

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Graham, John Anthony Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Audubon County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 14 June 1894 McKiville Township, Audubon County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Anne Kroeger 27 Dec 1899 Audubon Township, Audubon County, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1897; he was a member of the Audubon County and Iowa Bar Association

B. Civic responsibilities Audubon Chamber of Commerce; I.O.O.F.; Knights of Pythias

C. Profession Attorney; newspaper editor

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1939

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Audubon; Audubon County Attorney 3 terms; Audubon County Democratic Party Chairman

B. State He was a member of the Iowa State Board of Law Examiners 1935-1939

C. National Delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1932

7. Death 10 Dec 1955 Audubon, Iowa; buried Maple Grove Cemetery, Audubon, Iowa

8. Children Zephyr; Elaine (Mrs. Krasner); Melville M.; Alsace (Mrs. McDonald)

9. Names of parents Samuel A. and Ellen (Hunter) Graham

Graham, John Anthony

10. Education Educated in schools of Audubon, Iowa, but did not graduate from Audubon High School. Instead completed his high school work in college 1891

11. Degrees Attended University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa; L.L.B. degree from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, 1897

12. Other applicable information

Democrat

- He began his law career in Audubon, Iowa in 1897, being a member of the law firm Graham and Graham.
- He was also part owner of The Audubon Advocate newspaper, as well as practicing law.
- Here from 1904-1912 he published The O'Brien County Democrat newspaper.
- In 1912 he returned to Audubon and practiced law with his brother, J. M. Graham.
- His wife, Anne, died in 1952.



## JOHN ANTHONY GRAHAM

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable John Anthony Graham, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

John Anthony Graham was born at the farm home of his parents, Samuel A. and Ellen Graham, in Melville Township, Audubon County, Iowa, on June 14, 1874, and passed away at his home in Audubon, Iowa, on December 10, 1956.

Mr. Graham spent his boyhood on the farm and often walked the seven miles from the farm to attend grade school. He graduated from Audubon High School and Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa, and received his law degree from Drake University, and passed his Bar Examinations in 1897. He was a member of the "50-Year Club" of Drake University at the time of his death. Returning to Audubon after his graduation Mr. Graham purchased a half interest in the Audubon Advocate, a weekly newspaper.

In 1899 he married Anne Kroeger of Exira, Iowa, and they moved to Primghar, Iowa, where he purchased the O'Brien County Democrat, which Mr. Graham published until he returned to Audubon in 1908. In Audubon he and his brother, J. M. Graham, opened their law office. J. M. Graham passed away in 1921. In 1930, Mr. Graham's son, Mel. M. Graham, entered the practice of law with him, which partnership continued until Mr. Graham's death in 1956.

Mr. Graham was a lifelong Democrat. He served three terms as County Attorney of Audubon County; was mayor of Audubon, Iowa; was a delegate to the National Convention in 1932, and was a candidate for Supreme Court Justice in 1944. He was a member of the First Methodist Church, Chamber of Commerce, an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Board of Examiners from 1935 until his election to the House of Representatives in 1938, and a charter member of the Farm Bureau. He also was a member of the County and State Bar Associations.

Mr. Graham was an avid reader, and at the time of his death was preparing a book of anecdotes.

John Anthony Graham was a member of the Forty-eighth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, representing Audubon County.

He left surviving him two daughters, Zelwyn Graham of Audubon, Iowa, Elaine Krasne of Omaha, Nebraska, and his son, Mel M. Graham of Audubon, Iowa; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly of Iowa:* That in the passing of the Honorable John Anthony Graham, the state has lost an honored citizen and a faithful and useful public servant, and the House by this resolution would express its appreciation of his service, and tender its sympathy to the members of his family.

*Be It Further Resolved:* That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

CARL HENSLEY,  
JOHN A. BAUMHOVER,  
PETER STENHUSEN,  
*Committee.*

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## Bamsey Urges Mailing Now

Postoffice patrons, and there are bound to be many of them during this Christmas rush season, were urged this week by Postmaster Russell Bamsey to get their mailings completed this week.

