

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative McElrath William Hatter Senator  
Represented Woodbury County Iowa

1. Birthday and place 8 Mar. 1848 Belfast, Ireland

2. Marriage (s) date place

Alice Louise Herbster 30 July 1872 Louis Grove, Minn.

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served

6. Public Offices

A. Local

B. State

C. National

7. Death

8. Children

9. Names of parents

Presbyterian

30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> Iowa General Assemblies 1904, 1906, 1907

Woodbury County Board of Supervisors member 1857-1890, school director

20 May 1926 Minneapolis, Minn. Buried Arlington Cemetery, Monka, Iowa

Evil Alice, Edith Ann, Winnie Todd, Roy William, Ralph John, Maude,

Alice Herbster, William Hatter Jr., Diamond (died in infancy), Margaret (died young),  
Fred Rayson, Helen Louise

John and Jane (Jackson) McElrath

McCulloch, William H.

10. Education He attended country schools until age 15

11. Degrees He attended Methodist College at Mount Morris, Illinois,  
then took a law course at Bryant and Stratton College in Chicago

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came to America from Ireland with his parents in 1849. They  
settled in Montgomery County, New York until 1853 when the family  
moved to Whiteside County, Illinois
- He came to Iowa in 1881, settling on a farm by Moville, Iowa in Woodbury  
County, Iowa. He engaged in farming and banking. Eventually owned  
1400 acres of land.
- In 1887 he moved to Moville, Iowa. There he bought livestock and grain.
- In 1893 he founded the Moville State Bank, Moville, Iowa. James G. Joy  
joined him in 1902 and they jointly founded the Lantana Savings Bank,  
Lantana, Iowa



## PIONEER OF ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP PASSES ON

W. W. McElrath, Resident for Forty-five Years, Has Joined "The Great Majority"

W. W. McElrath passed away in his home at Moville on Thursday noon, aged 78 years. Funeral services were held on the lawn at his home Sunday afternoon and were largely attended. Rev. B. W. Riner officiated and he was assisted by Rev. A. Wimberly, of Lawton. Representatives of the several lodges with which Mr. McElrath had been connected attended. The Masonic burial service was conducted at Arlington cemetery.

A quartet composed of J. C. Larkin, C. H. Smith, Mrs. F. E. Bosworth and Vesta Shumate sang.

The honorary pallbearers were Dr. W. H. Dewey, W. L. Sanborn, R. J. Anderson, D. Scheelhaase, E. C. Haskell and D. E. Barto.

The active pallbearers were M. J. Heyman, Lloyd Barnes, Buel Petersen, F. E. Bosworth, R. E. Richards and E. W. Widmark.

William Waddle McElrath was born of Scottish parents at Belfast, Ireland, March 8, 1848. At the age of one year he came with his parents to Montgomery county, N. Y. When he was 5 years old his parents moved to Whiteside county, Ill. He attended country school until he was 16, later studied in the Meth-

## "HONOR BRIGHT" WAS TITLE OF SENIOR PLAY

Crowded Houses Greeted the Local Thespians at Park Theatre Two Nights

"There was no complaint; everybody was satisfied" with the Senior class play, "Honor Bright," which was given before large audiences in the Park theatre Thursday and Friday nights.

There was good acting by all the members of the cast, and while some had greater opportunities than others because of the prominence of the parts assigned, those who had minor parts displayed rare talent. From the bishop to the butler all deserve commendation.

"Honor Bright" is a girl who, as a book agent, gains access to the home of the Barringtons. The young son of the family is expecting his fiancée, a chorus girl, to come from Boston to pass the inspection of his parents. At the last moment he is notified she has got into trouble and will not arrive. In his extremity he prevails upon Honor Bright to pose as his girl. The deception is carried through until the chorus girl arrives unexpectedly and then the truth comes out. Finally another admirer of the flapper arrives and wins her by the cave man method and young Barrington proposes to and is accepted by the book agent.

The cast was as follows: Watts, the butler, Herbert Wilcox; Mich-

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Whiteside county, Ill. He at-  
tended country school until he  
was 10, taught his home school  
at 16, later studied in the Meth-  
odist college at Mount Morris,  
Ill., and took a business course  
in Bryant & Stratton Business  
college in Chicago.

On July 30, 1872, Mr. McEl-  
rath was united in marriage with  
Alice Louisa Heathcote at Round  
Grove, Ill. To this union were  
born twelve children, ten of  
whom survive him.

