

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Robinson, Benjamin Franklin Senator _____
Represented Emmet, Dickinson and Osceola Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 21 Jan 1849 Hampton, Connecticut

2. Marriage (s) date place

Elizabeth Barnes 9 May 1869 Marshalltown, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He organized the First National Bank of Armstrong, Iowa;
served as cashier

B. Civic responsibilities Mason

C. Profession Banker; teacher

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 29th, 30th, 31st General Assemblies 1902, 1904, 1906

6. Public Offices

A. Local Granby County treasurer 1881-1887; Armstrong first school board
member 1884; all other duties unrecalled; Mayor of Armstrong

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 9 Jan 1926 Armstrong, Iowa; buried Armstrong Gran County, Armstrong, Iowa

8. Children Jed S.; Edith (Mrs. J. H. Reed); Grace (Mrs. Slosser);
Clara; Gilbert L. (predeceased his father in death); infant daughter predeceased her father in death

9. Names of parents Benjamin and Clarissa (Bartholomew) Robinson

Robinson, Benjamin Franklin

10. Education His early education was spent in the district schools of the neighborhood in Goshen, Connecticut followed by 2 years in the village school of Bethel, Connecticut.

11. Degrees He graduated from the Lee Center Academy, Lee Center, Illinois

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came west at age 15 settling first in Lee Center, Illinois until 1868 when he came to Grady County, Iowa

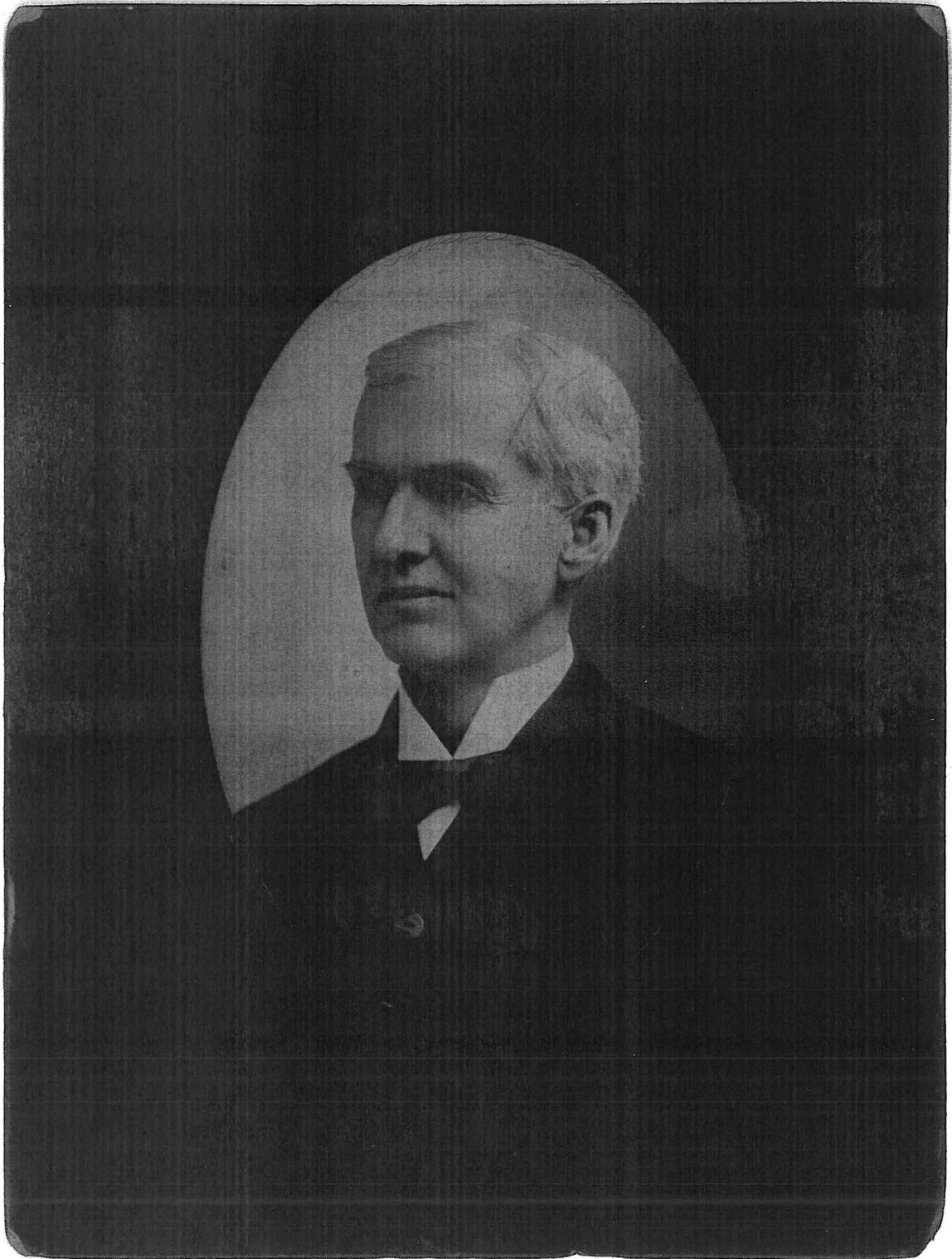
- He purchased land in Grady County and developed it.

- In 1892 he moved to Armstrong, Iowa and engaged in banking

- He was orphaned when he was a small boy, but lived in Connecticut until a sister until he moved to Lee Center, Illinois at age 15.

- He met his wife in Lee Center, Illinois who he married in 1869 just a year after he first came to Iowa and purchased a prairie farm near Grand Grove in Grady County.

- He and his wife both taught school during the first years of their marriage.



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

B. F. ROBINSON DIES AFTER SHORT ILLNESS

B. F. Robinson passed away at his home in this city on Wednesday afternoon after an illness of a couple of days. He had been in good health until Monday when he was afflicted with erysipelas on one of his hands which very quickly turned into a poisonous condition and spread rapidly through his system and he passed away shortly after 3 o'clock.

This came as a shock to his family and to the people of the community. Mr. Robinson had always been in the best of health and was at his desk faithfully every day looking after the interests of the First National bank.

