

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** BALL, GEORGE WASHINGTON **Senator** BALL, GEORGE WASHINGTON

Represented Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 6 March 1848, Hancock County, (West) Virginia  
one source says Brooks County

2. Marriage (s) date place

Margaret Laughlin (Ia. - 1912), 31 October 1872

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business farmer, banker, manufacturer, lawyer

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession

4. Church membership Christian

22nd and 23rd GA 1888-1891 HD 19, Jefferson County,

5. Sessions served 36th GA, 1915, ~~36th GA~~ Jefferson County

37th and 38th GA, 1917-1920, SD 2, Jefferson, Davis, VanBuren Co.

6. Public Offices

A. Local

B. State

C. National

7. Death 10 March 1920, Fairfield, buried Evergreen Cemetery

(1) Charles F. (20 May 1874 - ); (2) Harry L. (31 May 1878-15 Feb 1883);

8. Children (3) Joseph L. (6 July 1878 - ); (4) Harry I. (5 Nov. 1880 - );

(5) Nellie B. (17 May 1884 - ); (6) William N. (25 Sept. 1886 - ).

9. Names of parents Joseph Ball and Margaret Longfit. Joseph, farmer, moved from Virginia to Iowa 1854. He was in Iowa legislature 1870.

10. Education Fairfield public schools, Fairfield University  
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11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_  
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12. Other applicable information On father's side descended from same family as Mary Ball, mother of George Washington. On mother's side from same family as President Polk. Worked on farm, farmed for many years. Then also became banker and manufacturer. He owned 400 acres of valuable land near Fairfield, raising best grades of livestock. Director, Iowa State Bank and Iowa Loan & Trust; and Fairfield Gasoline Engine Co. IOOF.

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called to his final rest. His wife preceded him to their final home, dying in 1846. They had a large family numbering twelve children but only four are now living. Peter died in La Fayette County, Mo., leaving a family; Keziah died in California in 1887; Catherine, wife of Isaac Rigsby, died at her home in Henry Township, in June, 1887; Henry died in Lick Creek Township, in 1882; George makes his home in California; Eliza resides with her brother Thomas; Flarious died in California in 1889; Christiana died in Van Buren County, in 1883; Thomas is the next in order of birth; and William is married and living in Henry Township.

Mr. Anson, whose name heads this sketch, was a lad of nine summers when he accompanied his parents to Van Buren County. Iowa then formed a part of the Territory of Wisconsin. He has therefore resided in the Territory of Wisconsin and the Territory and State of Iowa, yet all the time his home has been within the borders of Van Buren County. The companions of his childhood he found among the Indian boys and being thus thrown frequently into their company he learned their language. On many of their hunting expeditions he accompanied them, for friendly were the relations between the white and red races at that day. In the subscription schools he acquired his education and necessarily his advantages were quite limited, but in a great measure experience and observation have overcome the difficulties arising therefrom and he is now well informed on all matters of general interest. He assisted his father in the arduous task of developing a farm, following the oxen day after day in breaking prairie. When only seventeen years of age he began life for himself. In company with his brother William, he purchased four hundred and thirty acres of partially improved land which they placed under cultivation and thereby reaped a golden reward for their efforts. Although he has met with some obstacles and difficulties he has generally traveled the road of success and is now the owner of eight hundred and seventeen acres of land individually, and half owner in a one hundred and eighty-four and a half acre tract. The former amount is under a good state of cultivation or in pasturage. Without interruption save about three years spent on

the Pacific Slope, Mr. Anson has resided in Van Buren County, since 1835. It was during the gold excitement in California that in 1850 he crossed the plains with an ox-team to that State, reaching his destination after three months of travel. He gave his attention to mining for some three years and in the spring of 1853 returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York City. Once more resuming the occupation of farming he has since devoted himself exclusively to that pursuit and to stock-raising. A truly self-made man, he deserves no little credit for his success. On reaching California he had but thirty-five cents in his pocket but on his return his exchequer was in somewhat better condition. In the years which have followed he has gained a handsome property, yet has been liberal with his means for the advancement of all enterprises calculated to benefit the town or county. For a quarter of a century he has served on the School Board and to him in no small degree is due the excellence of the school system in this community. In political sentiment, he is a Republican and a stalwart supporter of the party principles.

