

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Ratchiff,  
Hillman Conner - Represented Mills and Montgomery counties

1. Birthday and place 3 May 1881 Humboldt, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

May Lydia Wright 20 Feb 1909 Cedar Falls, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1901; member of the Iowa  
State Bar Association as well as Montgomery County and American

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; I.O.O.F.; Knights of  
Patriots

C. Profession Lawyer; store clerk

4. Church membership Lutheran, later Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1917 and 1919

6. Public Offices

A. Local Montgomery County attorney - 4 terms 1907-1915; school board member at  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

B. State In 1924 he was appointed judge of the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District until 1929

C. National

7. Death 16 Apr 1939 Council Bluffs, Iowa; buried Evergreen Cemetery, Red Oak, Iowa

8. Children Robert J.; Anne; one child died in infancy

9. Names of parents John and Nettie (Conner) Ratchiff

10. Education He was educated in the schools of Polk, Iowa, graduating  
in June 1897

11. Degrees University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa - Law graduate in  
1901

12. Other applicable information Republican  
In fall 1904 he went to Red Oak, Iowa to start his practice of  
law  
He was the director and Treasurer of the Mutual Life Association of Iowa;  
director of the Red Oak Banking and Savings Association





### Tells Amlie ical Reasons Insinuations

INGTON, D. C., (AP)—  
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omas R. Amlie's request  
s nomination to the inter-  
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wn has suggested to  
that he had been called a  
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ate today to withdraw  
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om Wisconsin to this ef-  
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ply regret that a certain  
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### ortation of ker Blocked Court Orders Released

INGTON, D. C., (AP)—  
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Ark., whom the labor de-  
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hat he was an alien com-  
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nt had erred in the con-  
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said that "in the  
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eria added, "we conclude

## Karl Fischer Heads Public Safety Bureau

### Vinton Attorney, World War Flier, Named Commissioner

DES MOINES, Ia., (AP)—Karl W. Fischer, Vinton, Ia., attorney and former world war aviator, Monday was appointed by Gov. Wilson to head the new state department of public safety.

Fischer's appointment is subject to confirmation by the senate. The commissioner's term is for four years, at a salary of \$4,000 a year.

Gov. Wilson last week signed the bill creating the department. The act becomes effective this week upon publication in two newspapers.

### Merger of Three Units.

The newly created department is the result of a merger of the state highway patrol, the state bureau of investigation, the fire marshal's office, and various state inspectional services.

With the appointment of a commissioner to head the new department, one of the major points in the state republican administration's reorganization program was realized.

The highway patrol was transferred to the new department from the secretary of state's office. The bureau of investigation came from the attorney general's department. The fire marshal's office previously was directed under the governor's supervision.

Fischer, who is no relation of State Insurance Commissioner Charles R. Fischer of Onawa, was a charter member of the Iowa State Safety Council.

He was born in Eagle Grove, Ia. At 18, he enlisted in the air service as a private and a year later was commissioned a second lieutenant in the twenty-fifth pursuit squadron under Maj. Reed Landis, Flying Daredevil.

Assigned to the army of occupation after the armistice, Fischer gave residents of the occupied area a startling demonstration of his flying skill by piloting his plane under the old stone bridges on the Rhine.

Upon his return from Germany, Fischer went to Des Moines through the middlewest to earn money for a course at the Univer-

### EX-JUDGE DIES



## Judge Ratcliff Dies at Hospital Had Practiced Law for Many Years

Funeral services for former District Judge W. C. Ratcliff, 57, of Red Oak, Ia., who died Sunday morning in a Council Bluffs hospital, will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the Presbyterian church at Red Oak, Ia. Burial will be in Evergreen demetery in Red Oak. Judge Ratcliff, who had practiced law for thirty-eight years and was a former state senator and county attorney of Montgomery county, had been ill for two weeks with complications.

Several of his Council Bluffs friends were typed last week at the local hospital for their blood in event it was found necessary for him to undergo a blood transfusion because of his illness. The donor was County Auditor C. A. "Chet" Bowers.