He was well known in this community and in the county having been prominent in financial and political circles of the county since he engaged in the banking business in the early history of Armstrong.

He leaves a wife, a son, Fred S.; three daughters, Mrs. Grace Slessor, Mrs. F. W. Ruef and Miss Clara Robinson.

Funeral services will be held at the home at 2:30 Friday afternoon.

TO THE VOTERS

I take this means of thanking the voters of Emmet county for the splendid support given me at the primary election last Monday. If elected to the office of county auditor in November I shall continue as in

4 H CLUB GIRLS' RALLY DAY AT ESTHERVILLE

The Emmet county girls 4 H rally day will be held Friday, July 11, at Estherville. The girls leaders will meet and register between 10 and 11 o'clock at the Methodist church.

At 12 o'clock the girls will meet at the city park where there will be a picnic dinner for all.

At 1:30 o'clock the following program will be given at the Methodist church:

Greeting—County chairman, George Robb.

Talk by county agent.

Address on girls club work—Gertrude Owens, of Ames, Ia.

Pageant, "Spirit of Club Work" by 4 H club girls of the county.

Everyone interested in the welfare of rural girls is invited to come and make it a big day for 4 H club girls.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

On Sundays Mass will be offered up at 7 and 9:30 a. m. Evening services at 8 o'clock. Mass on weekdays at 7:30 a. m. Everybody come.

Allen Spencer, Cedar county farmer and a member of the West Branch Cow Testing association, has found that it may be the kind of cow well as the number that will determine profits. Two years ago he was milking 17 common cows of no breeding. He wasn't satisfied with the profits, so he exchanged them for 10 Jerseys. This year he is getting

PIONEER BUSINESS MAN LAID TO REST

B. F. Robinson, a pioneer of Armstrong passed away at his home Wednesday afternoon, June 9, 1926, following an illness of three days. Since his usual good health had permitted him to attend actively to business duties, his death came as a great shock to his family and friends and to the community where he has lived so long.

Mr. Robinson was born January 21, 1849, in Harnton, Conn. He was orphaned when a small boy but lived in Connecticut with a sister till he was 15 years of age, when he came to Lee Center, Ill. He attended an academy at that place and met Elizabeth Barnes, who became his wife in 1869, just a year after he first came to Iowa and purchased a prairie farm near Conrad, in Grundy county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson taught school during the first years of their married life. Mrs. Robinson had the "home" school and Mr. Robinson rode horseback to his pupils six miles away.

Except for six years, when Mr. Robinson served as county recorder of Grundy county and the family lived in Grundy Center, they lived on this same farm, developed it, and watched it change in character and value until 1892. Then Mr. Robinson came to Emmet county. The town of Armstrong was just being planned and the railroad had not yet come. Materials were hauled from Bancroft for the bank building which housed the "Armstrong Bank," later known as the First National, organized by Mr. Robinson and his associates. During the first months here, he and other pioneers walked to what is known as the Conlin farm

Jun



His interest in land along with his banking interests occupied his mind and heart until within three days of his death. His faith in northern Iowa real estate never wavered in the past war depression. His optimism, far-sightedness, keen and fair business judgment, will never be forgotten in this community. He was the surviving member of

FORMER DIES

Mrs. F. of Armstrong passed away at 5:30 o'clock Wednesday at 5:30 o'clock

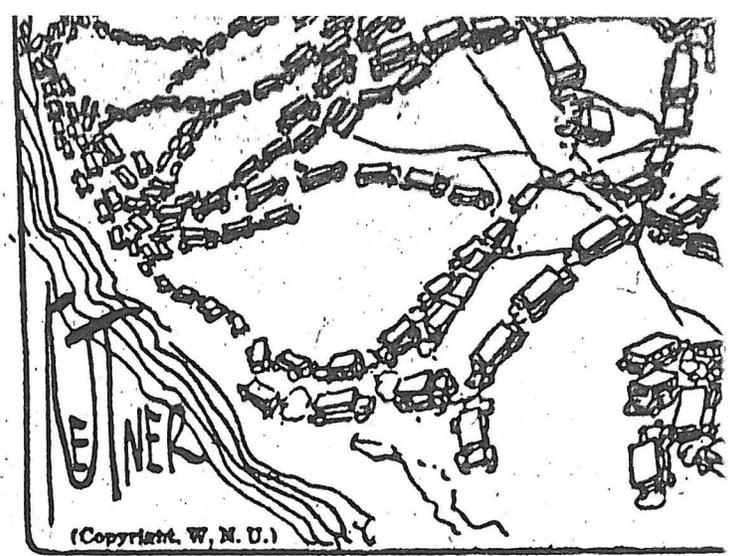
prairie farm near Conrad, in Grundy county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson taught school during the first years of their married life. Mrs. Robinson had the "home" school and Mr. Robinson rode horseback to his pupils six miles away.

Except for six years, when Mr. Robinson served as county recorder of Grundy county and the family lived in Grundy Center, they lived on this same farm, developed it, and watched it change in character and value until 1892. Then Mr. Robinson came to Emmet county. The town of Armstrong was just being planned and the railroad had not yet come. Materials were hauled from Bancroft for the bank building which housed the "Armstrong Bank," later known as the First National, organized by Mr. Robinson and his associates. During the first months here, he and other pioneers walked to what is known as the Conlin farm west of town for meals and lodging.

Mr. Robinson was always intensely interested in the development of the town, the county, and in fact, all of this section of the state. He was interested in good schools and was a member of the first school board in 1894 and again when the present consolidated system was arranged.

He was liberal and progressive in matters pertaining to religion, at the time of his death being identified with the Presbyterian church, also the Masonic fraternity. He held civic offices from time to time, and from 1901 to 1906, served his district as representative in our state legislature. In this capacity he labored for drainage and good roads legislation, which he felt was so necessary to the future development of this part of Iowa.

The hard maple trees around the school house block and the ones near his home are an evidence of a hobby of many years standing.



(Copyright, W. M. U.)

