

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Parsons, Thomas Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Calhoun County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 18 Feb 1855 - Bigate, Surrey, England

2. Marriage (s) date place

Mary Clutter 5 Mar 1879 Calhoun County in Reading  
Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Board of directors - Farmer Lumber Co.; Farmer Elevator Co.;  
Jarvisville Mutual Telephone Co.; Stockholder interest in other firms, Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities Knight of Pythias

C. Profession Farmer; cattle feeder; Teacher

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 38<sup>th</sup> 39<sup>th</sup> 40<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1919 1921 1923

6. Public Offices

A. Local Park commissioner; Township clerk; Justice of the Peace;  
Township assessor; member of Calhoun County Board of Supervisors; Mayor of  
Jarvisville, Iowa 14 years

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 1 Apr 1918 - Just before Iowa buried Reading Cemetery, Jarvisville, Iowa

8. Children Alfred Henry; John Luther; Flora Etta (Mrs C. H. Beck);  
Beatha May (predeceased her father in death)

9. Names of parents Henry and Hannah Parsons

10. Education

He was educated in the district school of Lee County, Missouri and then furthered his education at Dixon, Illinois at Park River Academy

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- He came with his family in 1867 settling first in Chicago, moving to Lee County, Ia in 1868 making a home on the new prairie after having come to Chicago in 1867.
- He came to Iowa in 1878 with his brother, Henry purchasing adjoining farms in Calhoun County, Iowa.
- Retired in 1899 and moved to Jarnamville, Iowa
- Wife, Mary, died in 1900
- After he established his home, he taught school.



phian chapter observed the best night Friday evening and the evening was a d interesting one, greatly the members and their club has been studying hitecture this year and, the x to the year's work, el Ames was secured er for the evening. Miss the head of the Applied ment of Iowa State col is able to speak authori n the various prints in had been secured from Institute for the occa ad seen many of the pic- original in the art galle- one and gave enlighten- on the lives of the vari- During her trip abroad r, she lived in a French tainy and sketched and y-landscapes and charac- of this region. She omething of the poverty ness of the villages of told of how artistic talent vered in any child, was the entire community and the state. Miss Hansen vivacious and whimsical is most charming and ated her audience.

**POMEROY**

W. A. Banks of Fonda here Tuesday. Faulkner and son, Tom- or Illinois the latter part s, being called there by the Mr Faulkner's brother. Dodge Wednesday evening days stay. os of Fairmont, Minneso- el Ross of St. Paul, have ng this week at the home rents, Rev. and Mrs. Ross, gs and Seth Culver were allers to Fonda Wednes- Rushton of Chicago visit- es here this week. Parker is the owner of a sedan. riggs visited this week at Briggs home near Varina. Mrs. Victor Kellogg and t for Norfolk, Nebraska, morning, where they will al days. Mrs. Roy-Smith were Man- Friday. ownlee of Iowa City spent end at the home of her par- Mrs. Lee Brownlee. s. Will Hines and sons visited at the Mrs. M. ne Sunday. Michael of Fort Dodge visit- y at the home of her par-

however, and he was again taken to the hospital at Fort Dodge and later to Iowa City, where everything possible was done to save his life, but to no avail. His age at the time of his death was 24 years, 8 months and 28 days.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Bretthauer of Pomeroy; five brothers, Martin of Aurora, Illinois; Edward, Hermar and Raymond of Pomeroy, and Alvin of Sioux Center, Iowa; and three sisters, Mrs. Fred W. Schumacher and Mrs. George M. Rushton of Pomeroy and Mrs. Carl Hinrichs of Rockwell City.

**OBITUARY**  
**Thomas Parsons**

Thomas Parsons was born February 12, 1855, at Riegate, Surrey, Eng- land, a son of Henry of Hannah Par- sons, and was the second in a family of ten children. He died April 1, 1928, being the first of the family of children to answer the final sum- mons, being 73 years, 1 month and 20 days of age at the time of his death.

In the year 1867, the family came to the United States, settling first in Chicago, and in 1868, they removed to Lee county, Illinois, establishing their home on a tract of raw prairie land.