Mr. McElrath came to Wood-  
bury county, Iowa, with his fam-  
ily in 1881 and he broke the  
prairie on his farm in this town-  
ship. In 1908 they came to Mo-  
ville. His activities in life have  
been many and varied through-  
out his forty-five years residence  
in this locality. He erected the  
first store building in the town  
of Merville. He was a member  
of the board of supervisors of  
Woodbury county from 1887 to  
1890. In 1904 he was elected  
representative from this district  
to the State legislature and re-  
elected in 1906. In 1893 he  
founded the Merville State bank  
and in 1902 jointly with James  
F. Toy of Sioux City founded  
the Lawton Savings bank of  
Lawton, Iowa.

Mr. McElrath retained his  
membership in the Presbyterian  
church at Round Grove, Ill. He  
allied himself with the Masonic  
lodge at the age of 21, became  
a member of Sioux City Con-  
sistory No. 5 and later the Abu  
Bekr Temple. He was a mem-  
ber of the Odd Fellow lodge, the  
Rebekah lodge, the Ancient Or-  
der of United Workmen, the  
Eastern Star and the White  
Shrine of Sioux City.

Of his immediate family. Mr.

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od and young Barrington pro-  
poses to and is accepted by the  
book agent.

The cast was as follows: Watts,  
the butler, Herbert Willer; Mich-  
ael, the chauffeur, Leonard Sulli-  
van; Foster, the gardener, Edgar  
Inlay; Mrs. Barrington, Dorothy  
Wirsig; James Schooley, a  
preacher, Merle Scholl; Bishop  
Carton, Ousley Rector; Mrs. Car-  
ton, Evelyn Spencer; Richard  
Barrington, the son, Dan An-  
drews; Honor Bright, Mildred  
Bartels; Annie, the maid, Lucile  
Kusian; Maggie, the Irish cook,  
Leona Ford; Tot, a chorus girl,  
Muriel Mace; Simpson and Jones,  
officers, Merrill Van Norman  
and Dean Green; Bill Drum,  
Tot's admirer, Blaine Southwick.

### Merville Township Festival

The Merville Township May  
Festival will be held Saturday  
in the pasture on the Cody farm  
south of the haystack mound.  
The program, which will start at  
9 o'clock, is as follows:

#### MORNING

- Dist. No. 1—At the Garden Gate.
- Dist. No. 2—Dialogue, "Enter-  
taining;" Vacation Drill.
- Dist. No. 3—Reading, Song.
- Dist. No. 4—Troubles of a Bach-  
elor, One Thing at a Time,  
Colors of the Flag.
- Dist. No. 5—See Iowa First.
- Dist. No. 6—Indian Dance, Since  
We Got Our Radio.
- Dist. No. 7—Wooden Doll Drill.
- Dist. No. 9—Flag Drill, Song.
- Noon—Big picnic dinner; direct-  
ors' wives in charge of the  
menu of each district.

#### AFTERNOON

- Community Singing.
- Address, Rev. B. W. Riner.
- Talks by Miss Lippincott and Co.  
Agent Breckenridge.

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Mr. McElrath came to Woodbury county, Iowa, with his family in 1881 and he broke the prairie on his farm in this township. In 1908 they came to Menville. His activities in life have been many and varied throughout his forty-five years residence in this locality. He erected the first store building in the town of Menville. He was a member of the board of supervisors of Woodbury county from 1887 to 1890. In 1904 he was elected representative from this district to the State legislature and re-elected in 1906. In 1893 he founded the Menville State bank and in 1902 jointly with James F. Toy of Sioux City founded the Lawton Savings bank of Lawton, Iowa.

Mr. McElrath retained his membership in the Presbyterian church at Round Grove, Ill. He allied himself with the Masonic lodge at the age of 21, became a member of Sioux City Consistory No. 5 and later the Abu Bekr Temple. He was a member of the Odd Fellow lodge, the Rebekah lodge, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Eastern Star and the White Shrine of Sioux City.

Of his immediate family, Mr. McElrath has left to mourn his departure—his widow, four sons: Roy, Ralph, Will and Fred; six daughters: Mrs. Eva Southwick, Mrs. Edith Hogue, Mrs. Maude Kusian, Miss Alice McElrath, Mrs. Minnie Payne and Mrs. Helen Logan, all of Menville; sixteen grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Jennie Maxfield, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; a cousin, James Larkin, of Menville; and several nephews and nieces.