His interest in land along with his banking interests occupied his mind and heart until within three days of his death. His faith in northern Iowa real estate never wavered in the past war depression. His optimism, far-sightedness, keen and fair business judgment, will never be forgotten in this community.

He was the surviving member of his family, two brothers and a sister having preceded him. One brother lived in Iowa; his sons, H. A. Robinson of Colorado Springs, C. A. Robinson of this city, his grandson Wayne Robinson, and son-in-law Wm. McClelland of Marshalltown, were in attendance at their uncle's burial.

Members of Mr. Robinson's immediate family who survive him are his wife and children: Mrs. Grace Slessor and Miss Clara Robinson, of Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Fred, of Armstrong; Mrs. F. W. Ruef, of Maple Hill, Ia.; and two grandchildren, Benjamin and Elizabeth Ruef. Two children, Wilbert L., and an infant daughter are deceased.

The funeral was held at the family home Friday afternoon with burial in Armstrong Grove cemetery.

For the thoughtfulness and help of friends and for the many very beautiful flowers, the family wish to express their gratitude.

FORM DIE

Mrs. I of Arms passed a ville We at 5:30

Mrs. I to her b ing a p nurses everythin lieve her life but and was tion mo son, Ro with his during l

Funer: the hom ternoon be in th

CHLORI ROAD

Spirit has now cation o between They wi tion in third ON These th surface:

DIUUKIARI Sweeps

HON. B. F. ROBINSON PASSED AWAY

A Highly Respected Citizen and Banker of Armstrong Gone to His Reward

B. F. Robinson, pioneer banker of Armstrong, passed away at his home in that city at 3:15 this afternoon. The cause of death was erysipelas. It seems he was in good health until Tuesday when his hand became infected. It operated like infection and in a short time his system seemed to be filled with the poison and at a little after three o'clock he passed away.

B. F. Robinson has been a highly respected citizen of this county for many years. He has been engaged successfully in the banking business in Armstrong for many years. At one time he represented this county in the legislature and was a power in that body and well represented the people of Emmet County and the Northwest.

He was born in Connecticut and lived there until he was fifteen years of age. He came west and resided at Lee Center, Ill., until 1868 when he moved to Grandy county. He purchased land there and developed it. In 1881 he was elected County Recorder of that county and assumed those duties at that time.

He held this office for six years. The farm called him and he returned to it.

In 1892 he came to Armstrong and he then engaged with William Stewart in the banking business, at which business he has been very successful. He has also been deeply interested in lands for years and has been a great influence in the development in the east end of the county.

He was united in marriage in 1869 in Marshalltown to Miss Elizabeth Barns. To this union there has been five children born. Three of whom are still living. Fred S., Edith, now Mrs. P. W. Ruef and Clara.

Mr. Robinson has always been an active worker in the church, a christian man and an active member of the Masonic order. He has been a great worker in the community for good.

Arrangements have not been made for the funeral services at this time.

The entire community about Armstrong will mourn his death and the entire county will greatly miss him.

CLYDE BOLLAR IN BAD AUTO ACCIDENT SATURDAY EVENING

Clyde Bollar had a narrow escape last Saturday night in what might have been a serious auto accident. He and his wife and Bernice Case were going to Arnolds Park Saturday night. He says he pulled in behind a car which was travelling about thirty miles per hour. As they neared the narrow bridge about a mile and a half this side of Spirit Lake they met a Ford with a blinding light. The party in front of him was so badly blinded he slapped on the brakes and Mr. Bollar says it came so sudden he could not stop and he crashed into the rear of the car. His car turned over on its side but it did not break any glass out of the car. The front was badly damaged. He feels he was fortunate not to have anyone injured but says it was a close call.

PIONEER PASTOR OF ESTHERVILLE PRES. CHURCH PASSED AWAY

Mrs. Anna R. Dows, of Armstrong, has sent us the obituary of Rev. Daniel Williams who was formerly a pastor of the Presbyterian church of this city. Mrs. Dows says she believes he was pastor in Estherville when the first Presbyterian church was erected here. The following is taken from the Sun Herald at Lime Springs:

The Rev. Daniel Williams was the son of the Rev. John D. Williams and wife; born at Prosecafon, Wis., on the 11th of Dec. 1851. He moved with his parents to Fillmore county, Minn. in 1866. In his 19th year he went to Ripon college, Wisconsin, and later attended the Normal school at Mankato, and taught school near Lake Crystal. Afterwards he entered the University of Minnesota where he graduated in 1878; this was followed by a theological course in Princeton, N. J., graduating in 1881. He was ordained to preach the gospel by the Red River Presbytery, Synod of Minnesota in his 30th year (1881).

October 19, 1882, he married Miss Eliza Flora Hodgskin, daughter of Dr. Hodgskin, an Episcopal clergyman, Toronto, Canada. He ministered as pastor of churches in Bathgate,

ESTHERVILLE GOLF CLUB WINS TOURNAMENT AT JACKSON, MINN.

The representatives of the Golf Club went to Jackson, Minn., last Sunday to meet the team representing that city's club. While the day was a terrible one to play golf, the locals could not be more profuse in their praise of their treatment there. Everything was done to make their stay there as fine as it could be. They were not only real fellows but real golf sports. The locals will be pleased to go to that city again if the praise they give them is an criterion to go by.

Estherville won the tournament by a score of thirteen to eight. They say their sand greens were in fine condition and that they have an excellent course.

The game was played on what is termed in golf a Scotch Forsom and the following are the scores as made by the individuals of the two teams:

W. Anderson, 86	Lienke, 83
Demer Lee, 96	Holecock, 93
Jackson 3.	

F. G. Parsons, 87	Stearns, 98
Geo. Anderson, 88	Hansen, 101
Estherville, 3	

H. M. Lambert, 97	Shearer, 90
Jno. E. Greig, 93	Mullahan, 95
Halved.	

F. E. Albertson, 96	Fiddles, 90
N. K. Brown, 100	Gardiner, 100
Jackson 3	

Rex Noe, 95	Killian, 109
Roy C. Brown, 95	Blorn Jr., 92
Estherville 1, Jackson 2.	