Thomas Parsons attended the dis- trict schools of Lee county and con- tinued his education in Dixon. He came to Iowa in 1878 with his brother, Henry Parsons, and they purchas- ed adjoining farms ship, Calhoun county. Henry Par- sons, however, rented a farm in Car- roll county while Thomas Parsons es- tablished his home in Calhoun county and broke the prairie on both his own and his brother's farms. He also engaged in teaching school in Reading, there being no school in Cedar during the first two years of his residence there and the settlers were widely scattered. Mr. Parsons hauled his merchandise from Gowrie and had to take his products a long distance to market. His first purchase of land was eighty acres for which he paid \$6.00 per acre. To this he kept add- ing from time to time until he was an extensive land owner. He brot his land into a high state of cultiva- tion, was always a large grain raiser and likewise engaged quite extensiv- ly in raising and feeding stock. As time passed on he cultivated his lands

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Sealed bids will be received at 1 p. township trustees of Elm Grove and Lake Creek townships at the Elm Grove Center school house, Elm Grove

the year 1879, the first fall after his arrival in Cedar township, when he was elected to the office of township clerk. He served for twenty years as justice of the peace and as there was no preacher in the township at that time, he married about thirty

We have just received another large shipment of Wall Paper which makes our stock very complete again.  
**SIDMORE & HUFF**

**FARM LOANS**  
**At 5 Percent**  
One-half of One Percent Commission. Loans Vot- ed Now.  
**J. F. HUTCHISON**

**Fresh From**  
**THAT'S WHAT YOU GET**  
**Ideal B**  
The MILK MADE Loaf or fine varieties of bread.  
FRENCH BREAD - Just the HOME MADE BREAD - The WHOLE WHEAT BREAD - wheat berry.  
GRAHAM BREAD - Just the RYE BREAD - Made with Rye.  
RAISIN BREAD - Chuck ful  
**ASK YOUR G**  
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ples, many of whom are now numbered among the county's most prominent citizens. He also served as township assessor and in every public connection he has stood for progress and improvement.

Mr. Parsons was associated with a number of business interests in Farnhamville, being a stockholder in the First National bank, and also a member of its board of directors, a stockholder in the Farmers Lumber Co., Farmers Elevator Co., and the Farnhamville Mutual Telephone Co.

Surviving him are his three children, Alfred Henry Parsons, Farnhamville; John Luther Parsons, Fort Dodge; Flora Etta Parsons Beck, Albia; nine brothers and sisters, follows: Elizabeth Woodard, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Henry Parsons, Rock Hill City; John Parsons, Rinard; Hannah Parsons, Davenport; James Parsons, Kansas City, Mo.; Charles Parsons, Des Moines; Wilton Parsons, Albia, Ill.; Alfred Parsons, Davenport; Edward Parsons, Joplin, Mo.; and there are nine grandchildren and large number of other relatives. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, April 4, at 2 o'clock in the Farnhamville Congregational church and were conducted by the pastor, Rev. B. B. Hoyt. The bearers were brothers of the deceased. The services were attended by a large assemblage of relatives.

NOTICE

I will collect garbage in the residence districts regularly, if it is placed in convenient containers on the alley. If you wish to have your garbage collected, free of charge, see me.

EARL SCROGGINS

Egg Shortage  
Prices Are

and friends of the deceased, many from out of town, the church being completely filled and many were assembled outside. Interment was in Reading cemetery.

NOTICE OF CAUCUS

A republican caucus will be held at the Garfield Center school at 8 o'clock on the evening of April 17.

Theo. Riley.

Mrs. W. A. Cook,

Committee.

Rent our Electric Floor Waxer for renewing the beauty of your floors.

SIDMORE & HUFF

The New Eclipse Lawn Mowers at Parsons Hardware.