Judge Ratcliff was born at Humboldt, Ia., May 3, 1881, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John and Hattie Ratacliff. He attended the schools at Humboldt and Rolfe, Ia. He graduated from the Rolfe high school in 1901.

He then entered the University of Iowa, taking a law course and worked his own way through school as a night clerk in a hotel in Iowa City, Ia.

He was graduated in law from the university in 1901 and was admitted to practice in the same year. In the fall of 1904 he went to Red Oak where he entered a law firm to carry on his practice. Named County Attorney.

A republican politically and becoming a promising young attorney, he was induced to make the race for county attorney of Montgomery county and was elected. He served four terms, from 1907 to 1915, when he

## Turkey Joins Bloc to Stop Aggression

### Soviets Pledge War Materials; Likely to Line Up

(By The Associated Press.)  
Turkey, Germany's ally in the world war, was reported reliably Monday to have joined the British-French front against aggression.

Soviet Russia, earlier had been reported to have promised "at least material aid"—presumably war planes and other armaments—in the event of war.

Prime Minister Chamberlain was expected to announce to the house of commons Tuesday that Britain and France have guaranteed Turkey's independence.

They already have pledged to help Poland, Rumania and Greece defend their independence.

Chamberlain, it was believed, also will tell commons that "good progress" is being made in British-French negotiations to bring the soviet union into their alliance.

Meanwhile Hitler summoned the reichstag for April 28 to hear his reply to President Roosevelt's peace proposals as violent fascist and nazi press attacks pointed to Italian and German rejection of them.

Fascists in Rome indicated that Germany and Italy would answer "no" with one voice both to the president's appeal for peace pledges to thirty-one nations and to his suggestion of world conferences.

British officials were reported to have been assured that the soviet union would send fighting planes and other war material to help defend Poland and Rumania if either nation's independence were imperilled.

This was an alternative to direct Russian military intervention since both Warsaw and Bucharest have objected to a pledge of the red army's aid.

(Rumania and Poland have been allied for defense against attack from soviet Russia since 1921 and both were understood to fear that Germany might regard their acceptance of Russian army support as provocative.

Greece — have received British-French pledges to help defend them.

## VIOLEN INDICA REJECT

### Il Messe Accuses Paper

ROME, Ital  
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## Economy Seeks to Two Buil

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## Boy on B Struck by

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non hospital

preme court Monday or he discharge from custody eph G. Strecker of Hot Ark., whom the labor de- it sought to deport on the that he was an alien com-

erts delivered the w held that the labor ent had eered in the con of the statute under Strecker was ordered de-

ts said that "in the of a clear and definite ex- we are not at liberty to that congress intended allen, no matter how esident of this country, or well disposed toward our ent, must be deported, if me in the past, no matter r under what circum- or for what time, he was r of the described organi- (Communist party of the tates.)

o absence of such expres- beris added, "we conclude the present membership, it affiliation—a fact to be ed on evidence—which sion, bars naturaliza- requires deportation." ecision was on a deporta- r issued by the labor de- against Strecker, who this country from Austria nd was a member of the st party for three months 3.

ry Labor Perkins has itting the ruling as a ction on demands for de- proceed- ings against Bridges, Australian-born t C. I. O leader. He has rided as a communist by before the Dies house e investigating un-Ameri- ities.

study of the decision, partment officials made late comment on its ap- to the Bridges case.

## Undergoes Operation

Sheriff Joe F. Perry un- n appendectomy oper- day morning at Mercy e was stricken late vening at his home and diately taken to the hos- tients.

## E FOLKS; THE NONPAREIL'S CAMERA MAN'S HERE

Start Taking Pictures on ts of Council Bluffs Tuesday

probably be shot within malling it together with 25 cents ew days if you venture out don't worry, as the the shooting will be the

the secretary of state's office. The bureau of investigation came from the attorney general's department. The fire marshal's office previously was directed under the governor's supervision.

Fischer, who is no relation of State Insurance Commissioner Charles R. Fischer of Onawa, was a charter member of the Iowa State Safety Council.

