

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Ritter, Henry Senator _____

Represented Des Moines County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 19 Oct 1852 Hart Madison, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Minnie Towers 25 Nov 1876 Burlington, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was director of the Iowa State Savings Bank, Burlington, Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Brick manufacturer, grocery store clerk and bookkeeper

4. Church membership Catholic

5. Sessions served 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th General Assemblies 1904, 1906,

6. Public Offices 1907, 1909, 1911

A. Local City of Des Moines at-large

B. State

C. National

7. Death 19 May 1929 Burlington, Iowa

8. Children Emma (died 30 Nov 1890); Anna Minnie (died 2 Dec 1902); Harry (died

4 Jan 1904); Anton Herbert (died 1 Nov 1893); Clara (Mrs Nicholas Gomer); Ralph (predeceased his father in death)

9. Names of parents John C. and Mary Eva (Kuntz) Ritter

Ritter, Henry

10. Education He was educated at a parochial school in Fort
Madison, Iowa in 1870

11. Degrees He attended Pierson Business College at Fort Madison, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He moved to Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa at age 21.
- His first occupation was that of a clerk and bookkeeper in a large
retail and wholesale grocery store until 1876.
- In 1876, he started a Brickyard in Burlington, where he employed
many workers making all kinds of building bricks for Iowa and
Missouri markets.
- He sold this business in 1904 and retired.
- He had learned the art of making bricks from his father who was born in
Prussia, came to America in 1842 settling in Baltimore, Maryland to
Smithland, Kentucky, Cincinnati, Ohio to St. Louis, Missouri and
then to Fort Madison, Iowa where he manufactured bricks until his death
29 July 1885.

Ritter, Harry

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source Non Applicable Applicable Information obtained

~~Iowa Official Register 1911-1912, p. 627~~

~~Obituary - The Burlington Statesman Burlington, Iowa
Mon. May 20, 1929, p. 9, col 4, 5, 6~~

~~Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa 1905, p 404 407~~

~~Outline of Personal History from Historical Department of Iowa (original in
local Des Moines library clipping file #2)~~

ts Auto, rsly Hurt

however, escaped serious injury. He was one of six men from county riding motorcycles on a race meeting at Moline, according to Brown's report to the police department and to the sheriff of Henderson county, he was traveling west on the highway near Huffman oil station when he was killed by the motorcycle. He states the motorcycle was proceeding west and that seeing it approach in the center of the road and noticing the rider had his head down as if feeling something on his machine (Brown) pulled over as far as possible on the north side of the road. Brown further informed that the motorcycle swerved to the left, crashed, and struck the rear wheel of the automobile, throwing the car over into the ditch. **Carrier In Bad Shape.**

The motorcycle upset in the road and the driver pinned down and badly injured. He was brought to Burlington hospital by a passing motorist. It was found that he had a multiple compound fracture of the left leg, the leg being broken in three places and bones protruding through the skin. The muscles and flesh on his left shoulder and arms were torn loose and fell from the bone. He also is bruised and is suffering from shock. His condition is considered as serious.

The man, known here as "Deak," is from Kirkwood, Ill., but is now residing at the Elks club. He formerly was identified with a local confectionery in Burlington. He was injured about the head and leg and is otherwise well.

y Vacation Bible School to Open June 10

The annual Daily Vacation Bible School, directed by the Evangelical church of Burlington, is to begin on June 10 and continue through July 1. The school is for children of 5 years of age and over and is inter-denominational. It will be in charge of the Evangelical church.

HENRY RITTER DIES SUDDENLY

Was Well Known Retired Business Man—Had Many Friends.

Henry Ritter, 76 years old, died suddenly at 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning at his home, 1837 Sunnyside avenue. Some ten or twelve years ago, Mr. Ritter sustained a slight stroke of paralysis, but apparently had entirely recovered. Saturday evening he gave no evidence of any indisposition. Awakening early Sunday morning he complained of severe pains. Mrs. Ritter administered to him. As a result he said he thought he would be all right, but in a few minutes and without a struggle, he passed away.

The death of Mr. Ritter came as a profound shock to his hundreds of friends in Burlington. A man of remarkably even temper and kindly disposition, he endeared himself to all in his business and social connections. Mr. and Mrs. Ritter were the parents of six children, all of whom are dead. They submitted uncomplainingly to these afflictions, carrying bravely on and bestowing their love and affection on their grandchildren, who were orphaned first by the death of their mother, and several years later by the death of their father, Nicholas Gonner, who with his daughter, Anna Minnie, were killed in an automobile accident.