Bartels; Annie, the maid, Lucile Kusian; Maggie, the Irish cook, Leona Ford; Tot, a chorus girl, Muriel Mace; Simpson and Jones; officers, Merrill Van Norman and Dean Green; Bill Drum, Tot's admirer, Blaine Southwick.

## Menville Township Festival

The Menville Township May Festival will be held Saturday in the pasture on the Cody farm south of the haystack mound. The program, which will start at 9 o'clock, is as follows:

### MORNING

- Dist. No. 1—At the Garden Gate.
- Dist. No. 2—Dialogue, "Entertaining;" Vacation Drill.
- Dist. No. 3—Reading, Song.
- Dist. No. 4—Troubles of a Bachelor, One Thing at a Time, Colors of the Flag.
- Dist. No. 5—See Iowa First.
- Dist. No. 6—Indian Dance, Since We Got Our Radio.

- Dist. No. 7—Wooden Doll Drill.
- Dist. No. 9—Flag Drill, Song.
- Noon—Big picnic dinner; directors' wives in charge of the menu of each district.

### AFTERNOON

- Community Singing.
- Address, Rev. B. W. Riner.
- Talks by Miss Lippincott and Co. Agent Breckenridge.
- Presentation of Eighth Grade Diplomas by Co. Supt. C. F. Clark.
- Song, Club Girls.

### SPORTS

Five 50-yard races for boys and five for girls between the ages of 6 and 15; prizes in each race—\$1, 50c, 25c. Races for teachers, directors, egg race free for all, high and broad jumps, vaulting contest between two teams—16 on each side—and a baseball game.

HISTORY  
OF THE  
COUNTIES OF  
Woodbury and Plymouth,  
IOWA,  
INCLUDING AN EXTENDED SKETCH OF  
SIOUX CITY,

THEIR EARLY SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS TO THE PRESENT TIME; A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR HISTORIC AND INTERESTING LOCALITIES; SKETCHES OF THE TOWNSHIPS, CITIES AND VILLAGES; PORTRAITS OF SOME OF THE PROMINENT MEN, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF MANY OF THE REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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1890-91.

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DES MOINES, IOWA

Rapids, and was admitted to the bar in 1874. He began the practice of law at Cedar Rapids, but removed to Brooklyn, Poweshiek county, where he remained until his removal to Le Mars, which was in January, 1883. There he became engaged in the practice of his profession, and in 1886 he associated with him F. R. Gaynor, the firm name being Martin & Gaynor.

In 1863, at the age of fifteen years, he enlisted in Company B, Ninth Iowa cavalry, and served two and a half years. He was wounded in a skirmish at Sercey, Ark. After the war his regiment was engaged in the southwest, along the Rio Grande, in Texas, and in Arkansas until March, 1866. He was city solicitor of Le Mars for two terms, and is a member of Mower Post, No. 91, G. A. R. He married Jennie M., daughter of John Ray, of Peacham, Vermont, in 1876.

CRAIG L. WRIGHT, attorney, Sioux City, son of George G. Wright, was born at Keosauqua, Iowa, in 1846. He was educated at Iowa City, and graduated from the university there in 1867. In 1868 he attended a law school at Des Moines, and during that year was admitted to the bar. He returned to Sioux City in September of the same year, and began the practice of law. He was city attorney for two terms. He is a director in the Security bank, the Corn Exchange bank, in both street railroad companies, and also of the Sioux City & Northern railroad. He is a member of the republican party.

In 1873 he married Kate P. Van Dyke, of Keokuk, Iowa, and has two children. His business career has been very successful, and he has acquired the reputation of being an able and successful lawyer.

WILLIAM W. McELRATH, farmer and grain buyer, Merville, was born in Montgomery county, N. Y., in 1850, and is a son of John and Jane (Jackson) McElrath, the former a native of Scotland and the latter a native of Ireland. John McElrath was a farmer, at which occupation he was engaged in Whiteside county, Ill., at the time of his death, which occurred in 1872, his wife having preceded him about eight days. He and wife came to America in 1849; they were both members of the old Presbyterian church.