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**Flying Daredevil**  
Assigned to the army of occupation after the armistice, Fischer gave residents of the occupied area a startling demonstration of his flying skill by piloting his plane under the old stone bridges on the Rhine.

Upon his return from Germany, Fischer went barnstorming through the middlewest to earn money for a course at the University of Iowa.

He flew the first night fireworks display at the Iowa state fair in 1921.

From 1923 to 1933, Fischer was clerk of court in Benton county. He has been chairman of the Benton county republican central committee for twelve years. The republican state convention nominated him for auditor of state in 1932.

He is active in the American Legion.

Fischer is married and has two sons and a daughter.

## Louisiana Tax Bill Bobs Up Again

DES MOINES, Ia., (AP) — The "Louisiana chain store tax" principle appeared again in the Iowa house Monday in the form of an amendment by Representative Oscar Johnson, democrat, Kenahwa.

The representative said he filed the proposed change so that the house "might be given a chance to vote on a constitutional chain store tax bill if it so desired.

Attorney Gen. Fred Everet held last week that parts of the senate chain store bill, are unconstitutional, particularly the sections relating to assessing chain store stocks on a different basis than that used for merchandise held by independents.

in event it was found necessary for him to undergo a blood transfusion because of his illness. The donor was County Auditor C. A. "Chet" Bowers.

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A republican politically and becoming a promising young attorney, he was induced to make the race for county attorney of Montgomery county and was elected. He served four terms, from 1907 to 1915, when he returned to private practice at Red Oak.

In 1917 he was elected state senator of the Mills-Montgomery district, holding office for two terms until 1921.

In 1924 he was appointed a judge of the Fifteenth judicial district to fill a vacancy caused by the death of one of the other judges. At the expiration of his appointed time he was elected to a full term and served the judgeship until 1929, when he resigned because of private business and his brother-in-law, R. J. Swanson, succeeded him by appointment.

During the period he was a judge Mr. Ratcliff had held district court at Council Bluffs on several occasions.

Because of his political career and popularity as an attorney he became well known throughout southwestern Iowa. Married in 1909.

When he first came to Red Oak he formed the acquaintance of a teacher in the Red Oak schools, May L. Wright, which was the beginning of a romance culminating in their marriage at Cedar Rapids, Ia., on Feb. 20, 1909.

Reared in the Quaker faith, he affiliated with the First Presbyterian church in Red Oak, serving as an official for many years.

He was a member of the Mason, Shine and Odd Fellows' lodges at Red Oak. He was also a member of the Iowa State Bar association, of which he was a past president, the Fifteenth Judicial District Bar association, the Montgomery County Bar association and the American Bar association.

Besides his wife he is survived by a son, Robert, a student at the University of Iowa; a daughter, Anne, at home; two sisters, Mrs. Skiffin of Rolfe, and Miss Nell Ratcliff, a teacher in the San Bernardino, Calif., schools.

## Jitterbugs Give Way to Polka Dancers

Fascists in Rome indicated that Germany and Italy would answer "no" with one voice both to the president's appeal for peace pledges to thirty-one nations and to his suggestion of world conferences.

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This was an alternative to direct Russian military intervention since both Warsaw and Bucharest have objected to a pledge of the red army's aid.

(Rumania and Poland have been allied for defense against attack from soviet Russia since 1921 and both were understood to fear that Germany might regard their acceptance of Russian army support as provocative.

(Both countries—as well as Greece — have received British-French pledges to help defend their independence against any threat. Both exchanged oral assurances last week of mutual aid in defense against German attack.)

British officials expressed surprise at Hitler's decision to summon the reichstag to hear his reply to President Roosevelt's proposals for an assured peace of at least ten years. They regarded the convening of the reichstag at least as a hopeful token that Hitler considered the message important.

With thirteen French warships concentrated at Gibraltar, France assumed the nava control of this key center of Britain's armed might in the Mediterranean which guards one of the two vital inlets to sea.

Apart from a few auxiliary vessels, it was believed that there were at present no British warships in the vicinity of Gibraltar.

Virtually the entire British Mediterranean fleet was concentrated around Malta following the Italian invasion of Albania.