Born in Ft. Madison.

Mr. Ritter was the son of John and Mary C. Ritter and was born in Ft. Madison, October 19, 1852. The elder Ritter was engaged in the brick making business. Henry Ritter obtained his education in the parochial schools and in Pierson's business college of Ft. Madison. In the summer vacations he worked at brickmaking, mastering that trade. At the age of 20 years, he came to Burlington and secured employment as bookkeeper in the H. E. Hunt grocery. In 1876, he started a brick yard of his own on Sunnyside, building up a most profitable business, embracing a wide market. He re-

turned to Burlington in 1904. He was united in marriage in New York. The children born to the union were Clara, later Mrs. Nicholas Gonner; Anna Minnie; Harry Emma, Ralph and Anthony.

Was Faithful Public Servant.

Mr. Ritter was a life-long member of the Democratic party and his honesty and intelligence commended him to the voters of Burlington. In the year 1888, he was elected alderman-at-large and held this office until 1896. During his term of office he was the instigator of many public improvements. In 1903 he was elected as representative of the twentieth district in the Iowa general assembly. By an amendment to the constitution he held over one term.

One of the staunch members of St. John's Catholic church, Mr. Ritter was active in every forward movement, being one of the charter members of St. John's Benevolent society. He also held membership in the Knights of Columbus, the T. P. A., the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective society, the Hawkeye Natives, the Carthage Lake club. For many years he was a valued member of the board of directors of the First Iowa State Trust and Savings bank. In addition to Mrs. Ritter, Mr. Ritter leaves two sisters, Mrs. Mary Weidman of Burlington and Mrs. Lena Kline of Denver and four brothers, Joe of South Dakota, Ben of Los Angeles, Bernard of Ft. Madison and Frank of Denver. The grandchildren are Clarissa, Henry, James and Lawrence Gonner.

The funeral of Mr. Ritter will be held next Wednesday morning with services at St. John's church at 10 o'clock. The body of Mr. Ritter will be at Burnett-Wallen's until Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock when it will be taken home.

WAITS 15 YEARS TO EAT FRIED ONIONS

"After 15 years I eat anything I want—even fried onions. Adierika ended gas and sourness, and I enjoy life now."—Mrs. L. Branton.

Just ONE spoonful Adierika cures Heves gas and that bloated feeling so that you can eat and sleep well. Acts on BOTH upper and lower bowel and removes old waste matter you never thought was there. No matter what you have tried for your stomach and bowels, Adierika will surprise you. John H. White, Boston.

Form



Funer
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 Roman Catholic Mutual
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 he was a valued member
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 Trust and Savings bank
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Burlington and Mrs.
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**15 YEARS TO
 AT FRIED ONIONS**

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**Former Legislator
 Called Suddenly**



HENRY RITTER

**Funeral Rites for
 Mrs. Christie Burr,
 92, Were Held Today**

The funeral of Mrs. Christie Burr,
 92-year-old resident who died at the
 home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred
 Franck, 147 1/2 Grove street, Saturday
 night, was held in Prugh's chapel at
 2 o'clock this afternoon in charge
 of Rev. Lloyd Tennant, assisted by
 the Ladies Corps. The body will
 be buried in Princeton, Ill.

Christie A. Kaufman was born in
 Lancaster, Pa., November 1, 1837.
 She was married to Prunold Burr
 of Weaver, Ill., who preceded her in
 death. She has made her home with
 her daughter. She was a member

six great-grandchildren and one
 great-grandchild.

**Henderson County
 Native Resident
 Succumbs Today**

Stroughurst, Ill., May 20 - Mrs.
 Charles Giesler, well known Hen-
 derson county resident passed away
 at her home several miles south of
 here and one mile east of Terre
 Haute at 4 o'clock this morning.
 Death came as the result of a long
 illness. She was a native and life-
 long resident of this community and
 was 61 years old at the time of her
 death. Surviving are the husband,
 one son, Herman, two brothers, Lase
 Bolton, Canton, Ill., and Raymond
 Bolton, Fort Worth, Texas. Funeral
 arrangements have not been com-
 pleted.

**FORMER WINFIELD
 CITIZEN EXPIRES
 AT SUPERIOR, NEB**

Winfield, Iowa, May 18 - Report
 in the city here received word of the
 death of Oliver Christie of Superior,
 Nebraska. Mr. Christie spent the
 only years of his life in this state.
 His wife, Mrs. W. Christie, 821
 1/2 E. 14th street, survives but is
 in very poor health.