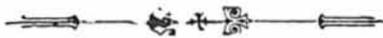
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ON. GEORGE W. BALL, who resides on a pleasant farm situated on section 19, Fairfield Township, adjacent to the city limits of Fairfield, is the present representative from his district in the State Legislature and is numbered among the early settlers of the community dating his residence in Jefferson County from 1854, when a lad of six summers, he accompanied his parents to Fairfield. He was born on the 6th of March, 1848, in Hancock County, W. Va., and is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Longfitt) Ball. He received his education in what was known as the Fairfield University and was reared to farm life, becoming familiar with the ways and methods of operating a farm by assisting his father in the management of the homestead.

On the 31st of October, 1872, Mr. Ball was

united in marriage with Miss Maggie Laughlin, daughter of Harvey and Mary Laughlin, who were early settlers in Jefferson County. Their home was originally in Tennessee, whence they removed to Illinois, and in 1840 they settled in this community, where the death of the father occurred in 1887. His wife still survives him. Mrs. Ball was born in Locust Grove Township, and by her marriage became the mother of five children yet living, four sons and a daughter—Charles F., the eldest, was born May 20, 1874; Joseph L., July 6, 1878; Harry L., November 5, 1880; Nellie B., May 17, 1884; and William N., September 25, 1886. They also lost one child, the second, Harry L., who was born May 31, 1876, and died February 15, 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Ball are members of the Christian Church, and in politics he is a Republican. In the fall of 1877 he was elected by his party to represent his district in the State Legislature, and in the autumn of 1889 he was re-elected to the same position—a fact which indicates his fidelity and ability during his first term. His course during the present term has also elicited the praise of his constituents, and he has proved a useful member of the Iowa Legislature. His business is that of farming and stock-raising, and he owns four hundred acres of valuable land in Fairfield Township. He raises only the best grades of stock, and has been quite successful in this branch of business. His public and private life are alike above reproach. He is an unassuming man of quiet dignity whose upright course has won him the confidence and esteem of all who know him.



**S**AMUEL A. CUMMINGS, who is engaged in farming on section 33, Buchanan Township, has been a resident of Jefferson County for forty-seven years, during which time he has identified himself with its best interests and aided not a little in its advancement and progress, especially in transforming the wild land into tracts of rich fertility. He was born in Rock-

bridge County, Va., December 16, 1830, his parents being William and Sarah (Cunningham) Cummings, who lived many years in the Old Dominion where the husband and father followed the carpenter's trade. About 1833, he started for the West, making a location in Parke County, Ind., where he engaged in farming some ten years and in 1843 loading his household effects into a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen he left for the land beyond the Mississippi. After some twenty-three days of travel he arrived in Jefferson County in October, 1843. The family spent the winter in a little cabin and the following spring commenced preparations for making a home. Mr. Cummings planted a crop two miles north of Fairfield but had done little else toward developing a farm when he was called to his final rest, dying on the 4th of September, 1844, at the age of fifty-eight years. In the spring of 1846, his widow and children purchased a claim of one hundred and fifteen acres on section 33, Buchanan Township. Mrs. Cummings ever remained true to his memory and died on the 5th of September, 1884, having lived a widow for forty years. They were parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, and with the exception of the eldest none have been taken away and the youngest is now fifty-eight years of age. The parents were members of the Presbyterian Church and their deaths proved a loss to the entire community.

The early life of our subject passed uneventfully. He attended the subscription schools for a short time but during his youth remained mostly at home caring for his mother and his sister's children, so that he had the care of a family long before he had one of his own. When the war broke out he felt the greatest desire to enter the service but he could not be spared as the members of the family needed his services. On the 8th of September, 1864, he led to the marriage altar Miss Maria J. Case, the wedding being celebrated in Fairfield. The lady was born in Ohio, January 7, 1838, and during her girlhood accompanied her parents to Jefferson County. Four children were born of their union—William F., Fannie M., George H. and Charles C. The mother of this family died on the 1st of July, 1879, within ten minutes after being taken with congestion of the lungs. She was a most

## HON. GEORGE W. BALL

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life, character, and public service of the Honorable George Ball, of Jefferson County, beg leave to submit the following report:

George W. Ball, was born in Brooks County, Virginia, March 6th, 1848. His father, Joseph Ball, was also a native of Virginia, and was a descendant in the same family as Mary Ball, the mother of George Washington. His mother, Margaret Langfit Ball, was born in Pennsylvania, and was a cousin of President James K. Polk. Mr. Ball came to Jefferson County, Va. with his parents in the year 1854, where he resided until the time of his death, March 14th, 1920. He received his primary education in a district school and later attended the Fairfield University. He was engaged in various different businesses, but farming and stock raising were his principal occupation. He was married October 31, 1872, to Miss Elizabeth Laughlin, and to them were born five sons and one daughter. Mr. Ball was a member of the House of Representatives in the Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Thirty-sixth; and Senator in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth General Assemblies. He was a member of the Christian Church and of the I. O. O. F. He was loyal to his friends, his community, his state and his nation and offered to each the fullest measure of his devotion. In every every good cause he was a faithful worker, and to every movement for the advancement of the community in which he lived he always gave of his time and means.