William W. was brought up on a farm, and moved with his parents to Whiteside county, Ill., when he was four years of age. He continued to reside with his parents until their death, he being the youngest child of the family. He took charge of the homestead farm, which he carried on until 1881. The last eight years of his residence in Illinois he dealt quite extensively in live stock. In 1881 he came to Woodbury county, Iowa, and purchased 160 acres of land in section nineteen, Arlington township, where he now resides. He erected a house and commenced to break his land, and has continued ever since to conduct his farm. He has since added to his property, and now owns 1,400 acres, all in one piece, where he raises a great number of live-stock of all kinds, besides the regular farm products.

In 1887 he came to Merville and commenced to buy stock and grain, in connection with his farming interests. Politically he is a republican. He is at present county supervisor, which office he holds three years, and is also a school director. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and of the Farmers' Alliance.

In August, 1872, Mr. McElrath married Alice Heathcote, of Morrison, Ill., and there have been born to them nine children: Eva, Edith, Ray, Ralph, Maude, Allie, Willie, Minnie and Alice.

ABSALOM B. MILLER, farmer, P. O. Anthon, Woodbury county, is a son of George and Hannah Miller, both of Dutch descent, and was born in Lexington, Ky., June 4, 1814. He was educated in a common school in Lexington, until ten years of age, when he moved with his parents to Sidney, Shelby county, Ohio, where he attended school until he was twenty-two years of age. He then bought a stock of groceries and was in business for himself a year.

In 1837 he moved to Toledo, Ohio, bought a steam saw-mill, and after running that two years moved back to Sidney and farmed until 1842. He then moved to Jackson county, Iowa, worked in a grist-mill until 1852, and then bought a farm in South Fork township, where he lived until the fall of 1870, when he moved to Kedron township, Woodbury county, and bought the town site of Anthon, where he now resides.

In December, 1836, he married Mary, daughter of William and Rebecca Barley. In 1842 his wife died, leaving three children: Margaret A., George and Lucinda. In 1844 he married Jane, daughter of William Bodel, and she has borne him seven children: Albert, Laura, Nettie, William, James, Perry and Mary. He is a member of the Methodist church, and politically is a democrat.

ROBERT M. McCARTER, banker, Merville, was born in Clinton county, Iowa, February 22, 1855, and is a son of Robert and Harriet (Gorham) McCarter, both natives of New York, now residing in Merville, Woodbury county.

R. M. McCarter was brought up on a farm in Clinton county, Iowa, where he was born, and where he received his education. At the age of seventeen he left home and went to Sac county, Iowa, where he remained until 1884, when he went to Sioux county, Iowa, and was there engaged in farming for a year. He then returned to Sac county and farmed until 1887, when he went into the bank at Shaller, Iowa, as assistant cashier. In February, 1888, he came to Merville and went into the banking business with his father, Robert McCarter, which they have continued ever since. In December, 1888, William H. Barto went into partnership with them, and the bank is now known as the Farmers' bank. Politically he is a republican, a member of the town council and school board. He is a member of the United Workmen and also the Odd Fellows.

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Kuebler Family Tree

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Owner: daniellekuebler

find a person in this tree



William Walter McElrath

Birth **8 March 1848** in [Belfast, Ireland](#)  
Death **20 May 1926** in [Merville, Woodbury, Iowa, US](#)

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[View his family tree](#) [View family members](#) [More options](#)

[Overview](#) [Facts and Sources](#) [Media Gallery](#) [Comments](#) [Member Connect](#)

Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

Timeline [\(View details\)](#)

1848 [Birth](#)  
8 Mar [Belfast, Ireland](#)

1874 [Marriage to Alice Louise Heathcote](#)  
Age: 26

1926 [Death](#)  
20 May [Merville, Woodbury, Iowa, US](#)  
Age: 78

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

[Add a comment](#)

Family Members

Parents

No Father

No Mother

[Show siblings](#)

Spouse & Children

[Alice Louise Heathcote](#)  
1853 – 1929

[Eva Alice McElrath](#)  
1873 –

[Edith Olive McElrath](#)  
1875 –

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1875 –

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[Ralph John McElrath](#)  
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[Maude McElrath](#)  
1880 –

[Alice Heathcote McElrath](#)  
1882 – 1956

[William Walter 2 Willie McElrath](#)  
1883 –

[Diamond - Infant Son McElrath](#)  
1886 – 1886

[Mercy Ann McElrath](#)  
1888 – 1891

[Fred Paysen McElrath](#)  
1893 –

[Helen Louise McElrath](#)  
1895 – 1989

[Family group sheet](#)

Source Information

[view details](#)

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