Clude Christod and Fay Roberts
 were other survivors Wednesday.

A service in honor of Mrs. Wright
 was held at the Dr. Tennant home on
 Tuesday evening.

At the Improvement Association
 meeting held Wednesday afternoon,
 the ladies decided on the Zennia as
 the town flower and asked the town
 people to raise them in profusion.
 So we will have a full flower show.

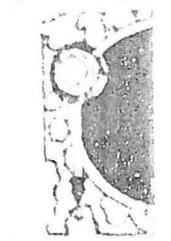
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Strachell drove
 to Burlington the first of the week to
 see Mrs. Ed. Cummings who is in
 the hospital seriously ill.

Mrs. C. W. Lockie went to Mt.
 Pleasant Thursday to visit her
 mother, Mrs. Myers, leaving at 10:30
 for home, who was called home by the
 death of her father, Dr. Myers.

Next week will be a full week
 of entertainment, starting Sunday eve-
 ning, May 19, with a cross play, "The

**"Invaugable" Say
 Society Woman**

day...
 Mrs. ...
 Mrs. ...



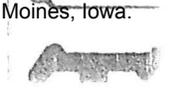
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Outline of Personal History of

Henry Ritter

RESIDENCE

Burlington, Iowa

Kindly furnish on this sheet the necessary data for a personal sketch and return at your early convenience. Every question is important.

R. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 gh

The Historical Department of Iowa

DES MOINES, IOWA

EDGAR R. HARLAN, CURATOR

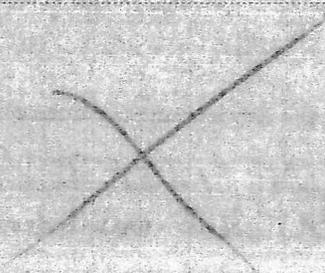
(This form is for use in collecting data on deceased as well as living persons. Appropriate alterations may be made in matter below.)

- 1. Name in full (all names) *Henry Ritter*
- 2. Chief occupation or profession *Retired Brick Manufacturer*
- 3. Former occupation or profession _____
- 4. Date and place of beginning each *1876 - at Burlington Iowa*
- 5. Present residence address *1837 Sunny Side ave*
- 6. Present business address _____
- 7. Date of birth *Oct 19th 1852*
- 8. Place of birth *Jk Madison Iowa*
- 9. If born abroad, where _____
- 10. Emigrated to America, when _____
- 11. First migrated to what state and county, whether born abroad or in America _____
- 12. Emigrated the second time to what state or county _____
- 13. Further emigration, if any _____
- 14. Education. Give name and location of rural, high, business or technical school, college or university *Parochial School & Business College*
- 15. Date of graduation and degree if any _____

16. Place of death _____
17. Date of death _____
18. Place of burial _____
19. Name of father in full (all names) John C. Ritter
20. Occupation of father Brick-Manufacturer
21. Full Maiden name of mother (all names) Mary Eva Hurst
22. Residence when married St. Madison
23. Military service, if any (exact dates) _____
24. Political offices, (from the smallest to the largest, with dates)
Adderum-at-Large - 4 terms (8 years) 1888-to 1896
Representative Iowa Legislature Sessions 30-31-32 & 33
(and re-elected for a sixth term)
25. Director or trustee of financial, religious and educational institutions
Finance Committee St. John's Catholic Church
26. Politics Democrat
27. Religious denomination if any Catholic
28. Religious preference if non-affiliated with a denomination _____
29. Member of what societies or associations of learning St. John's Catholic Benevolent
30. Member of what secret organizations, with honors or offices held, with dates _____
31. Member of what clubs if any Carthage Lake Fish & Hunting
32. Belonged to what firms (give names in full and dates if possible) _____
33. ~~Officer or~~ director in any corporation Iowa State Saving Bank Burlington
34. Enclose business card if possible _____
35. Enclose photograph and autograph _____

36. Author of books or pamphlets, with titles and publishers in full and dates of publication

37. Miscellaneous



FAMILY HISTORY

- 1. To whom married *Minnie Vorwerk*
- 2. Date of marriage *Nov 28th 1876*
- 3. Place of marriage *Burlington Iowa*
- 4. Date of ~~his~~ her birth *July 20 - 1854*
- 5. Place of his or her birth *—*
- 6. Religious denomination *Catholic*
- 7. Date of his or her death *—*
- 8. Place of his or her death *—*
- 9. Place of his or her burial *—*
- 10. Father's full name *Anton Vorwerk*
- 11. Born where and when *Germany*
- 12. Occupation of ~~his~~ her father *Cooper & Farmer*
- 13. ~~His~~ her mother's full name *Clara Ebersman*
- 14. Born when and where *Germany*
- 15. Parents' residence at time of their marriage *Burlington Iowa*
- 16. Miscellaneous remarks on their family *Celebrated golden Wedding 1853
are both living and well*