# Harry Newhard's

## CASH GROCERY & MARKET

Better Groceries, Better Meats, Better Prices

"A Good Place to Trade"

We Deliver

Phone 22

FRESH HORSE RADISH 15c  
per bottle

FULL QUART PEANUT BUTTER 45c  
per jar

FULL QUART DILL PICKLES 25c  
per jar

FULL QUART QUEEN OLIVES 50c  
per jar

FULL QUART PIGS FEET 35c  
per jar

KRAFT MALTED MILK 50c

Outline of Personal History of

Thomas Parsons

RESIDENCE

Farnhamville Iowa

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? Thomas Parsons
2. What is your present profession or occupation? Retired Farmer
3. Where and when did you begin? Harmon Illinois -  
spring of 1876
4. What other occupation have you followed; where and when? Not any.
5. What is your residence address? Farnhamville Iowa
6. What is your business address? Farnhamville Iowa
7. What is the date and the place of your birth? February 18<sup>th</sup> 1865 -  
Reigate - County of Surrey - England
8. If born abroad, when and where did you first settle in America? Came to America  
with parents 1867 to Sterling Illinois
9. If you removed again before settling in your present home, where and when was such removal? Moved with  
parents on a farm at Harmon Illinois in 1868 and  
came to Cedar Township Calhoun County Iowa in 1878
10. What schools have you attended; if a graduate, when and with what degree?  
District schools in Illinois and schools in England  
also to Park River Academy at Dixon Illinois
11. What was your father's full name? Henry Parsons
12. What was your father's occupation? Carpenter and builder but lived  
on a farm for a few years at the end of his life.
13. What was your mother's full maiden name? Hannah New

14. Where did your parents reside at the time of their marriage? England

15. What military service had your father; give as complete as you can? Not any

16. What military service have you had? Not any

17. What political offices have you held; do not omit even the smallest, and give date and place of service, if you can?

Township Clerk from 1880 to 1900 | In Cadua Dist | Town Council from 1897 to 1905 | In Parshamatt Iowa  
Justice of the Peace " 1880 - 1900 | Calhoun Co. Ia | Mayor of Parshamatt - 1905 to 1919  
Township Assessor " about 6 years | Public Commissioner - 1903 " 1920  
Township Trustee about 4 years | Member of School Board - about 9 years  
County Supervisor of Calhoun Co. Iowa from 1906 to 1912  
Member of the '38' Iowa General Assembly and reelected to the 39. S. 2.

18. Of what financial, religious, or educational institutions are you a trustee or director; give dates if you can?

Director of the Iowa Congregational Hospital 1918 -

19. With what political parties have you been affiliated; give dates? Republican (all my life)

20. In what religious denominations have you a membership? Congregational Church

21. If you have no church membership, to what sectarian faith do you incline?

22. In what societies of learning have you a membership? Not any

23. Of what secular orders or secret societies are you a member? Knight of Pythias

24. What honors or offices have you held in your society or lodge; give dates? Not any

25. Of what social clubs are you a member? Not any

26. Of what business firms have you been a member? Not any

27. Please enclose both a business card and your photograph for permanent record in the Historical Department of Iowa

28. For which of your works (as writer, sculptor, artist, architect, politician or other constructive influence) have you the highest esteem? Not a writer

29. Please supply for permanent preservation in the Historical Department of Iowa a list of all your works.....  
*Just any.*
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? *Miss Mary Hannah Clutter*
33. Where and what date was this marriage? *Reading Township Calhoun County  
Iowa - February 5<sup>th</sup> 1879.*
34. When and where was your wife (or husband) born? *Ohio - Oct 25 - 1856*
35. In what religious denomination did your wife (or husband) hold membership?  
*Congregational Church*
36. Where did your wife (or husband) die, if not surviving, and where and when was the interment?  
*Wife died at Parkhamville Ia. 1900 and interment in Reading Prop Cemetery 1900*
37. What was the full name of the father of your wife (or husband) and where was he born?  
*William Harrison Clutter Penn. Sep 6<sup>th</sup> 1830*
38. What was the full maiden name of the mother of your wife (or husband)?  
*Sarah Ann Airdline*
39. Where and when was she born? *Pennsylvania December 21<sup>st</sup> 1830*

**CHILDREN OF FIRST MARRIAGE.**

Full Name.	Date of Birth.	Place of Birth.
1. <i>Alfred Henry Parsons</i>	<i>Mar 12 1878</i>	<i>Cedar Rapids Calhoun Co Iowa</i>
2. <i>John Luther Parsons</i>	<i>May 4 1883</i>	<i>" " "</i>
3. <i>Flora Etta Parsons</i>	<i>Jan 19 1885</i>	<i>" " "</i>
4. <i>Bertha May Parsons</i>	<i>Dec 16 1893</i>	<i>" " "</i>
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. _____	_____	_____
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6. _____	_____	_____

*Will forward photograph*

PAST AND PRESENT  
OF  
CALHOUN COUNTY  
IOWA

A Record of Settlement, Organization,  
Progress and Achievement

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BIOGRAPHICAL

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ILLUSTRATED

17990

VOLUME II

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CHICAGO  
THE PIONEER PUBLISHING COMPANY

1915

which he deemed of value to the community led him to be recognized as one of its foremost citizens.