## Educators to Address Teachers

The Council Bluffs Teachers' club will hold a 8:30 p. m. dinner meeting at Our Saviors Lutheran church Thursday evening.

Dr. Ruben Shaw, president of the National Education association, Philadelphia, and Dr. Fred Cram, National Education association director for Iowa, will be speakers.

## NAB FUGITIVE GUNMAN QUIETLY AS SUBURBAN

NEW YORK, N. Y., (AP)—The inconspicuous suburban glazier who turned out to be Claude Dickerson, a member of the Perkins gang that terrorized the midwest between 1934 and 1936, died in po-

## Economy Seeks to Two Build

DES MOINES — The economy house Monday backtracked on for the purpose Iowa State col a state fair 4-house capital

The gymnasium proved Saturday 000 expenditure years.

## Boy on Street Struck

Charles McMain street, in son hospital for bruises at 8:30 p. m. when in front of an street and

Richard Gra 1, Crescent, w mobile. He said front of him, the street and was going about five miles per

The boy was cement, and G the hospital D the attending

## County Heads On

Decision to every sixty day an organization afternoon at a tawattamic con the office of Council Bluffs

John I. Held at Shenandoah representative of ciation of Post sent.

County post were: Emmett Mrs. Grace R Lonnie M. T Mrs. Hazel F John L. O'Neil Ella Spencer, Le Schneckloth, Be lagher, Walnut ham, Avoca, and

2.

# Outline of Personal History of

## RESIDENCE

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

EDGAR R. HARLAN, CURATOR  
**The Historical Department of Iowa**  
DES MOINES, IOWA

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

1. What is your name in full? *William Connor Ratchiff*
2. What is your present profession or occupation? *Lawyer*
3. Where and when did you begin? *Red Oak, Iowa, - 1904*
4. What other occupation have you followed; where and when? *Clerk in stores at Pocahontas and Rolfe, Iowa. 1897-1901*
5. What is your residence address? *Red Oak, Iowa, 1106, Corning St.*
6. What is your business address? *Red Oak, Iowa.*
7. What is the date and the place of your birth? *May 3, 1881, Humboldt, Iowa.*
8. If born abroad, when and where did you first settle in America?
9. If you removed again before settling in your present home, where and when was such removal?
10. What schools have you attended; if a graduate, when and with what degree? *Public school of Rolfe, Iowa - graduated June 4, 1897  
Law Department, State University of Iowa - LL.B. - June 14, 19*
11. What was your father's full name? *John Ratchiff*
12. What was your father's occupation? *Merchant and sheriff*
13. What was your mother's full maiden name? *Hattie Connor*

14. Where did your parents reside at the time of their marriage? *Humboldt, Iowa*
15. What military service had your father; give as complete as you can?
16. What military service have you had? *Five years a member of Company M*
17. What political offices have you held; do not omit even the smallest, and give date and place of service, if you can?  
*County Attorney of Montgomery County, Iowa - 1907 to 1915*  
*Member of School Board, Red Oak, Iowa - 1915 to present time*
18. Of what financial, religious, or educational institutions are you a trustee or director; give dates if you can?  
*Director & treasurer, Mutual Life Association of Iowa; Director in the Red Oak Building & Saving Ass'n; Member of Red Oak School Board; Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Red Oak; Sup't. of Presbyterian Sunday School - Hold all of said offices at present time*
19. With what political parties have you been affiliated; give dates?  
*Republican all my life*
20. In what religious denominations have you a membership?  
*First Presbyterian Church of Red Oak, Iowa*
21. If you have no church membership, to what sectarian faith do you incline?
22. In what societies of learning have you a membership?
23. Of what secular orders or secret societies are you a member? *Masonic Lodge, Knights Templars, K.P., Odd Fellows,*
24. What honors or offices have you held in your society or lodge; give dates?
25. Of what social clubs are you a member?
26. Of what business firms have you been a member?
27. Please enclose both a business card and your photograph for permanent record in the Historical Department of Iowa  
*Photograph will be sent later*
28. For which of your works (as writer, sculptor, artist, architect, politician or other constructive influence) have you the highest esteem?

