

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Etter, William Luther Senator _____

Represented Keokuk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 1860 Franklin County, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place
Marcel Catto 1894

3. Significant events for example:
A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Owned and published of the Sigourney Record newspaper

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 33rd General Assembly 1909

6. Public Offices
A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 20 June 1935 Sigourney, Iowa; buried West Cemetery, Sigourney, Keokuk County, Iowa

8. Children Margaret (Mrs. Karl L. Seliger); Catto; Betty (Mrs. E. E. Sleeper)

9. Names of parents John H. Etter

10. Education _____

11. Degrees Graduate of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa in 1889.

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He came to Iowa in spring 1883 teaching school
- After graduation from college he served as Cedar County, Iowa Superintendent of Schools for 6 years and 3 years as the Tipton, Iowa public school superintendent.
- He has lived in Sigourney, Iowa since 1899 when he purchased the Sigourney Review newspaper which he owned until he sold it to his son, Cotton Etter, in 1928.

Large Crowd Attended Funeral Service for Veteran Publisher

Nearly 350 persons attended the funeral service for W. L. Etter, prominent Sigourney man and veteran newspaper publisher, which was held Sunday afternoon at the home. Among those in attendance were Governor and Mrs. Clyde Herring, Secretary of State Mrs. Alex Miller, Tracy Osborne of New Sharon, district committeeman and Mrs. Ruth Hollingshead of Albia, district committeewoman and others of prominence in the state.

In charge of the service was the Rev. W. A. Longnecker, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, who was assisted by the Rev. Phillip Palmer of Cedar Rapids, a former pastor of the Sigourney Presbyterian church of which Mr. Etter was a member. Justice W. H. Hamilton, member of the Iowa supreme court and a close friend of the veteran publisher, paid a high tribute to the life and character of Mr. Etter.

Mr. Etter died last Thursday morning about 4:30 o'clock of heart trouble following an illness of less than a week. He had been a resident of Sigourney since 1899, having come here and purchased the Sigourney Review of which he was owner and publisher until he sold it to his son, Cotton Etter, in 1928.

Mr. Etter was born in 1860 in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Etter. In the spring of 1883 he came to Iowa where he taught school and later attended Cornell college, Mount Vernon, from which he was graduated in 1889. Following graduation, he served six years as superintendent of schools of Cedar county and three years as superintendent of the Tipton public school.

In 1894, Mr. Etter was married to Flora Cotton, and they established their home in Tipton. Here two of their children, Marjorie, now Mrs. Karl L. Seliger of Orange City, and Cotton Etter, were born. A third child, Betty, now Mrs. E. E. Stepp of New York, was born in Sigourney.

grated to this better land when a mere boy, and with no one to lean upon, or blaze the trail before him, he faced the world alone. The story of his life contains much of struggle and hardship. This struggle is built into his sturdy manhood and the dangers and hardships and difficulties of life which he faced and conquered left their indelible mark upon his sturdy, noble, manly face and made of him a man unafraid.

He became a school teacher and among his pupils was the beautiful Flora Cotton, whom he wooed and wed, and whose image is stamped upon his heart, and the beauty and loveliness of this union has grown deeper and sweeter as the years have come and gone, and it is she who has sustained, in his going, a loss far greater than all else besides. Together they faced the battles of life, reared, educated, directed and trained their three fine children, of whom they may justly be proud. He was a God-like father, stern, just, loving and forgiving, a doting, proud, affectionate husband.

He was a real patriot. He served his community with unselfish devotion, his state with honor and distinction. He was a nationalist and proud of it. His Americanism was of the

finest type. He would call a chum that he was always but he was a different not outwardly by profession, but in the best and to whom he opened the doorway of his mind how staunch and God and in the life of the Christian soul was always was this deep, faith that kept the solid rock, the rugged face and kindly, sparkling just as pure as He made no pretense We do not claim absence of all faults sometimes swore passed his lips frugality and sign gained a competence earned by the sweat bread that he gave to those in their fair share of toil. He loved to and hardships on no man for show no weakness. alms. Like a the challenge of the sea of life. with bravery and

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Mr. Etter, one of the leading Democrats of this part of the state served a term in the Iowa state legislature and was the Democratic nominee for congress in 1926. Mrs. Etter is the national Democratic committee-woman from Iowa.