911/109
10/10/10

General
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BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

OF

Des Moines County, Iowa

pt. 1

CONTAINING

BIOGRAPHICAL *and* GENEALOGICAL SKETCHES *of*
MANY OF THE PROMINENT CITIZENS OF TO-DAY
AND ALSO OF THE PAST

"Biography is the only true history."—EMERSON

9274a
ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO
HOBART PUBLISHING COMPANY

1905

and the outbreak of the Civil War following his emigration to the New World, his military spirit was again aroused, and he enlisted in the Iowa Regiment known as the Gray Beards. He took part in some skirmishes, and sustained injuries on account of which he was afterward granted a pension by the government.

There were seven children born unto Mr. Avery by his second marriage: Ivinia M., who died at the age of two years and some days; Ivan H. N., who married Christina Helt, and died March 13, 1904; Oren Elmo, who resides near Kingston, Iowa, and married Nellie Brockway, by whom he had three children, Harry, Pearl, and Violet; John White and Dove Alnda G., both at home; Olive Marguerite, the wife of Mario Van Cranach. As the years passed, Mr. Avery prospered in his undertakings, and was long known as one of the successful and prominent agriculturists and horticulturists of Des Moines county. He started out in life amid unfavorable circumstances, but realizing that labor is the basis of all success, he worked persistently and energetically. Brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by determined and honorable effort, he advanced by consecutive steps; and as his capital increased, he made judicious investments in real estate that brought him a handsome return. Ultimately he became the owner of tracts of land in different parts of the county and State, his realty possessions aggregating two thousand three hundred and nine acres. He left to each of his children a goodly heritage, which he had accumulated by honest, persistent effort. Moreover, in his business career Mr. Avery was thoroughly reliable, and his path to success was never strewn with the wrecks of other men's fortunes.

for in all his dealings he was strictly fair and honorable.

In his religious faith Mr. Avery was a Methodist, was a most earnest and helpful worker in the church, and contributed liberally to its support. He served as class-leader of his church, and he erected a house of worship, called Shiloh church, on his farm in Union township. There is also upon the old homestead a cemetery known as the Avery cemetery, which his father, Robert Avery, donated to the township. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity, and was thoroughly conversant with its work, its teachings, and its tenets. He owned a home in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, where he lived while educating his children. The cause of education found in him a warm friend, and he was a helpful supporter of the Iowa Wesleyan College, holding six scholarships therein, and making frequent and generous donations thereto. His life was honorable, his actions manly and sincere, and the world is better for his having lived. He died Dec. 13, 1888, but his memory is yet cherished by many friends as well as his immediate family. In politics he was a staunch Republican.

HENRY RITTER.

HONORABLE HENRY RITTER is now living a retired life at his beautiful home at 1837 Sunnyside Avenue, in Burlington. For many years his activity in the business world was continuous and far-reaching, and as the result of his close application to his work, his persistence of purpose, and his honorable dealing, he has won great success and also an untarnished name in business and

social circles. He has been honored with the highest office in the gift of the people of the city and has been representative of this district in the State Legislature, which office he is still holding. Henry Ritter is a son of John C. and Mary (Kuntz) Ritter, and was born in Ft. Madison, Lee county, Iowa, Oct. 19, 1852. His father was a native of Prussia, and was born Sept. 10, 1817. After serving the Prussian army for two years he came to America in 1842 by way of Baltimore, and settled first in Smithland, Ky., where he learned the trade of bricklaying and brickmaking. His residence in Smithland, Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio, lasted for some three years, when he moved to St. Louis, Mo., where he remained for a few years engaged in the burning of brick. Soon after this he came to Iowa and located in Ft. Madison, bought a strip of ground, and in 1847 began to manufacture all kinds of brick. He was thus employed till his death, which occurred July 29, 1885. His life was honest and upright, and he was a genuine pioneer leader. He belonged to the Democratic party, and was township trustee of Washington township, Lee county, for some years. The mother of our subject came to this country with her parents when about eleven or twelve years of age. They settled in Des Moines county in 1848, locating on a farm in what is known as the Hunt settlement, about three miles south of Burlington. She was married in 1849 and died in 1867, having been the mother of ten children, of whom five are living: Henry, of this review; John, married Anna Gahn, and is a brickmaker residing in Burlington; Joseph, a twin of John, married Miss Ellie Burger, of Deadwood, S. Dak., and lives in Iona, S. Dak., on a ranch; Mary, is the wife of Frank Weidman, who works in the Chicago,