In the death of George W. Ball, the state has lost a useful citizen, his private and public services, were of high character and he will be remembered as an ideal patriot, citizen, neighbor and friend.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, that in the death of George W. Ball the state has lost one of its most loyal citizens and that the House recognizes the high character of his services to the state and takes this occasion to express its appreciation of his character and public services and to extend to his family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

*Be It Further Resolved*, that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of this House and that the Chief Clerk transmit a copy to the family of the deceased.

WM. L. LONG,  
J. C. LOCKIN,  
J. H. ANDERSON,

*Committee.*

Adopted March 23, 1921.

REMARKS OF J. C. LOCKIN IN MEMORY OF THE LATE GEO. B. CURTIS, GEO. W. BALL AND F. F. ROE

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS:—I come before you with mingled feelings. I am sad to think the friends of former days have passed from us, but I am glad that I can look back and remember their work in this Hall.

in former years. I am able to speak of the work of the three men whose memorials have just been read, Mr. Geo. B. Curtis, of Clinton county, Mr. George Ball, of Jefferson county, and Mr. F. F. Roe, of Monona county. These three men with myself were members of the 22nd General Assembly, which convened January, 1887. I have always been glad that I was a member of the 22nd General Assembly, not only because of the notable men who sat in that body, but because of some of the outstanding legislation enacted at that session. Let me remind you of some of the men who composed that body: Sen. A. B. Cummins and James Berryhill, of this city; John R. Hamilton, of Cedar Rapids; James Smith, of Mitchell county; Hobson of Buena Vista; McFarlain, of Emmett; Dayton of Allamakee; Wilson, of Cass and many others. Five men from the House of the 22nd were afterwards elected to congress, one to the U. S. Senate, two became Secretary of State, two Railroad Commissioners and as you know, Mr. Curtis was one of the men who went to congress, Mr. Ball was elected to the State Senate several times. I want to speak about some of the legislation that was enacted in those early days which these men stood for and helped put on the statute books; first, the railroad laws that have stood the test of the courts for all these years and have been looked upon as the beginning of state control of the railroads; the abolishment of the pass system, when you remember that these men were given passes over every railroad in the state, at the beginning of the session. You will realize that it took strength of character to return the passes and enact a law that removed the corrupting influence of accepting such favors from the hands of the railroads. The county uniformity of textbooks and the laws forbidding mine owners paying the miners in script and compelling them to trade out their wages at the company's stores. All of these and many more measures, these men supported and stood against powerful influences which we, of this assembly, know nothing about. Mr. Curtis needs no eulogy from me for the people from his own county and congressional district, in repeatedly honoring him proved that they had confidence in him and that is the best evidence that he was strong and clean in business as well as politics. And I personally know of the respect and confidence in which Mr. Ball and Mr. Roe were held in their own communities; they not only did their best for the state while serving it, but stood for and supported the enterprises at home, that helped to develop high ideals in the people of their own communities.

Because of my intimate acquaintance with and appreciation of these three men, I have asked your indulgence while I add my testimony as a memorial to their life and service.

J. C. LOCKIN.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF STATE SENATORS.

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HENRY C. ADAMS,

Senator from the Forty-seventh district, composed of the counties of Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth and Palo Alto, was born at McGregor, Iowa. Moved to Spencer, Iowa, where he acquired his education in the public schools, and by his own exertions became a registered pharmacist at the age of eighteen. He later located at Algona, engaging in the drug business. During the Spanish-American war served as hospital steward. At the close of the war he returned to Algona and entered the real estate and farm loan business, later entering the banking business. Was married June 6, 1900, to Irma D. Clarke. Is prominent in Masonry, having attained the thirty-second degree in the Scottish Rite and is also a Knight Templar and a Shriner. Is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and Elks lodges. Elected senator in 1916. A republican in politics.

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WALTER W. ANDERSON,

Senator from Forty-eighth district, was born in Jefferson, Iowa, January 7, 1872, of American parentage. He attended the high school at Jefferson and later took a business course in Des Moines. In 1898 he moved to Scranton, where he has since been engaged in the banking business and farming. He is president of the Bank of Scranton. Elected representative in 1912. Re-elected in 1914 and 1916. Elected senator in 1918. A republican in politics.