20. Please supply for permanent preservation in the Historical Department of Iowa a list of all your works.....
30. Will you attach your autograph to one or more of your works and present the same to the Historical Department of Iowa for permanent preservation?.....
31. ....

## DOMESTIC HISTORY OUTLINE

### FIRST MARRIAGE.

32. With whom was your first marriage? *May Lydia Knight*
33. Where and what date was this marriage? *Feb. 20, 1909*
34. When and where was your wife (~~or husband~~) born? *Cedar Falls, Iowa, Feb 14, 1883*
35. In what religious denomination did your wife (~~or husband~~) hold membership? *Friends Church*
36. Where did your wife (or husband) die, if not surviving, and where and when was the interment?.....
37. What was the full name of the father of your wife (~~or husband~~) and where was he born?  
*Prof. W. Sands Knight, Ohio - Came to Iowa when a young man*
38. What was the full maiden name of the mother of your wife (~~or husband~~)?  
*Eliza Jane Rawster*
39. Where and when was she born? *Ohio, April 20, 1855. Moved to Iowa when a small child.*

**CHILDREN OF FIRST MARRIAGE.**

Full Name.	Date of Birth.	Place of Birth.
1. <i>Wm Wright Patchiff</i>	<i>Aug 1-1913</i>	<i>Red Rock Iowa (Des Moines)</i>
2. ....	.....	.....
3. ....	.....	.....
4. ....	.....	.....
5. ....	.....	.....
6. ....	.....	.....

**SECOND MARRIAGE.**

40. With whom was your second marriage? .....
41. Where and what date was this marriage? .....
42. When and where was your wife (or husband) born? .....
43. In what religious denomination did your wife (or husband) hold membership? .....
44. Where did your wife (or husband) die, if not surviving, and where and when was the interment? .....
45. What was the full name of the father of your wife (or husband) and where was he born? .....
46. What was the full maiden name of the mother of your wife (or husband)? .....
47. Where and when was she born? .....

**CHILDREN OF SECOND MARRIAGE.**

Full Name.	Date of Birth.	Place of Birth.
1. ....	.....	.....
2. ....	.....	.....
3. ....	.....	.....
4. ....	.....	.....
5. ....	.....	.....
6. ....	.....	.....

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A Narrative History  
of  
The People of Iowa

with  
SPECIAL TREATMENT OF THEIR CHIEF ENTERPRISES IN  
EDUCATION, RELIGION, VALOR, INDUSTRY,  
BUSINESS, ETC.

by  
EDGAR RUBEY HARLAN, LL. B., A. M.  
*Curator of the  
Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa*

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IOWA BIOGRAPHY  
(Gratuitously Published)  
*Selected and Prepared by Special Staff of Writers  
of The American Historical Society, Inc.*

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Volume III

3508

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ILLUSTRATED

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THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.  
CHICAGO AND NEW YORK  
1931

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

in Princeton University, where he did the work leading to his Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Divinity degrees, and he also pursued a post-graduate course in the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity.

In the course of his career he has had several very congenial pastoral assignments. He was pastor of the Mount Ida Presbyterian Church at Davenport for nine and a half years, being called from there to the Avondale Presbyterian Church at Cincinnati. He was at Cincinnati when America entered the World war, and he soon enlisted for service under the Y. M. C. A. War Council. He was made director of religious work, Building No. 9 at Camp Dodge, and a promotion then put him in charge of all the Y work at Fort Des Moines. Later he was called to headquarters of the Central States Department at Chicago, and made a special Y worker for the fourteen central states, being always subject to emergency calls over this territory. At the conclusion of the war the Y. M. C. A. erected at Detroit a model Y building for demonstration purposes. The demonstration of the various types of Y war work was carried out during the International Convention of the Y. M. C. A. Rev. Mr. Sawyers was one of the two workers chosen for the Fourteen Central States to take part in this demonstration. Representatives of several European nations were present, and addressed the conclave and bestowed many honors on Y workers.