In speaking of the veteran Sigourney publisher, Justice Hamilton said, "We came to Sigourney about the same time. We have been mutually helpful to each other, I know, but as I look back over the years, I am sure the account as it stands today is largely out of balance in favor of my departed friend, and that I am sure is as he would be pleased to have it. We reared our families together. When the children were small scarcely a week passed that we were not together. We labored, planned and struggled together. There was not much play, but lots of joy and sunshine and happiness. Providence has been kind. Our loved ones are all still with us. Our respective immediate family circles have, until now, remained unbroken. He is the first to go. This, perhaps, in the regular course of Nature, was to be expected.

He was like one of my own. To me he was "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Born of honest, sturdy, thrifty, humble stock, among the rugged hills and valleys of Pennsylvania, he mi-

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finest type. He was not what you would call a church man in the sense that he was always found in his pew, but he was a deeply religious man, not outwardly by any profuse public profession, but those who knew him best and to whom he occasionally opened the door to the secret sanctuary of his mind and heart, know how staunch and real was his faith in God and in the old-fashioned verities of the Christian religion, and his soul was always aglow within, and it was this deep, quiet, unpretentious faith that kept his feet planted on the solid rock, that marked the clean, rugged face and looked out of his kindly, sparkling eyes. His life was just as pure as his faith was firm. He made no pretention of perfection. We do not claim for him today the absence of all faults or frailties. He sometimes swore, but profanity never passed his lips. Through honesty, frugality and sincerity of purpose he gained a competency in this life. He earned by the sweat of his brow the bread that he ate, and he willingly gave to those employed to assist him their fair share of the profits of their toil. He loved the struggle and strife and hardships of life. He leaned upon no man for support. He confessed no weakness. He would accept no alms. Like a good sailor, he loved the challenge of the rough waves of the sea of life. Not boastful, but with bravery and courage he brooked

the storms of life and came off a conqueror. He was not egotistical. He entertained a very modest opinion of his own worthiness and ability. He stooped to nothing that would bring the blush of shame upon his brow or undermine his own self-respect. A clear conscience, an unsullied character, clean habits and a bright outlook on life enabled him to retain his buoyant and youthful spirit to the ripe age of more than the three score years and ten allotted to man.

Although he seldom sought or held an official position in our community, yet through his personality and power and influence as editor until recently of one of the outstanding weekly newspapers in the state of Iowa, he has for years been the real chief burgomaster of our city and community.

Today we think of him as having gone on a long journey. We shall miss the bustle and hustle of his busy life, the buoyant spirit of his sturdy purpose and sure guiding hand, the inspiration of his struggle, the courageous manner in which he met every situation and obstacle of life. The paper will remain on the desk unwritten. His pen and spectacles will lie on the mantle unused. His favorite book will never be opened again. The master is gone. Yes, we shall miss him, but his spirit bids us face the future with courage and

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

O B I T U A R Y

Mrs. William Cavin

Nettie Cavin, daughter of George and Lucinda Ash, was born February 19, 1902. She departed from this life on June 10, 1935, at the age of 33 years, three months and 21 days, at the Iowa City hospital where she had been a patient for the past two weeks.

She was married to William Cavin of Richland October 29, 1921. She leaves to mourn their loss the husband and five children, Albert, Robert, May, Frances and Joyce Linn, three months old.

She also leaves four brothers and one sister, and grandmother Katherine Ash, besides other relatives and a host of friends.

Her mother and one sister preceded her in death a few years ago.

—Fine Job Printing at The News!

fortitude, and so with this solacing thought, we will bid our grief depart and smiling through our tears, reach out to grasp his hand again, for in some brighter realm, we know this cord of friendship that death has seemed to sever will lead us on to where we again old friends shall meet and greet and say, "Good Morning."

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