Mr. Noel was a native of Iowa, born in 1851. There were no unusual or exciting experiences in his life record. He came to correctly value opportunities and advantages and realized that honorable success is the direct result of carefully directed energy and intelligent purpose. Upon coming to Rockwell City in 1883 he established a lumberyard and for twenty-one years was active along that line of business, securing a very liberal and well merited patronage.

Mr. Noel was united in marriage to Miss Ella Houghan, now deceased, and they became the parents of two children: Don, who is editor of the *Anaconda Standard*, published at Anaconda, Montana; and Blanche, who is a teacher in the Seattle high school. David W. Noel married Myrtle Woodruff for his second wife and she is now a resident of Long Beach, California.

In addition to his lumber interests Mr. Noel was a stockholder in the First National and Savings Bank of Rockwell City. His business affairs were always carefully managed and the integrity of his methods was never questioned. He was equally prominent and active along other lines, for he never neglected the duties and obligations of life. He helped to organize the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school and took a very active part in advancing the work of the church. He helped to organize Twin Lakes Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and was its first master. He advanced high in Masonry, becoming identified with all of its branches, and his life was the exemplification of those basic principles upon which the order rests. In politics he was deeply interested as a supporter of the republican party, and he made speeches throughout the county in connection with E. C. Stevenson and J. F. Lavender, of Rockwell City. In a word, he was actively concerned with those things which are vital and significant in the life of the individual and the community, and he ever took his stand in support of advancement, progress and improvement.

### THOMAS PARSONS.

Thomas Parsons has been identified with public interests in Calhoun county in many ways. He was formerly actively engaged in farming and has been active in promoting many progressive measures having to do with the substantial development and upbuilding of the district. He is now living practically retired from business, but his

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interest in community affairs has never ceased and his cooperation is a valued factor in many plans which are working out beneficially for the advancement of city and county.

Mr. Parsons was born at Reigate, County Surrey, England, on the 18th of February, 1855, his parents being Henry and Hannah Parsons, who were also natives of the same country. In the year 1867 they came to the United States, settling first in Chicago, and in 1868 they removed to Lee county, Illinois, establishing their home about half way between Sterling and Dixon on a tract of raw prairie land. Pioneer conditions existed all about them, and in the work of early development and improvement they took an active and helpful part. Mr. Parsons met a fair measure of success in his business interests and at a later date the town of Harmon was established near his land. He afterward retired with a competence, which had accrued from his labors and the sale of his lands, and was living at Wheaton, Illinois, at the time of his death.

Thomas Parsons attended the district schools of Lee county and continued his education in Dixon. He came to Iowa in 1878 with a brother, and they purchased adjoining farms on section 27, Cedar township, Calhoun county. Henry Parsons, however, rented a farm in Carroll county, Iowa, which he cultivated, while Thomas Parsons established his home in Calhoun county, Iowa, and broke the prairie on both his own and his brother's farms. He also engaged in teaching school in Reading. There was no school in Cedar during the first two years of his residence in the county and the settlers were widely scattered. In fact, various conditions of pioneer life existed and involved considerable difficulty in the establishment of a home. Mr. Parsons hauled his merchandise from Gowrie, and he had to take his products a long distance to market. His first purchase of land was eighty acres, for which he paid six dollars per acre. To this he kept adding from time to time until he now has seven hundred acres in Cedar township, constituting one of the valuable farm properties of the county. He brought his land to a high state of cultivation, and the fields returned to him gratifying harvests for the care and labor which he bestowed upon them. He was always a large grain raiser, and likewise engaged quite extensively in raising and feeding stock. As time passed on he cultivated his farm according to modern methods, introducing the latest improved machinery and facilitating the work of the fields in every possible way. Year after year chronicled for him increased success and at length, with a very gratifying and substantial competence, he retired in 1899 and took up his abode in Farnhamville, where he has erected a fine residence surrounded by beautiful shrub-

bery, flowers and shade trees. The most envious cannot grudge him his success, so honorably has it been earned and so wisely used. While he is not now actively concerned in business affairs, he is still a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company and in the Farmers Telephone Company of Farnhamville, and is a director and stockholder in the Farmers Lumber Company. He is likewise a stockholder in the bank at Guthrie Center, and his investments have been so judiciously placed that he derives therefrom a substantial annual income.

