer term till he was old enough to work in the field, when he was limited to a winter term for several years. In these schools everything learned was not from books. The wide expanse of prairie fringed with forests, over which they roamed, gave the boy a breadth of character not attained in the limited environments of the city.

Such was young Work in the latter fifties, when he entered the then well known academy at Birmingham. In 1862, he was

STATE OF IOWA

LEGISLATORS

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1949

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JOURNAL OF THE

of the

FIFTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

▼

Convened January 10, 1949
Adjourned April 20, 1949

WILLIAM S. BEARDSLEY, Governor
KENNETH A. EVANS, President of the Senate
G. T. KUESTER, Speaker of the House

▼

Compiled Under Direction of
SHERMAN W. NEEDHAM
Superintendent of Printing



Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines, Iowa

three sisters, Mrs. Kate Ainsworth, Volga City; Mrs. Anna Cole, Edgewood; and Mrs. Pearl White, Long Beach, California.

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Fifty-third General Assembly: That in the passing of the Honorable George S. Hartman the state has lost a valuable and honored citizen and one who has contributed unselfish service to the state of Iowa.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread on the Journal of the Senate, and that the Secretary of the Senate be directed to forward enrolled copies to the members of the family of the deceased.

ARTHUR H. JACOBSON,
J. KENDALL LYNES,
DON RISK,

Committee.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

JOHN T. MOFFIT

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable John T. Moffit, begs leave to submit the following:

John T. Moffit, soldier, legislator and jurist, died at his home in Tipton, Iowa, November 11, 1947. He was born on a farm near Mechanicsville, Iowa, July 8, 1862, the son of Alexander Moffit; graduated from the academy at Cornell College in 1884, and from the law department, University of Michigan, in 1886. He then read law for one year in the office of E. B. Soper at Emmetsburg, Iowa, later locating in Tipton. Ten years later he became a partner in the Cedar Rapids law firm of Grimm, Trewin and Moffit; served as state senator from 1900 to 1904; Cedar County Attorney from 1905 to 1910, and district judge from 1915 to 1942; was a delegate to the Republican national convention in 1892; enlisted in the Iowa National Guard in 1885 as a private and was mustered out as lieutenant colonel at the end of the Spanish-American war.

Mr. Moffit was an honorary member of the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity and of the Cornell college board of trustees since 1906; a Republican, Presbyterian and 32nd degree Mason of the Davenport Consistory. He was married to Winifred E. Hecht at Clarence, Iowa, on September 28, 1892, who died in 1936, and surviving her parents is a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Platner, 203 Kedzie Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Fifty-third General Assembly: That in the passing of the Honorable John T. Moffit, the state has lost a valuable and honored citizen.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the Senate, and that the Secretary be instructed to send an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

J. M. TUDOR,
O. H. HENNINGSEN,
FRANK C. BYERS,
Committee.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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1900 United States Federal Census

Name: **John L Moffet**
[John T Moffet]

Home in 1900: **Center, Cedar, Iowa**
[Tipton, Cedar, Iowa]

Age: **37**

Birth Date: **Jul 1862**

Birthplace: **Iowa**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

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

Father's Birthplace: **Scotland**

Mother's Birthplace: **Ireland**

Spouse's Name: **Winnifred Moffet**

Marriage year: **1896**

Marital Status: **Married**

Years married: **4**

Occupation: [View on Image](#)

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	John L Moffet	37
	Winnifred Moffet	33
	Margaret Moffet	3

Source Citation: Year: 1900; Census Place: Center, Cedar, Iowa; Roll: T623_422; Page: 14A; Enumeration District: 24.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database online]. 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, 1854 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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1930 United States Federal Census

Name: **John T Moffit**
 Home in 1930: **Tipton, Cedar, Iowa**
[View Map](#)
 Age: **67**
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1863**
 Birthplace: **Iowa**
 Relation to Head of House: **Head**
 Spouse's Name: **Winifred Moffit**
 Race: **White**
 Occupation:
 Education:
 Military Service: [View image](#)
 Rent/home value:
 Age at first marriage:
 Parents' birthplace:
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	John T Moffit	67
	Winifred Moffit	62

Source Citation: Year: 1930; Census Place: Tipton, Cedar, Iowa; Roll: 646; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 2; Image: 932.0.

Source Information:
 Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.



Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D. C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

Description:
 Containing records for approximately 123 million Americans, the 1930 United States Federal Census is the largest census released to date and is the most recent census available for public access. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including: birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census. [Learn more...](#)

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Cape Cod-to-Carmel Kelleys

Entries: 260553 **Updated:** 2008-01-29 08:47:46 UTC (Tue) **Contact:** Miguelk Kelley

[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Pedigree](#) | [Ahnentafel](#) | [Download GED](#)

ID: I640612001

Name: John T MOFFIT

Given Name: John T

Surname: Moffit

Sex: M

Birth: 8 Jul 1862 in Near Mechanicsville, Iowa

Change Date: 17 Jan 2006

Event: Cornell College (Phi Beta Kappa) Education 1884

Event: LI B (Phi Delta Phi), U Of Michigan Education 1886

Event: A M, University Of Michigan Education 1887

Occupation: Bet 1887 and 1914 Practiced Law At Tipton

Religion: Presbyterian

Event: Politics Unknown Republican

Event: admitted to the Iowa Bar Unknown 1886 ¹

Note:

1886 Secretary of his law class, U Mich, elected for life, 1921

1892 Delegate to the Republican National Convention, Minneapolis

1896-8 Mayor of Tipton, Iowa

1900-4 Member of Iowa Senate

1905-9 County Attorney

1914 Elected district judge, re-elected 7 terms, to 31 Dec 1942

1885-1900 Private to Major in the Iowa National Guard

1898 Major, 50th Iowa Volunteers, Infantry; promoted to Lt Col

1905 Member, Iowa State Historical Society

1920 Lifetime member, Iowa State Historical Society

1911-22 Member, board of curators, Iowa Historical Society

Trustee, Cornell College

President, then Hon Pres, Class Officers Council, U of Mich

Member, Cedar county, Iowa State & American Bar Associations

N M O S A W

F I A G Mason (32 degree, Shriner)

 Ancestry Hints for **John T MOFFIT**
[4 possible historical record matches](#)
Father: [Alexander MOFFITT](#) b: 4 Apr 1828 in IrelandMother: [Martha Jane POTEET](#) b: 13 Dec 1841Marriage 1 [Winifred Elizabeth HECHT](#) b: 3 Feb 1867