Chas. Higintotham, 102	Blorn, 101
Paul Graves, 88	Wold, 91
Estherville 3.	

Joy Horswell, 90	Fawcett, 101
S. G. Ewen, 93	Robertson, 108
Estherville 3.	

J. N. Fredericksen, 97	Snyder, 109
G. H. Raife, 108	P. Hansen, 112
Estherville 3	

TOTAL--Estherville, 13; Jackson, 8

REV. HUXFORD RESIGNS

Biographies and Portraits

...OF THE...

Progressive Men of Iowa

Volume 11

Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions

TOGETHER WITH THE
BEGINNINGS OF

A Western Commonwealth

....BY....

Benjamin J. Shambaugh, Ph. D.

Des Moines
Conaway & Shaw, Publishers
1899



in Cedar county, on the old farm. His mother, Sarah Jane Tuttle Rodgers, was born in Ohio, and died when the subject of this sketch was but two years old, leaving young Alonzo at a tender age without the care of a mother.

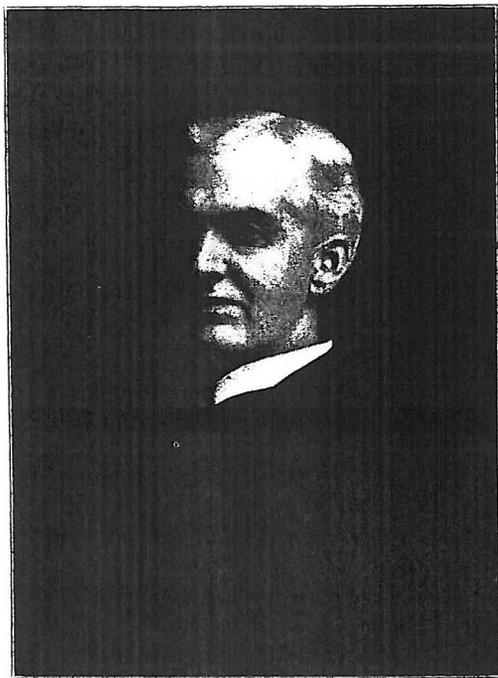
When Alonzo E. was fifteen years of age, he was sent away to school, entering Lenox College at Hopkinton, Iowa, from which institution he graduated in 1878. After his collegiate course was finished, following the bent of his mind and his apparent endowments, he began the study of medicine, entering the office of Dr. H. H. Maynard of Tipton, Iowa, for that purpose. Having devoted nearly a year to study in this way he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago, in 1879, and graduated therefrom on February 22, 1881. After finishing his medical course he went to El Paso, Texas, in April, 1881, and located in practice. He was engaged in practice there for more than three years; during that time he was city physician and health officer of El Paso, Texas, from November, 1882, to August, 1884. At this time he decided to return to Iowa, which he did immediately, locating in Stratford, Iowa, where he practiced medicine till May, 1898.

He is now at Tipton, amidst the scenes and surroundings of his boyhood days, where he has permanently located, after a ripe experience of eighteen years, to devote the most useful and valuable part of his life to his profession, in the vicinity of his old home. He belongs to the Central Iowa Medical Society. He is a democrat, and cast his first vote for Samuel J. Tilden. He is a member of W. T. Sherman No. 288, K. of P. Lodge, was Chancellor Commander of same for three years, and represented it at Grand Lodge in 1897. In religion, he is a Presbyterian in belief. He was married in El Paso, Texas, March 13th, 1884, to Ann Jane Smith, nee Seddens, widow.

No children were born to them, although they have raised Mrs. Rodgers' daughter, May Smith.

ROBINSON, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Conspicuous among the progressive men of northwestern Iowa is B. F. Robinson, president of the First National Bank of Armstrong, located at Armstrong, Emmet county. Mr. Robinson was born January 21, 1849, in the town of Hampton, Windham county, Connecticut. His father, Benjamin Franklin Robinson, was a farmer in moderate circumstances. He died when this son was but five weeks old. The mother, whose maiden name was Clarissa Burnham, also died when he was very young. Mr. Robinson's early education was obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood called Goshen, now a station on the New York and New England railroad in Connecticut. He afterwards spent two years in the select village school of the town of Scotland, and later graduated from the Lee Center Academy at Lee Center, Illinois. In the fall of 1868, when an orphan lad of but nineteen years, he came to Iowa, locating in Grundy county, where he purchased a quarter section of land. He then returned to Lee Center, Illinois, and taught a district school, returning to Iowa in the spring of 1869. He was married May 9, 1869, to Elizabeth L. Barnes, who was also a graduate of the Lee Center Academy. They raised their first crop on the beautiful stock farm now



owned by Mr. Robinson's brother, A. A. Robinson, located in Marshall county and known as "Fair Plain Stock Farm." In the spring of 1870 they moved upon their own land in Grundy county, which was then a bleak and barren prairie. The following years were spent in teaching school in winter and farming in summer until 1880, when he was elected county recorder of Grundy county and took charge of that office January 1, 1881, serving for six years. He then returned to the farm, which had been enlarged to a half section, and after spending a few years there, in 1892 formed a partnership with William Stuart, and together they organized the Armstrong Bank in the new town of Armstrong, which had been laid out that same year. In March, 1896, Mr. Stuart sold his interest in the bank to Mr. John Dows. On July 1, 1900, the business, which up to this time had been under the direct personal management of Robinson & Dows, became so prosperous that it was found necessary to enlarge, and the First National Bank of Armstrong was organized, Mr. Robinson being chosen president.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are both liberal and progressive in matters pertaining to religion, being at present identified with the

Presbyterian church at Armstrong. They are the parents of six children: Grace G., now the wife of Dr. J. A. Finlayson, Wilbert L., Fred S., Edith M., Clara A., and one girl who died in infancy.

Mr. Robinson has been identified with every movement that has tended to advance the improvement of his adopted town, encouraging the establishment of substantial public improvements. In politics, a staunch republican, he is a firm believer in progress.