Mr. Parsons was one of the three men who advocated the establishment of a city park, and when the movement was carried through he was appointed park commissioner, and has served in that capacity for fifteen years. The town has now one of the most attractive parks to be found in any town of similar size in the state. Mr. Parsons has also served as a member of the city council, and for ten years was mayor of Farnhamville, directing the policy of the city and introducing many needed reforms and improvements. He was elected county supervisor from the fourth district and served in that capacity for six years. There has been no more stalwart advocate of the development of a modern drainage system than Mr. Parsons, who was especially active in support of the movement when it was a fighting issue in the state. His position almost brought him political defeat, but time has demonstrated the wisdom of his course and his opinions. Many new districts have been formed and today the people recognize the value that drainage has been to the state. His public service began the first fall after his arrival, when he was elected to the office of township clerk. He served for twenty consecutive years as justice of the peace and, as there was no preacher in the township, he married about thirty couples, many of whom are now numbered among the county's most prominent citizens. He also served as township assessor and in every public connection he has stood for progress and improvement, his labors bringing about many good things for the community.

In 1879 Mr. Parsons was united in marriage to Miss Mary Clutter, who was born in Ohio and died in Farnhamville in 1900. Her father, W. H. Clutter, was an early settler of this state, and on removing to Calhoun county took up his abode in Reading township, where he was very active in community affairs as well as in business life. In politics he was a stalwart democrat and of the Congregational church he was a faithful and devoted member. Mrs. Parsons was also very active in church work and in her girlhood days she was instrumental in having religious services held in schoolhouses in her township before the building of churches. Her life radiated an influence for good that was strong and permeating, and her memory remains as a blessed

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benediction to those who knew her. To Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were born four children. Alfred H., who owns and operates a farm in Cedar township, is married and has four children. John L., who attended Cornell (Iowa) College, is now a civil engineer of Humboldt, Iowa, and is an associate member of the Western Society of Engineers. His work, Land Drainage, is a very complete treatise on drainage and the laws affecting it in Iowa. He is married and has two children. Flora E. is the wife of C. H. Beck, cashier of the bank at Guthrie Center, Iowa, and has one daughter, Bertha M., who attended Grinnell College, is now at home.

Mr. Parsons is a member of the Knights of Pythias. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party, but he is not bitterly partisan, and he is always able to defend his political faith by intelligent argument because of his wide reading concerning the questions and issues of the day. An earnest member of the Congregational church, he has for the past ten years been superintendent of the Sunday school. His life has been actuated by high and honorable principles, and the course that he has followed commends him to the confidence, goodwill and respect of all.

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GEORGE W. VONTREES.

George W. Vontrees needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, for he has long been a prominent and highly respected resident of Calhoun county, his home being in Cedar township. He has lived in the county since pioneer times, and is now one of its most venerable citizens. He was born in Clay county, Indiana, July 6, 1833, and has therefore passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey. He came to Iowa in 1854, making the trip on horseback from Indiana, being then twenty-one years of age. He made his way to Boone county, and there took up his abode in a small settlement near Boonesboro. The conditions of pioneer life existed in the district at that period. The homes were widely scattered and the work of development and improvement was yet in embryo. There were all kinds of wild game, including deer and all the feathered game. There were also bears and wild cats in the district, and it was a most common sight to see representatives of the Sac and Fox tribe of Indians. At the time of the Spirit Lake massacre there was a great feeling of unrest in that vicinity because of the Indians, but the warfare upon the whites was not waged in that district.

STATE OF IOWA  
1929

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**Journal of the House**  
OF THE

**Forty-third General Assembly**

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REGULAR SESSION  
CONVENED JANUARY 14, 1929  
ADJOURNED APRIL 12, 1929

JOHN HAMMILL, Governor  
J. H. JOHNSON, Speaker of the House  
ARCH W. McFARLANE, President of the Senate

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35287  
Published by  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
Des Moines

to see the west. After investigating the advantages and resources of northwest Iowa, he bought a section of government land in Cherokee county, paying two dollars and fifty cents per acre. This is still owned by the family and is located near Aurelia.