Doctor Sawyers was by no means unacquainted with the spirit and practical program of the Y. M. C. A. in war times, since he had represented that organization during the Spanish-American war with the troops at Fort Hamilton, Long Island. While living in Davenport he was a member of the board of directors of the local Y. M. C. A. and had charge of the fund raising campaign for a new building. Later for three and a half years he was secretary of the Davenport organization.

Doctor Sawyers in 1919 returned to his old home surroundings and in 1920 was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Centerville, where he has officiated for the past ten years. It has been an exceedingly pleasant field of work, and has given him many opportunities for a service of usefulness to his fellow men. During this time he has been a member of the board of directors of the Association of Commerce, and is now president, was chairman of its Good Roads committee, served as secretary of the Appanoose County Tax Payers League, and among other activities he conducts a department in the *Centerville Daily Iowegian*. Doctor Sawyers for six summers was on the Redpath Chautauqua platform as a lecturer. He served as superintendent of Good Citizenship in the Iowa State Christian Endeavor Union. In 1928-29 he was moderator of the Synod of the Iowa Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

Doctor Sawyers married, July 17, 1907, Miss Rebecca M. Taylor, a very talented woman who

has joined him in their mutual interests and activities in both church and civic affairs. Mrs. Sawyers was born in Davenport, and is a graduate of the high school of that city. Her parents, J. H. and Rebecca (Heilman) Taylor, came from Pennsylvania. Doctor and Mrs. Sawyers have one daughter, Ruth La Rue, attending the Centerville High School.

**HON. WILLIAM C. RATCLIFF**, former judge of the District Court of the Fifteenth Judicial District of Iowa, is one of the ornaments of his learned profession, an exponent of the dignity, justice and honor of the bench. Even before he was elevated to his high position he displayed the judicial character, and won a reputation as a lawyer of which anyone might well be proud. Judge Ratcliff was born at Humboldt, Iowa, May 3, 1881, and he is a son of John and Hattie (Connor) Ratcliff, he born in Ohio and she in Illinois, and they were married at Humboldt, Iowa, where he died in January, 1900. At the time of his death he was holding the office of sheriff, and was regarded as a brave and honorable official. Five children were born to him and his wife, three of whom survive: Mrs. C. W. Siefkins, who resides at Rolfe, Iowa, where her husband is a practicing dental surgeon; Judge Ratcliff, whose name heads this review; and Nellie, who is a high school teacher in San Bernardino, California. Born into the Quaker faith, Mr. Ratcliff in later years attended the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he was an Odd Fellow, and politically a Republican, and few men were as popular as he wherever he lived, and he made a fine record in office.

Judge Ratcliff was reared in an admirable home atmosphere, attended the Rolfe High School, from which he was graduated in 1897, and then took his law training in the University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1904, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Immediately thereafter he entered upon the practice of law at Red Oak, where he remained for eight years, during which time he served as county attorney of Montgomery County. His fellow citizens then elected him to the Iowa State Senate, and he served in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Sessions, with ability, meeting the expectations of his constituents. In June, 1924, he was further honored by appointment to the bench of the Fifteenth Judicial District of Iowa, by Governor Kendall, to fill a vacancy, and in November, 1924, he was elected to the same office for a four year term. In November, 1928, he was reelected for a second term of four years. He resigned in September, 1929, and resumed the private practice of law at Red Oak. His decisions while on the bench were sound, learned and just, and very few of them were reversed if carried higher on appeal.

On February 20, 1909, Judge Ratcliff was married to May L. Wright, born at Cedar Falls, Iowa. She was educated in her native town and the University of Iowa. Two children have been born to Judge and Mrs. Ratcliff, namely: Robert

J., born in May, 1919; and Anne, born in October, 1924. Both Judge and Mrs. Ratcliff are members of the Presbyterian Church and he is a York Rite and Shriner Mason, and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics he is a Republican. Mrs. Ratcliff is a daughter of the distinguished educator D. S. Wright, to whom is accorded the name of having taught the first class in the State Normal School, Cedar Falls, Iowa. From then on for fifty-two years he continued to be numbered as a member of the faculty, and did not retire until 1928, when he was over eighty years of age. His record is a most remarkable one, and naturally his daughter is very proud of what he accomplished.