SPALDING, EDWARD BURSON, of Sioux City. Nearly every city has one or more citizens who, because of their fitness, are chosen to take charge of the erection of public buildings and plants on which large amounts of money are expended, under whose care and direction the people feel secure against fraud in construction and misappropriation of funds. Mr. Spalding of Sioux City is a man who has frequently been called upon to serve in this way. He was born in the town of Byron, Illinois, February 2, 1840. His father, Asa Gore Spalding, was a pioneer of Illinois, having moved there from Pennsylvania in 1836. He took an active interest in politics, first as a whig and later as a republican. The first of the Spalding family in America was Edward Spalding, who came from England and settled at Jamestown, Virginia, in the year 1619 and later emigrated to Connecticut in the year 1630, where he married. In Colonial affairs he was a Freeman, taking a lively part in public matters, and from him descended a large family. One of these, Simon Spalding, the great-great-grandfather of this subject, was an officer in the American army during the war of the Revolution and had an honorable record. He was at Valley Forge with his company under Washington, having been appointed captain by a special act of Congress. He was one of the original members of the Connecticut branch of the Society of Cincinnati, and afterwards a brigadier general of the Pennsylvania state troops. His eldest son, John Spalding, was also a Revolutionary soldier, although but fourteen years old, and was finally commissioned colonel

67
1885
v. 2

IOWA

*Its History and Its Foremost
Citizens*

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1916

21071

of deep and widespread regret. The large concourse of people at the funeral attested the friendship in which he was uniformly held. He appreciated the high regard of his friends and he held friendship inviolable, but the best traits of his character were reserved for his own home and fireside, where he was known as a devoted husband and father. Aside from any success which he may have achieved that gave him prominence, it was his personal traits of character that so endeared him to all who knew him.

B. F. ROBINSON.

B. F. Robinson is cashier of the First National Bank of Armstrong and his activities along business lines have been so directed that the public has been a large beneficiary. Moreover, he has been connected with the lawmaking body of the state and is a recognized leader in political circles in Emmet county.

New England claims Mr. Robinson as a native son, his birth having occurred near Hartford, Connecticut. He was fifteen years of age when he left New England and removed to the middle west, settling first at Lee Center, Illinois. In 1868 he arrived in Iowa, making his way to Grundy county, his home being near Conrad. He settled on a prairie, purchasing a quarter section of land at a time when the work of development and improvement had scarcely been begun in his part of the state. There he resided until January 1, 1881, when he was elected county recorder of Grundy county and entered upon the duties of that position, in which he was continued by reelection for six years. He was then again on the farm until 1892 and brought his land to a high state of cultivation, making it one of the valuable farm properties of the district. In 1892, however, he put aside agricultural pursuits and removed to Armstrong, where, in connection with William Stewart, he engaged in the banking business. On the 1st of July, 1900, the institution was reorganized into the First National Bank of Armstrong with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, Mr. Robinson becoming the president, John Dows, vice president, and L. P. Gjermo, cashier. On the 18th of April, 1902, Mr. Dows was elected president, William Stewart, vice president, and B. F. Robinson, cashier, since which time Mr. Robinson has continuously filled that office in the bank, largely directing its policy and shaping its activities. The bank building was erected in 1892. In addition to his other business interests Mr. Robinson has bought and sold considerable land and has improved a large amount, thus contributing to the substantial development of his county.

In 1869, at Marshalltown, Iowa, Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Elizabeth Barnes, a daughter of Stephen Barnes, of New York, who, removing to Iowa, became a farmer near Conrad. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have had five children: Grace G.; Wilbert L., deceased; Fred S.; Elizabeth, the wife of F. W. Ruef; and Clara.

The family attend the Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Robinson holds membership. In the work of the church he has taken an active and helpful part and served as a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the house of worship in Armstrong. His fraternal relations are with the Masons. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has served as mayor of his town, but still higher political honors have been his, for he has three times been chosen to represent his district in the state legislature, being a member during the

twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first general assemblies. He was the author of the lake bed bill, fathered the drainage bills and was otherwise connected with important legislation which has had marked bearing upon the welfare of the state.

CAPTAIN NORMAN C. WHITE.

Among the quota who responded to death's call in 1913 in Jackson county was Captain Norman C. White, of Sabula. His last years were spent in honorable retirement and in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He had made an excellent record in business as a merchant and farmer, the greater part of his life, however, being devoted to agricultural pursuits. He was a native of Cleveland, Ohio, born August 27, 1837. His parents were Solomon and Hannah (Bronson) White, who removed from Summit county, Ohio, to Sabula, Jackson county, Iowa, in 1850, reaching their destination on the 19th of May. The father then rented land which he cultivated for a year and at the end of that time left the farm and took up his abode in Sabula, where he worked as a butcher, brickmaker and in other capacities until he passed away in 1864. To him and his wife were born six children: Mrs. Susan A. Fuller, the only one living, whose birth occurred in 1835 and who now resides in Chicago; Lucian, who died at Preston, Iowa; Norman C.; George W., who was born in 1839 and was a resident of Kansas, where he died; Jane; and Delia.

Captain White was a youth of thirteen years at the time of the arrival of the family in Iowa. He had begun his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses common in frontier districts, but his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited, as the family was in straitened financial circumstances and it was necessary that he provide for his own support when but a boy. He was a youth of fifteen when he secured a situation in the general store of Cray & Schramling at Sabula. That he was trustworthy, capable and efficient is indicated in the fact that he continued with that house for eight years. He then resigned his position to accept an appointment as postmaster, receiving his commission from Montgomery Blair, who was postmaster general during President Lincoln's first administration.

Captain White had occupied that position for but six months when his patriotic spirit became a dominant force in his life and he resigned that he might become a member of the Union army, for the Civil war had begun some months before and time had proved that the determination of the north to protect the Union was equally matched with the determination of the south to secede. Believing in the supremacy of the federal government, Captain White, on the 19th of November, 1861, was mustered into the service at St. Louis as a private of Company A, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Drips and Colonel Van Dever. With that command he took part in the engagements at Pea Ridge and at Vicksburg, and it was not long before he had given evidence of the fact that he was courageous and loyal, hesitating not, whether on duty on the lonely picket line or in the midst of danger upon the firing line. After eight months he was detailed for service in the quartermaster's department, with which he remained until honorably discharged on the 12th of January, 1865, at St. Louis, Missouri.