At that time Cherokee county was a frontier district, with miles of unbroken prairie and the nearest market at Denison sixty miles to the south. The next year, 1869, brought the railroad and many settlers. The township was organized and named Pitcher in honor of one of the first settlers.

Mr. Pitcher returned to Boston for several years, but finally came to Iowa to establish his home. Throughout the succeeding years he carried forward the work of improving and developing his property, adding to his holdings until he owned 720 acres, also a farm of 200 acres in Minnesota.

Mr. Pitcher was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hersey of Bangor, Maine, in 1877. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are living at Aurelia.

Politically he was a Republican and served as supervisor, as a member of the school board, and held a seat in the state legislature at Des Moines in 1881, besides giving active cooperation to many movements for the public good. Living in Pitcher township for forty-nine years he was respected and honored by an extensive circle of friends. Through years of declining health his interest in his home and community, its churches and schools never lessened. His greatest contribution to life was his courage, never allowing discouragement to find lodgement within himself and sustaining many others through trying hours. He died April 11, 1927, at the age of eighty-eight years.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the state of Iowa takes this occasion to express its appreciation of the character and services of this valuable citizen, and,

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the Journal of the House, and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased in care of Miss Bess Pitcher, at Aurelia, Iowa.

C. C. R. BUSH,  
G. L. VENARD,  
J. PARK BAIR,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted April 8, 1929.

#### HON. THOMAS PARSONS

MR. SPEAKER: We, your committee, appointed to draft suitable resolutions concerning the life and public services of Honorable Thomas Parsons, member of the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Fortieth extra General Assemblies, beg leave to submit the following:

On Sunday, April 1, 1928, occurred the death of Thomas Parsons, pioneer resident of Calhoun county Iowa, at Saint Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Fort Dodge, after an illness of about seven months.

He was born February 12, 1855, at Rigate, Surrey, England, a son of Henry and Hanna Parsons, and was the second child in a family of ten children. In the year 1867 the family came to the United States, making their home in Chicago, Illinois. In 1868 they removed to Lee county, Illinois, where this pioneer family laid out their home on a tract of uncultivated land. Thomas Parsons attended the district schools in Lee county and further continued his education in Dixon.

Mr. Parsons came to Iowa in 1878 with a brother, Henry Parsons, now a member of the board of supervisors of Calhoun county, Iowa. These brothers purchased adjoining farms in Calhoun county. After he had established his home in that county, he engaged himself in teaching school. Later he purchased an eighty-acre tract of land to which he added from time to time until he became an extensive, prosperous and wealthy land owner. He was interested in bringing his estate to a high plane of cultivation and was both a grain and stock raiser. He was truly one of the successful pioneer farmers of this state.

In 1899 he retired from his farm and took up his place of residence in Farnhamville, Iowa. This place was his residence until his death.

In 1879 he was married to Miss Mary Clutter, who predeceased him in 1900. To this union were born four children, namely: Alfred H., John L., Flora E., and a deceased daughter, Bertha M. He was a member of the Congregational church, and the Knights of Pythias lodge.

During his lifetime he served this state as a member of the board of supervisors of Calhoun county, mayor of the town of Farnhamville, and a member of the General Assembly.

Linked with the progress of this state is indelibly inscribed the name of Thomas Parsons, who was a true builder in every sense of the word. He was an able exponent of the thought of our state which gave to us the establishment of the secondary road system of Iowa, and no one had a better understanding of our drainage laws than he.

There are few men in Iowa who served in the legislature who were more useful to their constituency, and particularly to the agricultural interests of the state as a whole. While a member of the Iowa legislature he was a hard and conscientious worker. His earnest desire was to be of real service to the people of his county and state, and his highest ambition was to justify the trust and confidence the people had placed in him by giving to his duties the most exacting and painstaking attention possible.