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WALLACE H. ARNEY,

Senator from the Twenty-eighth district, comprising the county of Marshall, was born in Marshall county, Iowa, April 2, 1862, of American-born parents. Received his education in the public schools and Oskaloosa College. Taught school for a few years, afterwards engaging in farming and feeding, which he still follows; also interested in several banks, being president of the Iowa Savngs Bank of Marshalltown and Albion Savings Bank of Albion. Elected representative in 1906, and re-elected in 1908. Elected senator in 1912 and re-elected in 1916. A republican in politics.

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GEORGE W. BALL,

State senator from the Second senatorial district, is a native of West Virginia, and came with his parents to Jefferson county, Iowa, in 1854. He is the son of Joseph and Margaret Langfitt Ball. A descendent of the same family as Mary Ball, the mother of George Washington. His education was secured in the public schools and Fairfield University. He was married in 1872 to Miss Margaret L. Laughlin of Brookville, Iowa, who died in 1912. He has four sons and one daughter. Mr. Ball was elected representative in the twenty-second, twenty-third and thirty-sixth; and senator in the thirty-seventh and thiry-eighh general assemblies. He is

engaged in farming, banking and manufacturing, and is a director of the Iowa State Savings Bank, the Iowa Loan and Trust company, and the Fairfield Gasoline Engine company. He is a member of the Christian church, the I. O. O. F. of Fairfield, and is a republican in politics.

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NICHOLAS BALKEMA,

Senator from the Forty-ninth district, composed of the counties of Lyon, O'Brien, Sioux and Osceola, was born in Gibbsville, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, April 7, 1865, of Dutch parents. Attended the district school at Gibbsville and afterwards graduated from the Sheboygan Falls high school. Moved to Newkirk, Iowa, in 1884. Taught school one year and then started in the mercantile business at that place, running the postoffice in connection therewith. Sold out in 1894 and moved to Sioux Center, continuing the same business and in which he still is engaged. Was interested in a bank for a few years and held the office of vice president. Has served on the city council and is president of the school board, having served in that capacity twenty years. Is a member of the Reformed Church of America. Elected senator in 1908. Re-elected in 1912 and 1916. A republican in politics.

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J. L. BROOKHART,

Senator from the Tenth district, composed of Washington and Henry counties, was born September 3, 1871, in Missouri, and at an early age moved to Iowa, and in 1894, to Washington, Iowa. Attended rural schools, at the age of seventeen began teaching, farming in the summer time. Graduated from the Washington Academy in 1896, and was principal of the Washington school for two years. During this time he read law in the office of his brother, Col. S. W. Brookhart. Passed the bar examination and was admitted to the bar in May, 1898, and in July of the same year was appointed county attorney, having the unique and unusual experience of being county attorney in his first term of court. His mother, Cynthia Wildman Brookhart, came from Kentucky, and died in 1916; his father, A. C. Brookhart, came from Ohio, is a veteran of the Civil War, and resides at Washington, Iowa. Elected senator in 1918. A republican in politics.

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A. L. BROXAM,

Senator from the Twenty-third district, composed of the county of Jackson, was born on a farm near Welton, Clinton county, Iowa, December 16, 1868. His father, Benjamin Broxam, was born near Hull, England, and his mother, Mary Linch Broxam, was born in Ohio of Dutch-Irish parentage. Attended district and high school also business college at Dixon, Illinois, and later attended the college of pharmacy at Highland Park College, Des Moines, and has since followed this vocation at Maquoketa. Was married in 1903 to Alice Langridge. Was president of the Jackson County Agricultural Society and a member of the city council for six years. Elected to the senate in 1916. A democrat in politics.

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JOHNS DEMOSS BUSER,

Senator from the Twentieth district, composed of Muscatine and Louisa counties, was born in Louisa county, Iowa, January 15, 1867, of American born parents. He attended the public schools of Conesville, Iowa, and Iowa City Academy. He also attended the collegiate department of the

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON BALL

Male

[Family](#)

### Event(s):

Birth:

Christening:

Death: 16 MAR 1920

Burial:

### Parents:

Father: [JOSEPH H. BALL](#)[Family](#)Mother: [MARGARET LANGFITT](#)

### Marriages:

Spouse: [MARGARET LAUGHLIN](#)[Family](#)

Marriage: 31 OCT 1872 , Jefferson, Iowa

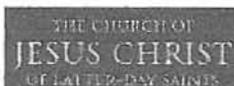
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