HISTORY
OF
EMMET COUNTY
AND
DICKINSON COUNTY
IOWA

A RECORD OF SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION,
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
THE PIONEER PUBLISHING COMPANY
1917

Jacobsen, at Dagmar, Montana. There were thirteen children in the family but only six are living, namely: H. C., pastor of the Danish Lutheran church near Brayton, Iowa; M. P. R., who is farming near Dagmar, Montana; N. C.; L. M., a farmer residing near Milltown, Wisconsin; Maren, now Mrs. J. P. Jacobsen, of Dagmar, Montana; and Line, who is the wife of N. C. Olsen and resides near Flaxton, North Dakota.

Rev. N. C. Strandkov obtained his education in the United States as he was but nine years of age when he was brought to this country. He attended the Danish Seminary in West Denmark, Wisconsin, and the high school in Shelby county, Iowa, and was graduated from a theological seminary at West Denmark, Wisconsin. In 1892 he was ordained to the ministry at Viborg, South Dakota, and his first pastoral assignment was to Diamond Lake, Minnesota. After remaining there for two years he was for seven years stationed at Lookingglass, Nebraska, was next for two years at Cordova, Nebraska, and was later at Denmark, South Dakota, and Latimer, Iowa. Since October 25, 1909, he has been the pastor of St. John's Danish Lutheran church in Denmark township, Emmet county. His sincerity and zeal for the cause to which he has devoted his life have gained him the high respect of all who have come in contact with him irrespective of their creed and he has a secure place in the affection of his parishioners.

Rev. Strandkov was married in 1892 to Miss Maria Sorensen, a daughter of Jens and Matte (Kirstine) Sorensen, natives of Denmark, who in 1881 emigrated to Viborg, South Dakota. However, they spent their last days in Tyler, Minnesota, and are buried in the Danish cemetery there. Eleven children have been born to Rev. and Mrs. Strandkov, namely, Holger, Ingeborg, Thyra, Heiluf, Marie, Astrid, Thorvald, Helva, Frede, Alma and Karl, all at home.

HON. B. F. ROBINSON.

Honored and respected by all, there is no man who occupies a more enviable position among the citizens of Emmet county than Hon. B. F. Robinson, prominent banker and ex-member of the state legislature, whose devotion to the public good has ever stood as one of the unquestioned facts in his career. He has long been identified with financial interests as cashier of the First National Bank of Armstrong.

A native of Connecticut, Mr. Robinson was born at Hampton, but remained a resident of New England only until he reached the age of fifteen years, when he removed to the middle west, establishing his home at Lee Center, Illinois. There he remained until 1868, when he became a resident of Grundy county, Iowa, settling near Conrad. He purchased a quarter section of prairie land in the midst of a district which at that time was but slightly developed. He turned the first furrows upon his

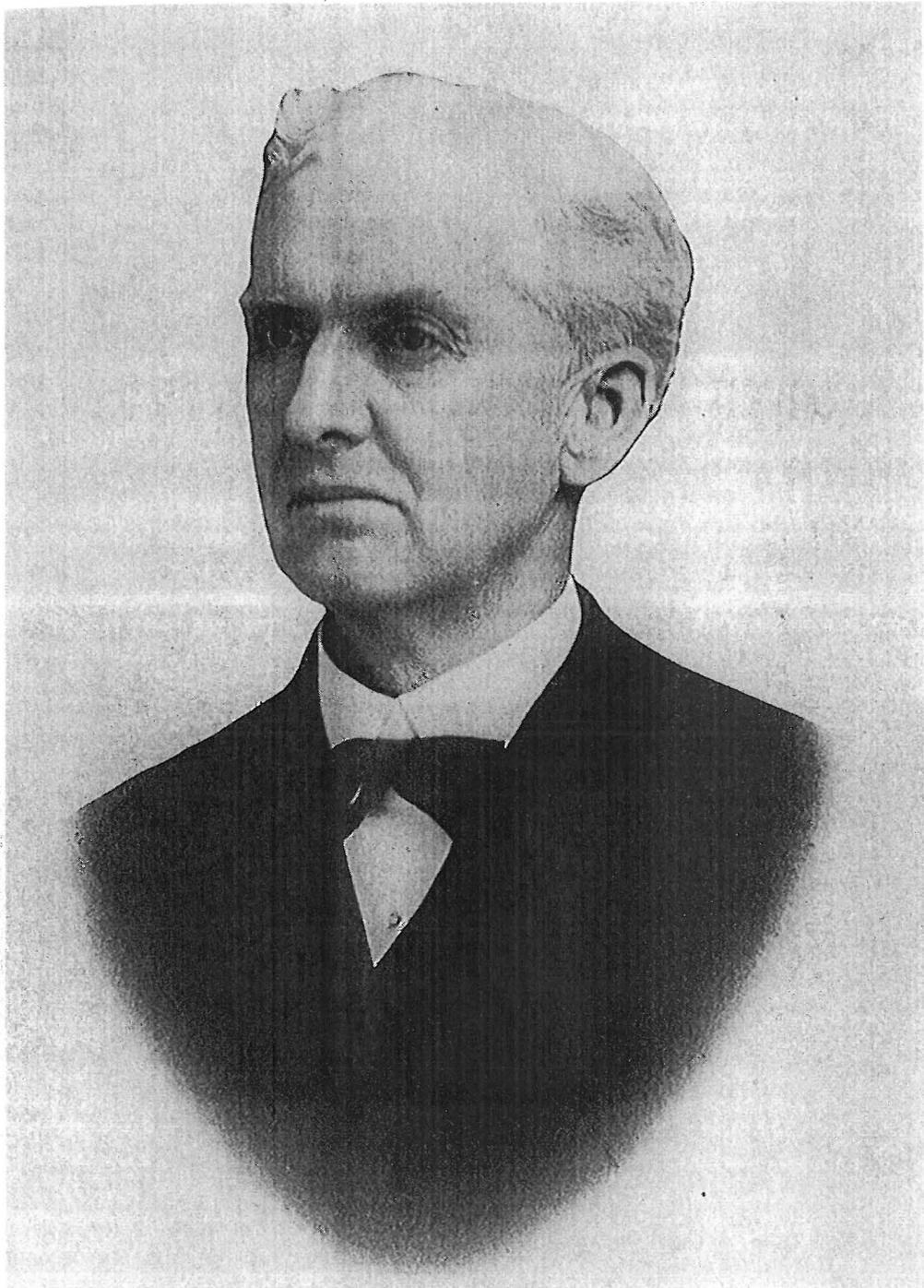
n the
Danish
near
, Wis-
; and
North

States
untry.
nd the
eolog-
dained
assign-
or two
a, was
mark,
s been
nship,
he has
have
secure