He took more than ordinary interest in everything that concerned the welfare of the state at large, and his business activities were second to none whether it involved his personal interests or the interests of others. Always exceedingly fair, honest, and generous, yet at all times practicing economy which exemplified his success as a business man. The state has lost one of its best and leading citizens.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That in the death of Thomas Parsons the state has lost a valuable and honored citizen whose faithful and unselfish duty in business and private life is worthy of commendation and recognition. And the House of Representatives takes this opportunity to express its appreciation of his high character and public services to the state of

Iowa, and to extend to his family sincere sympathy in their sorrow and bereavement.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of this House, and that enrolled copies thereof be transmitted to the members of his family.

MARION R. MCCAULLEY,  
REYBURN L. RUTLEDGE,  
J. A. KING,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted April 8, 1929.

HON. JOHN FREDERICK POTTER

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life and service of the Honorable John Frederick Potter, late of Cherokee county, beg leave to submit the following memorial:

John Frederick Potter was born February 27, 1834, in Bridgewater, Windsor county, Vermont, a son of John Potter, who served in the War of 1812, and Polly Wheeler, both of Scotch ancestry. When nine years old he moved with his parents to Rutland county, Vermont, where he lived until he came to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1856.

Mr. Potter followed Rufus Richardson to Iowa and assisted him in developing his farm, which was located southwest of McGregor, and in 1860 he purchased land nearby and in 1862, November 27, married Mary A. Bailey, who had come with her parents from Connecticut in 1859 and lived on a neighboring farm.

In 1868, Mr. Potter looked over a large part of northwestern Iowa, and decided to locate in Cherokee county. Consequently in the spring of 1869 he sold his Clayton county land and with his wife, his father-in-law and several neighboring men he came by covered wagon and ox team to Silver township, Cherokee county, where he purchased Iowa college land and established a home that was known far and wide for its generous hospitality.

Although they had no children of their own, they were the friends of youth everywhere and were Uncle John and Aunt Mary to an ever-widening group, and many were the picnics and gala times enjoyed in the Potter grove and orchard, all planted with their own hands.

Mr. Potter's political opinions were expressed by the Democratic party, voting for Buchanan in 1856. He served as Representative from Cherokee county in the Twenty-third General Assembly.

In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Potter retired from the farm and moved to Cherokee where he continued to enjoy life and visiting with his many friends until his death, which occurred April 15, 1927, at the advanced age of 93. Funeral services were conducted by the Masons, of which fraternity he was an ardent member.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the state of Iowa take this occasion to express its appreciation of the character and services of this valuable citizen, and



You searched for **Thomas Parsons** in **Iowa**

### 1900 United States Federal Census

Name: **Thomas Parsons**  
 Home in 1900: **Reading, Calhoun, Iowa**  
 Age: **45**  
 Birth Date: **Feb 1855**  
 Birthplace: **England**  
 Race: **White**  
 Gender: **Male**  
 Immigration Year: **1867**  
 Relationship to Head of House: **Head**  
 Father's Birthplace: **England**  
 Mother's Birthplace: **England**  
 Spouse's name: **Mary H Parsons**  
 Marriage Year: **1879**  
 Marital Status: **Married**  
 Years Married: **21**

Occupation: [View on Image](#)

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Thomas Parsons</a>	45
	<a href="#">Mary H Parsons</a>	43
	<a href="#">John L Parsons</a>	17
	<a href="#">Flora E Parsons</a>	15
	<a href="#">Bertha M Parsons</a>	6

**Source Citation:** Year: 1900; Census Place: Reading, Calhoun, Iowa; Roll: T623\_421; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 31.

#### Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

Original data: United States of America. Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

#### Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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Male

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Thomas Parsons

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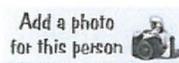
Birth: Feb. 18, 1855  
Death: Apr. 1, 1923 1928

Burial: Reading Cemetery  
Farnhamville  
Calhoun County  
Iowa, USA

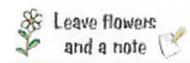
Created by: Burt  
Record added: Dec 25, 2007  
Find A Grave Memorial# 23556734



Cemetery Photo  
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### PARSONS, Mary H.

**Born:** 25 OCT 1856  
**Died:** 18 OCT 1900  
**Cemetery:** READING  
**Location:** FARNHAMVILLE  
**County:** CALHOUN CO. - IOWA  
**Record Notes:** READING TWP.

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