Burlington & Quincy Railroad shops in West Burlington; Benedict V., is engaged in brickmaking in Denver, Colo. Mr. Ritter received his substantial education in the parochial schools of Ft. Madison and in Pierson Business College of the same city. He attended during winter terms only, and worked the rest of the year. He remained under the parental roof till he was about twenty years of age, and learned all the arts of brickmaking with his father. His first situation with strangers was that of a clerk in the grocery store of A. C. Cattermole, in Ft. Madison. Oct. 29, 1872, he came to Burlington, and entered the large grocery of H. E. Hunt on Main Street as clerk, and later as bookkeeper, where he was engaged for the following six winters. The summer months were spent by him conducting a brickyard for his father. In 1876 he started a brickyard of his own on Sunnyside Avenue, where he employed a great many men making all kinds of brick for Iowa and Illinois markets. After some twenty-seven years in this business he sold out his brickyard, and has been retired since 1904.

Nov. 28, 1876, Mr. Ritter was married to Miss Minnie Vorwerk, daughter of Anton and Clara (Eversman) Vorwerk. Mrs. Ritter was born in Burlington, Iowa, July 20, 1854, and received her first instructions in the private school of Miss Mercy Lewis, and later pursued her studies in St. Paul's parochial school, which was the first school to have sisters known as Blessed Virgin Mary's. Mr. Vorwerk was born in Oldenburg, Germany, Dec. 8, 1827, and came to America in 1849, making the trip in an old-time sailing vessel in one hundred days, landing in New Orleans, where Mr. Vorwerk celebrated his twenty-first birthday. He located in Quincy, Ill., where he became pro-

Anton Herbert, born Aug. 14, 1893, died Nov. 1, 1893. The deceased children are all buried in Sacred Heart cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritter are devoted and consistent members of St. John's Catholic church, of which church the former is a member of the finance committee. Mr. Ritter is also a member of St. John's Benevolent Society and the Roman Catholic Mutual Protective of Iowa. In politics he has always been a leader in the Democratic party, and has devoted much time and attention to the promotion and advancement of the same. In 1888 he was elected alderman-at-large, and held this office with great credit and ability till 1896. In 1903 he was the Democratic nominee as a representative of the twentieth district to the State Legislature, and was unanimously elected, defeating Peter Hanson, of Union township. By amendment of the constitution Mr. Ritter will hold over another term to the Legislature, as the elections are now biennial instead of annual.

While Mr. and Mrs. Ritter were in Des Moines they made many warm friends, who await their return with pleasure. In 1884 they erected their handsome residence on Sunnyside Avenue, which joins Ritter's park, also owned by Mr. Ritter, and the whole place is one of the most modern and attractive homes in the city. Since this worthy couple lost their children they have spent much time in traveling in all parts of the United States. Surely Mr. Ritter is to be congratulated upon the great success with which he has met in business and social circles. His early life was full of trials and struggles, as he began empty handed, having nothing to depend on except that which his activity and industry brought him. His days of labor were long and hard, but being

blessed with a rugged constitution he was enabled to toil on, and in the course of time became one of the leading business men of Burlington, and later was enabled to retire from active business and enjoy his labors of the past. He is a man possessing a large, warm heart, and his hundreds of friends have long recognized in him one that is true to himself as well as true and loyal to others. His record in business was without one blot, as he ever fulfilled his contracts to the very letter, firmly believing that honesty and uprightness in life are the best and safest watchwords. He is blessed with a true and loving wife, who has ever stood by his side ready to assist at all times. Her kind and loving deeds have reached many in distress, and her quiet and beautiful manner, together with her many accomplishments, have made her many friends and admirers.

JAMES VANNICE.

JAMES VANNICE, who started out in life for himself at a very early age, and with a brave spirit and strong determination met the difficulties and obstacles that lay in his path, has worked his way upward to success, and is now classed with the leading agriculturists of Des Moines county. The experiences of pioneer life in the wild West have been his, and for many years his portion was that of unremitting toil, but his persistency of purpose and capable management have made him to-day one of the most prosperous farmers of eastern Iowa.

Mr. Vannice claims Indiana as his natal State, being born in Switzerland county, Indiana, April 11, 1833. He came