**LESTER L. ORSBORN.** The young and enthusiastic element of the legal profession of Montgomery County finds expression and representation in Lester L. Orsborn, who is engaged in a prosperous general practice at Red Oak. During his somewhat short but very active career he has been identified with much litigation that has been brought before the courts, and in several cases of importance has had the opportunity to display his possession of qualities that bid fair to carry him far in a calling for which he is singularly well fitted.

Mr. Orsborn was born January 12, 1896, on a farm in Palo Alto County, Iowa, and is a son of F. T. and Susan (Miller) Orsborn. His father was born in North Carolina and shortly after the Civil war he moved to Illinois. His mother was born in Illinois, and belonged to a large family of children of a pioneer of the Prairie State. F. T. Orsborn received a country school education and was reared to the pursuits of agriculture, in which he has been engaged throughout his life. In 1895 he came to Iowa and settled at Emmetsburg, subsequently buying a farm in Palo Alto County, on which he still lives and carries on extensive operations as a farmer and raiser of cattle. He is one of the substantial and highly respected men of his community. Politically he is a Republican, and his fraternal connection is with the Knights of Pythias. Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Orsborn are devout members of the Congregational Church. To their union were born five children: Effie, who is unmarried and resides at home with her parents; Zelia, the wife of Robert E. Rhea, who is engaged in the general merchandise business at Sigourney, Iowa; Ethel, the wife of Ralph Parnham, a farmer of the Emmetsburg locality; George, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in the same community; and Lester L., of this review.

Lester L. Orsborn attended the public schools of Emmetsburg, spending his boyhood on the farm, and after completing his high school course worked on the home place until September, 1916, when he entered the University of Iowa. In 1917 he enlisted in the army for service during the World war. He was first sent to Camp Riley, Kansas, for intensive training and later transferred to Fort Snelling, but was not called for

overseas duty and received his commission in charge in August, 1919. His duties of the life of a citizen entered the University of Iowa and graduated in 1923 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science. He received his degree of Doctor of Laws. He commenced practice as a lawyer in association with H. J. Kneeland. This partnership was mutual and then Mr. Orsborn has been at this place he has been up a very gratifying client of the Montgomery County Iowa State Bar Association, the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity and the Phi Delta Theta, and also belongs to the Congregational belief, and has allied himself with the movements at Red Oak of and religious character. On September 3, 1929, Mary Wallace, they are the parents of a daughter born August 19, 1930.

**FRANK J. COMFORT,** a specialist in casualty insurance law, is now serving in two years each, as referee in one of the leading member located at Des Moines. He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, May 30, 1890, and Ellen (Powers) Comfort, of Birmingham, New York, and County, Iowa.

About 1876 Thomas F. Comfort located at Mason City, and of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and continued with it as locomotive engineer until his death in 1922. Four children, three of whom are his wife, three of whom are Frank J., whose name heads the list, P. and Stanley T., both of whom are engaged in practice with their father. They are Roman Catholics, and belonged to the Knights of Columbus. He is an ardent and Protective Order member, and cared to unite with any one who would be referred to cast his vote for the best suited for the position.

Frank J. Comfort went to Des Moines City High School, after which he attended at Ames College, three and a half years, and the University of Iowa, and graduated in 1913, being graduated in the department of the latter with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1913. Immediately upon the practice of law where he has since remained for one year spent in the legal department of the Fidelity Casualty Company. Upon his return to Des Moines he opened private practice. In September, 1929, he was appointed referee in bankrupt

STATE OF IOWA  
1939

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# Journal of the Senate

OF THE

## Forty-eighth General Assembly

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CONVENED JANUARY 9, 1939  
ADJOURNED APRIL 26, 1939

GEORGE A. WILSON, Governor  
BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, President of the Senate  
JOHN R. IRWIN, Speaker of the House

41842

Published by  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
Des Moines

## WILLIAM C. RATCLIFF

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable William C. Ratcliff, former member of the General Assembly of Iowa, begs leave to submit the following:

William C. Ratcliff was born in Humboldt county, Iowa, on May 3, 1881, and died on April 16, 1939, at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

He was graduated from the Rolfe high school in 1897, and thereafter attended the law school at the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1904.