"This will insure the safe and early arrival of Christmas packages and cards," the postmaster said.

He pointed out that it is a good idea to buy stamps for cards prior to the mailing dates. He asked that patrons tie their cards in separate bundles. Those for out-of-town mailings should be in one group while those for local mailing should be in another bundle.

It also facilitates the movement of the mail if you mail early in the day, he reported. Bamsey stated that this gives the postal employees an opportunity to work up the mail for early dispatches.

Mailers of late cards and packages may use special delivery and air mail to insure arrival at destination points before Christmas. He urged that first class mail be used in any event because in case of trouble the cards can be returned to the sender.

## Services Held In Exira, Audubon For Crash Victims

Funeral services have been held in Exira and Audubon for two people who were victims of a tragic smashup which took four lives just west of Guthrie Center last Friday afternoon.

Services were held at the McEadden Funeral Home Tuesday for Victor Berkowski, 44, who was a passenger in one of the autos. The other victim, Mrs. Eileen Hansen, 32, was buried in Exira Monday afternoon at the Exira Lutheran church. She was a passenger in her husband's car.

John V. Kerwin, 42, was the driver of one of the death cars. Sheriff J. C. McCool of Guthrie County reported that the auto went out of control while trying to pass another auto, skidded 100 feet east down the shoulder of

## Funeral Services For John Graham Held On Tuesday

One of the city of Audubon's distinguished leaders of the past half century was buried here after funeral services Tuesday morning in the First Methodist church.

He was John Anthony Graham, 81, who was an attorney, legislator and a newspaper editor. He began his career here in 1897 as a member of the law firm of Graham and Graham and as part owner of the Audubon Advocate.

From 1904 until 1912 he was gone from the community and edited and published the O'Brien County Democrat. In 1912 he returned to Audubon and his law practice with his brother, J. M. Graham.

From 1935 until 1939 he was a member of the state board of law examiners. Through 1939 and 1940, he was a member of the state legislature. Graham served as mayor of the city and was also the Audubon County attorney for three terms.

In addition to these activities, Graham was a member of both the Audubon County and state bar associations, the Chamber of Commerce, past noble grand of the IOOF lodge, member of the Knights of Pythias, served as county Democrat party chairman and delegate to the national Democratic convention in 1932.

Graham was born in Melville township on June 14, 1874 and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Graham. He attended school in Audubon but completed his high school work at Iowa State College in Ames. He graduated with his law degree from Drake University in 1897 and was admitted to the bar.

On Dec. 27, 1899, he was wed to Anne Kroeger of Audubon Township. She preceded him in death in 1952.

Survivors include Zelwyn Graham, at home; Mrs. Elaine Krasne of Omaha and Mel M. Graham of Audubon; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The Rev. Grant Elford officiated at the funeral services and burial was in Maple Grove cemetery.

SCHOOL TO BE OUT

## Dentist Selected To Secure Swim

Dr. J. C. Ramsey Wednesday Audubon "Man of the Year" by at the annual meeting held at th



## Jury Selected In Contest Of Will

A jury was drawn here Monday to try a case of the contested will of the late Jacobina Rasmussen, who died last summer.

Mrs. Rasmussen left two business properties in Audubon to the Salem Old Peoples Home at Elk Horn and her home to Harriet Eastvald.

Plaintiffs in the case are Marie Perrine, Mrs. Petra Slattery and Alfena Barnett, all of California and all related to Mrs. Rasmussen.

The plaintiffs contend that the will was improperly executed. The other co-defendant in the suit is L. K. Madsen, administrator of the estate.

The trial court was in recess on Tuesday for the funeral of John Graham. It was resumed with the taking of evidence Wednesday.

Members of the jury are Warren Thompson, Helen McCall, Henry C. Christensen, Art Ahrendsen, Jack Weighton, Dale Loukitts, LaVerne Paulsen, Marvin Nissen, Lucille Kempf, Arley Nelson, Ernie Albertsen and Emmert L. Christensen.

## Christmas Meet Of P.T.A. Monday

"Christmas in Song and Story" will be the feature of the Audubon Parent Teachers Association meeting here next Monday.

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