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Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Edson, Willis Charles Senator

Represented Buena Vista County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 25 Sept 1874 Wilton, Illinois

2. Marriage (s) date place
(1) Gail Sweeney 15 Oct 1903
(2) Ethelyn Bailie 1911

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Member of the Iowa State Bar Association; received Outstanding Citizen of Storm Lake 1962

B. Civic responsibilities Rotary; Eastern Star; Mason; Chamber of Commerce

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st General Assemblies 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925

6. Public Offices

A. Local Board of trustee member of Buena Vista College;

B. State

C. National

7. Death 5 Mar 1965 Storm Lake, Iowa; buried

8. Children Robert C.; James; Margaret (Mrs. Ayers); Mrs Max Dillon; Mrs. James Hamilton

9. Names of parents Charles Austin and Elizabeth (Barr) Edson

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

Edson, Willis Charles

10. Education Educated in country schools

11. Degrees Completed junior year at Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa in 1896; graduated from Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa in 1898; DLL degree State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 1901

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came with his family to Iowa in 1885 living on a farm near Sebastian
- He started his law practice at Storm Lake in 1902
- He taught school at a country school on the family farm at Sebastian, coached football at the State College of Iowa at Cedar Falls, Iowa and at Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa.
- His first wife, Gail, died May 1904
- At his death, he had lived in Storm Lake 62 years

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

Edson, Willis Charles

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary - The Pilot Tribune, Storm Lake, Iowa, Thurs. March 11, 1965, p8, col. 1,2			

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

Obituaries

WILLIS CHARLES EDSON

Willis Charles Edson was born September 25, 1874, at Wilton, Ill. He was the son of Charles Austin Edson and Elizabeth Barr.

WILLIS EDSON

He came with the family to Iowa in 1885 and resided on a farm near Schaller. His elementary education was acquired in country schools.

He was one of the first students of Buena Vista college completing junior college in 1896. He graduated from Iowa State in 1898 after which he entered the University law school, receiving his Doctor of Law degree in 1901. His practice of law was begun in Storm Lake in 1902.

At one time he taught in a country school on the home farm at Schaller where he had attended grade school. He coached football at State College of Iowa at Cedar Falls and at Buena Vista.

On October 15, 1903, he was married to Gail Sweeney. She passed away in May, 1904.

He married Ethelyn Bailie of Storm Lake in 1911. She and their five children survive.

Survivors

Surviving sons are Robert C. of Storm Lake and James of Omaha. Three surviving daughters are Mrs. Margaret Ayers, Mrs. Max Dillon and Mrs. James Hamilton, all of Storm Lake. Also 16 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Mr. Edson had resided in Storm Lake 62 years; 53 of those years were at 108 Lake Ave. He was an outstanding citizen with an active interest in his community. He was elected a member of the board of trustees of Buena Vista college in 1904. In 1918 he became chairman of the board serving in that capacity for many years. He resigned from the board in 1954.

He was a member of Rotary and past president of the local club. He also served as district governor 1935-36. He was also member of OES and Jewell Lodge A.F. & A.M. and of the Iowa Bar Association.

The Outstanding Citizen of Storm Lake award was presented to him by the Chamber of Commerce in 1962.

Mr. Edson passed away at the Buena Vista county hospital March 5 where he had been a patient since November 9 after a fall at his home.

Services

Funeral services were held at Lakeside Presbyterian church March 8 with the Rev. Carl Boaz in charge. Mrs. Bing Ingram sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "In My Father's House Are Many Mansions." Mrs. Sylvia Gunn was at the organ.

Bearers were Attorneys William B. Perry, Ira Skinner, James Prichard, Edgar Mack, Emery Emerson and Judge Richard Cooper. Interment was in Storm Lake cemetery under direction of Hughes-Nelson funeral home.

A more complete account of Mr. Edson's career appeared in The Storm Lake Register March 9.

JEAN HAUKLAND

Jean Haukland, daughter of Ralph and Lillian Lohff Otto, was born on November 15, 1937 at Storm Lake and departed this life at Oskaloosa on March 7, 1965 at the age of 27 years.

Her childhood and youth were spent in the Storm Lake community. She was a 1955 graduate of the Storm Lake high school.

On January 13, 1957 she was united in marriage with Robert Haukland. After their marriage the couple resided in Minneapolis until 1960. After nine months in Carlos, Minn., they moved to Oskaloosa where they had since made their home.

Baptized

In infancy Jean was baptized in the name of the Triune God. In June 1951 she was confirmed at St. John's Lutheran church, Storm Lake, after having been instructed in the truths of the Christian religion. Since living in Oskaloosa she was a member of St. John Lutheran church of that city serving as organist, a service which she had also rendered her former congregation in Storm Lake.

She leaves to mourn her departure: her husband, Robert; one daughter, Diane, one son, Mark; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Otto, Storm Lake; one sister, Jaque, Storm Lake; grandfather, John Otto, Storm Lake.

Services

Memorial services were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, in St. John's Lutheran church in Storm Lake by Rev. Walter F. Mueller of St. John's church and Rev. Rogers Hake of Oskaloosa.

Bearers were Harry Schaller, Victor Eickstaedt, Gerald Langner, Lloyd Bumann, Louis Gertsmeier, Herbert Johnson. Burial was in Memorial Park cemetery. Sliefert funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

Sons and Daughters To Inherit Estate

The late Elizabeth Zemke, Storm Lake, has willed all her property and proceeds to daughters Viola Meyer and Ira E. Zemke and sons Elmer Zemke and Milton H. Zemke, according to her will filed in probate court.

Elmer Zemke was named executor. He was directed to sell real estate.

The will was drawn June 10, 1960. Wendell T. Edson and Richard W. Cooper witnessed the document.

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