He moved to Montgomery county, Iowa, locating first at Villisca and later moving to Red Oak, where he practiced law in the office of R. W. Beeson. In 1906 he was elected to the office of county attorney of Montgomery county and continued in that capacity until January, 1915, a period of eight years.

On February 20, 1909, he was married to May I. Wright of Cedar Falls, and to this union were born three children, one of whom died in infancy.

In 1916 he was elected to the Iowa Senate on the Republican ticket and represented the Eighth Senatorial District in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth General Assemblies. On June 15, 1924, he was appointed a Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial District by Governor Kendall and acted in that capacity until August 24, 1929, when he tendered his resignation to Governor Hammill. In 1928 he was a candidate for Congress from the Seventh Congressional District, there being five candidates, none of whom received the necessary thirty-five per cent to nominate. In the congressional convention held at Atlantic he was a strong contender and after more than two hundred ballots were cast he withdrew his candidacy, as he said, to promote party harmony. He presided at the congressional convention held in Red Oak in 1938.

Judge Ratcliff was active in community affairs, an elder in the Presbyterian Church, a director of the Houghton State Bank, served as a director in an insurance association, and was a past president of the Iowa State Bar Association. He found time for politics, legislative service, the state university, and the practice of law. He possessed a genial personality and was respected and admired by those who knew him. His counsel and advice were sought by those in public life.

*Be It Therefore Resolved*, That the State of Iowa has, in the death of Judge William C. Ratcliff, lost one of its most admired and respected citizens, and that we tender to his beloved wife our sincere sympathy.

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

K. A. EVANS,  
O. J. KIRKETEG,  
CARL O. SJULIN,

Committee.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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You searched for **William C. Ratcliff** in Iowa

## 1910 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>William C Ratcliff</b> <b>[William C Ratchiff]</b>	
Age in 1910:	<b>28</b>	
Estimated birth year:	<b>abt 1882</b>	
Birthplace:	<b>Iowa</b>	
Relation to Head of House:	<b>Head</b>	
Father's Birth Place:	<b>Ohio</b>	
Mother's Birth Place:	<b>Illinois</b>	
Spouse's name:	<b>May L Ratcliff</b>	
Home in 1910:	<b>Red Oak Ward 3, Montgomery, Iowa</b>	
Marital Status:	<b>Married</b>	
Race:	<b>White</b>	
Gender:	<b>Male</b>	
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	<b>William C Ratcliff</b>	<b>28</b>
	<b>May L Ratcliff</b>	<b>27</b>

**Source Citation:** Year: 1910; Census Place: Red Oak Ward 3, Montgomery, Iowa; Roll T624-415; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 114; Image: 278.

**Source Information:**  
Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.



Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: NARA

**Description:**  
This database is an index to the head of households enumerated in the 1910 United States Federal Census, the Thirteenth Census of the United States. In addition, each indexed name is linked to actual images of the 1910 Federal Census. The information recorded in the census includes: name, relationship to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, color or race, whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, and more. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **William C. Ratcliff** in **Iowa**

## 1930 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>William C Ratcliff</b>	
Home in 1930:	<b>Red Oak, Montgomery, Iowa</b>	
	<a href="#">View Map</a>	
Age:	<b>47</b>	
Estimated birth year:	<b>abt 1883</b>	
Birthplace:	<b>Iowa</b>	
Relation to Head of House:	<b>Head</b>	
Spouse's name:	<b>May L Ratcliff</b>	
Race:	<b>White</b>	
Occupation:		
Education:		
Military service:	<a href="#">View image</a>	
Rent/home value:		
Age at first marriage:		
Parents' birthplace:		
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<b>William C Ratcliff</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>May L Ratcliff</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>Robert J Ratcliff</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Ann Ratcliff</b>	<b>6</b>

**Source Citation:** Year: 1930; Census Place: Red Oak, Montgomery, Iowa; Roll: 670; Page: 10B; Enumeration District: 14; Image: 592.0.

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

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

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

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