is a
n... K,
spent
ceme-
ndkov,
Helva,

a more
. B. F.
, whose
ed facts
cashier

on, but
fifteen
at Lee
a resi-
ased a
at that
pon his



HON. B. F. ROBINSON

farm and continued its further cultivation and improvement until January 1, 1881, when he put aside the active work of the fields in order to enter upon the duties of county recorder of Grundy county, to which office he had been elected the previous fall. By reelection he continued to occupy that position for six years, after which he returned to the farm and thereon remained until 1892, when he became a resident of Armstrong, and in connection with William Stuart embarked in the banking business. On the 1st of July, 1900, they reorganized their bank under the name of the First National Bank, capitalized at fifty thousand dollars, at which time Mr. Robinson was chosen president, with John Dows as vice president and L. P. Gjerme as cashier. On the 18th of April, 1902, Mr. Dows was elected president, with William Stuart as vice president and Mr. Robinson as cashier, and through the intervening period of fifteen years Mr. Robinson was continuously acted as cashier, largely directing the policy and shaping the interests of this institution, which is regarded as one of the safest and most reliable banking concerns of northwestern Iowa. In 1892 the company erected the present bank building and through the intervening years the business has steadily grown and developed. The First National has ever most carefully safeguarded the interests of its depositors and to its patrons has extended all possible credit to a point that would not jeopardize the interests of the bank. In addition to his other business interests Mr. Robinson has dealt quite extensively in land and has improved a number of farms, thus contributing to the substantial development of the county.

In 1869, in Marshalltown, Iowa, was celebrated the marriage of B. F. Robinson and Miss Elizabeth Barnes, a daughter of Stephen Barnes, a native of New York, who on removing to Iowa took up the occupation of farming near Conrad, in Grundy county. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have become the parents of five children, namely: Grace G.; Wilbert L., who is deceased; Fred S.; Edith, the wife of F. W. Ruef; and Clara.

Extensive and important as have been the business interests of Mr. Robinson, he has yet found time to serve the public in various important connections and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his ability and public spirit, have again and again called upon him for aid and support of matters of public moment. He has been mayor of Armstrong, in which connection he gave to the city a businesslike and progressive administration. He was elected to represent his district in the twenty-ninth general assembly and so capable was he as a member of the house that he was returned for service in the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions. He was the author of the lake bed bill, was active in support of drainage bills and in fact was connected with much important constructive legislation that has furthered the interests of his constituents and the commonwealth at large. He is well qualified for political leadership and it is well known that he never subverts the public interest in an effort to promote personal welfare.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are active and earnest workers in the Presbyterian church and he served as a member of the building committee at the time of erection of the church in Armstrong. He is equally loyal

to the teachings and purposes of the Masonic fraternity and in fact has at all times been an honorable and upright career, characterized by all those forces which in every land and clime awaken confidence and regard.

WILLIAM W. PATON.

William W. Paton, an honored veteran of the Civil war, is now living retired at Milford, Iowa. A native of Scotland he was born in Glasgow, December 23, 1842, and is a son of William W. and Mary (Muire) Paton, who were born, reared and married in Glasgow. By trade the father was a carpenter and cabinetmaker and for some time operated a factory in that connection in Glasgow. In 1847 he came to America and located at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for a short time. He then purchased a farm in Green Lake county, that state, which he improved but which he mainly left to the operation of his sons while he worked at his trade. He died upon that farm in June, 1871, and his wife passed away in 1887.

Being only five years of age on the emigration of the family to the United States, William W. Paton was practically reared in Wisconsin and is indebted to the public schools of that state for the education which he acquired during his boyhood. Feeling that his adopted country needed his services at the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted at the age of nineteen years in Company A, Thirty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry, and remained at the front for one year. Returning home he engaged in farming there until 1868 when he came to Dickinson county, Iowa, and purchased a tract of land. He did not remain here, however, at that time, but went to Rochester, Minnesota, where he bought another farm and devoted the following two years to its cultivation in partnership with his brother. He then engaged in farming alone for three years and at the end of that time returned to Dickinson county, Iowa, and took up his abode upon a farm which had come into his possession in 1868. He made many improvements upon the tract and for eighteen years successfully engaged in its operation. At the end of that time he became a resident of Milford, and turned his attention to the grain business, in which he engaged until 1907 when he sold out and has since lived retired enjoying the fruits of former toil. In Milford he owns a fine modern residence at the corner of Adams street and Broadway, and surrounded by his family and a host of warm friends he is spending the end of life.

On the 1st of January, 1869, Mr. Paton married Miss Marian Skirving, a daughter of John and Margaret (Robb) Skirving, natives of Edinburgh, Scotland, in which city Mrs. Paton was born in February, 1850. Her father followed blacksmithing in the old country and remained there until 1852, when he came to America. The voyage across the Atlantic consumed three months and ten days. The family located in

STATE OF IOWA
1927

Journal of the House

OF THE

Forty-second General Assembly

REGULAR SESSION
CONVENED JANUARY 10, 1927
ADJOURNED APRIL 15, 1927

JOHN HAMMILL, Governor
L. V. CARTER, Speaker of the House
CLEM F. KIMBALL, President of the Senate

33941
Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

Mr. Olson was married on April 7, 1868, to Ragnild Mickelson. Two children are left to mourn his departure, Mrs. Osten Amundson of Gordonsville, Minnesota, and Mrs. Levor T. Johnson of Northwood, Iowa. There are six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Two of the grandchildren, Radine and Agnes Ranum, lost their mother in the year 1909, at the ages of four and five and were lovingly cared for by their grandparents. Mrs. Olson died March 10, 1925. Mr. Olson died December 30, 1926. Both were within one month of reaching the ripe age of eighty-two years.

Mr. Olson was a good man. He was honest, kind-hearted and considerate and was faithful to the trusts placed upon him. He was a man of strong convictions, who had the welfare of his community and state ever at heart and looked only to the interest of the people whom he served.

In the death of Herbrand L. Olson, Worth county and the state of Iowa have sustained a great loss.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Forty-second General Assembly, that in the passing of the Honorable Herbrand L. Olson, the state has lost an honored and valuable citizen, a man of high ideals in Christian living and useful citizenship.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy of it to the relatives of the deceased.

S. R. TORGESON,
H. N. HANSON,
BREDE WAMSTAD,

Committee.

Unanimously adopted April 6, 1927.

HON. B. F. ROBINSON

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare resolutions in commemoration of the life, character and services of the Honorable B. F. Robinson, beg leave to submit the following report:

B. F. Robinson was born January 21, 1849, in Hampton, Connecticut. Being left an orphan when a small boy, he lived with a sister in the state of Connecticut until he was fifteen years of age, when he came to Lee Center, Illinois. At that place he attended an academy, and met Elizabeth Barins who became his wife in 1869. A year later he moved to Iowa and purchased a prairie farm near Conrad in Grundy county. He taught school for six years and then became the county recorder of this county. Except for the brief time of his service as county recorder, he lived on his prairie farm and developed it until the year 1892, when he moved to Emmet county. The town of Armstrong had just been laid out. No railroad had yet been built, so materials had to be hauled from Bancroft for the bank building which housed the Armstrong Bank, later known as the First National, which was organized by Mr. Robinson and his associates. Of this bank he was president at the time of his death, which occurred on June 9, 1926.

Mr. Robinson took an active interest in every phase of the community life. He was a member of the first school board, helped to establish the churches of the community, and showed a liberal and progressive attitude in all matters pertaining to community interests. He identified himself with the Presbyterian church. Mr. Robinson held civic offices from time to time. He was elected to represent his district in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly, and was returned as a member of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Assemblies. While a member of the Legislature he became a real factor in the development of northwest Iowa. He was one of the original supporters of the drainage bills, and did much toward bringing about the passage of the early drainage laws and the laws which made possible the movement for good roads in Iowa. Mr. Robinson was the author of the Lake Bed bill. To him as to few other men must be given the credit for the wonderful development of the farms of northwest Iowa in recent years.

Mr. Robinson leaves as his survivors a wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, and son, Fred Robinson, of Armstrong, Iowa; to daughters, Mrs. N. W. Ruef, of Maple Hill, Iowa, and Miss Clara Robinson, of Cedar Rapids, and two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Benjamin Ruef, of Maple Hill.

In view of the splendid services to our state of Hon. B. F. Robinson, *Be It Resolved*, By the House of Representatives of the Forty-second General Assembly, That we take this occasion to express our appreciation of the character and public services of the deceased, and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of the House, and that the Chief Clerk be directed to send an enrolled copy to the members of his family.

R. B. CRONE,
FRANCIS JOHNSON,
G. W. PATTERSON,

Committee.

Unanimously adopted April 6, 1927.

HON. GEORGE W. SCHEE

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life and service of Hon. George W. Schee, late of O'Brien county, Iowa, beg leave to submit the following memorial:

Hon. George W. Schee was born near Alexandria, Missouri, June 15, 1847, and died at National City, California, February 9, 1926.

He removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1861. He enlisted in Company C, Thirty-third Iowa Infantry, March 21, 1864. On July 12, 1865, he was transferred to the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry Consolidated, and was mustered out August 15, 1865, at Houston, Texas.

In 1871 he removed to O'Brien county and entered and later proved up on a United States homestead in Carroll township, that county. He went through all the pioneer hardships and experiences of those years in that vicinity, his principal occupations being farming and school-teaching. He was a leader in the struggle of the settlers to adjust the



1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **B. F. Robinson**

Home in 1880: **Felix, Grundy, Iowa**

Age: **31**

Estimated birth year: **abt 1849**

Birthplace: **Connecticut**

Relation to Head of Household: **Self (Head)**

Spouse's name: **Elizabeth Robinson**

Father's birthplace: **Connecticut**

Mother's birthplace: **Connecticut**

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Occupation: **Farmer**

Marital Status: **Married**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

Cannot read/write: **View image**

Blind: **View image**

Deaf and dumb: **View image**

Otherwise disabled: **View image**

Idiotic or insane: **View image**

Household Members:	Name	Age
	B. F. Robinson	31
	Elizabeth Robinson	31
	Grace G. Robinson	8
	W. L. Robinson	3
	Fred S. Robinson	1
	Wm. Critser	23
	Geo. Rouf	21

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Felix, Grundy, Iowa; Roll: 341; Family History Film: 1254341; Page: 417C; Enumeration District: 230; Image: 0716.

Source Information:
 Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site.

Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description:
 This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1880 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925		
Name:	Benjamin F Robinson	
Birth Year:	abt 1849	
Birth Place:	Connecticut	
Gender:	Male	
Race:	White	
Marital Status:	Married	
Census Date:	1 Jan 1925	
Residence State:	Iowa	
Residence County:	Emmet	
Locality:	Armstrong	
Relation to Head:	Head	
Mother:	Clarrisa Burnham	
Mother's Birthplace:	Connecticut	
Father:	Benjamin F Robinson	
Father's Birthplace:	Connecticut	
Marriage Place:	Connecticut	
Spouse Name:	Elizabeth Robinson	
Roll:	IA1925_1709	
Line:	16	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Benjamin F Robinson	76
	Elizabeth Robinson	76
Source Information:		
Ancestry.com. <i>Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925</i> [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.		
Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well as various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.		
Description:		
This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration. Learn more...		