

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Notson, Joseph Otis, Jr Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Warren County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 26 Aug 1903 Indianola, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date, place  
Betty Virginia Day 15 Feb 1930 Arlington, Virginia

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was a member of Iowa and American Bar Associations.  
He was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1928 and to the Florida Bar in 1971

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Lion Club; Chamber of Commerce,

C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 55<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1953, 1955

6. Public Offices

A. Local Warren County Attorney 1929-1932; chairman of the Warren  
County Republican Central Committee

B. State He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Iowa State  
Bar Association

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

7. Death 8 Sept 1986 Madeira, Florida; cremated

8. Children Joseph Otis III; Richard Day; John

9. Names of parents Joseph Otis and Fannie (Jackson) Clark

10. Education He was educated in the schools of Indiana,  
Ind

11. Degrees He graduated from Simpson College, Indiana, Ind  
in 1925; graduate of the University of Iowa Law School, Iowa  
City, Iowa, 1928

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He began practicing law in Indiana, Ind in June 1928
- He was a senior partner in Watson, Agin and Soymer law firm in  
Indiana
- He moved to Florida in 1971 where he was a lawyer for the Lyles and  
Skyles Law Firm in Saint Petersburg, Florida



Mr. Routh was born in Des Moines. He retired from Earlham Co-op after 25 years and was serving a second term on the Earlham City

## J.O. Watson Jr., formerly of Indianola, died in Florida

J.O. Watson Jr., 83, of Madeira Beach, Fla., formerly of Indianola, died of a heart ailment Monday, Sept. 8. A memorial service was held Friday, Sept. 12, at Harvest Temple Church of God in Indian Rock, Fla. The body was cremated.

Mr. Watson was born in Indianola, where he lived until 1972. Admitted

Survivors include his wife, Velma; two sons, Donald of Norwalk and Roger of Ankeny; a daughter, Romona Fisher of Earlham; a

charge of arrangements.

to the bar in Iowa in 1928 and in Florida in 1971, he was a lawyer for the Lyle and Skipper law firm in St. Petersburg, Fla., and previously was a senior partner in the Watson, Elgin and Hoyman law firm in Indianola. From 1950 to 1953 he served in the Iowa House of Representatives.

He graduated from Simpson College in 1925 and from the University of Iowa in 1928. He was member of Delta Theta Phi (Dean of Dillon Senate, 1927-1928) and member of St. Petersburg, Warren County and American Bar Associations, The Florida Bar, Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, Iowa Defense Counsel Association and American College of Probate Counsel.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; three sons, John of Tampa, Fla., Richard of Iowa City and J.O. III of Pueblo, Colo.; and several grandchildren.

## Father of Pleasantville woman dies

Darrell D. Spencer, 66, of Des Moines died of cancer Monday, Sept. 8, at home. Services were held Thursday, Sept. 11, at Hamilton's Funeral Home with burial in Warren Powers Cemetery.

Mr. Spencer was born in Adelphi and had lived in Pleasantville and Bettendorf. He had worked for Firststone Tire and Rubber Co., and was a member of Iron Workers Union and First Assembly of God Church in Bettendorf.

Survivors include two sons, Dar-

rell D. Jr. and Randy, both of Bettendorf; five daughters, Linda Olson of Pleasantville, Judy Coe of Davenport, Carolyn Busetto and Priscilla Brown, both of Bettendorf, and Grace Tuttle of Princeton; two brothers, Ivan of Des Moines and Daniel "Corky" of Omaha, Neb.; two sisters, Norma Rivas of Des Moines and Donna Cameron of Ankeny; his mother, Marvel Spencer of Des Moines; 28 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

## Former Indianolan dies

Arthur K. Jones, 81, of Des Moines died of cancer Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Luther Park Health Center. Services were held Friday, Sept. 12, at Grace United Methodist Church with burial in IOOF Cemetery in Indianola.

Mr. Jones was born in Platteville, Wis., and had lived in Indianola

Moingona Masonic Lodge, Des Moines Consistory and Za-Ga-Zig Shrine and was chairman of the Calliope Unit of the Shrine.

Survivors include a son, William A. of Hato Rey, Puerto Rico; a sister, Helen M. Jones of Des Moines; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to his church.



# THE HISTORY OF WARREN COUNTY, IOWA

*Three rivers flow through lands  
of farms and woods;  
North River, Middle River,  
South River;  
Unpretentiously they take  
their separate ways  
Before they join the current  
of the wide Des Moines.  
Though now the realm claims  
dignity as "Warren County"  
Centered round the square of  
Indianola where its  
Court House stands,  
Its rolling hills and streams  
were always  
"The Three River Country"  
to the pioneers.*

*— from "Lyrics from the  
Three Rivers Land"  
1946*

Compiled by  
The Warren County Genealogical Society — 1987

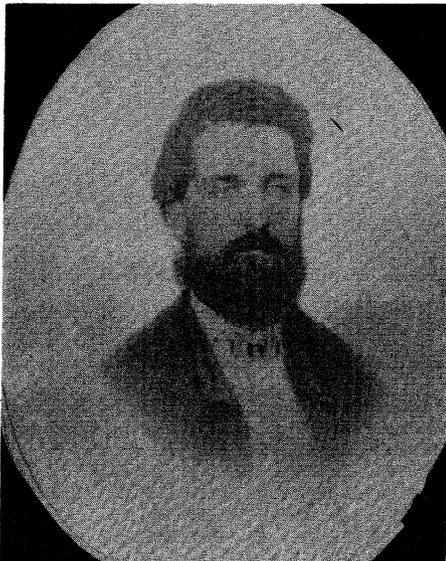
had farmed near Bayard, Guthrie Co., IA, when Don and Phyllis moved to the Hartford area in 1967. Phyllis had also taught in the Bayard and Bagley schools.

Don and Phyllis have two sons and one daughter: Larry, a 1967 Drake University graduate and Vietnam veteran, is employed as a corporate jet pilot and lives in Carlisle with his daughter, Andrea, and son, John; Debra, a 1973 Carlisle High School graduate, attended the University of Iowa and lives in San Jose, CA with her son, Steven; Jim, a 1977 Carlisle graduate, farms and is an electrician.

by Larry Watkins

## WATSON, JOSEPH CALDER AND JULIA ANN ARMSTRONG

F1126



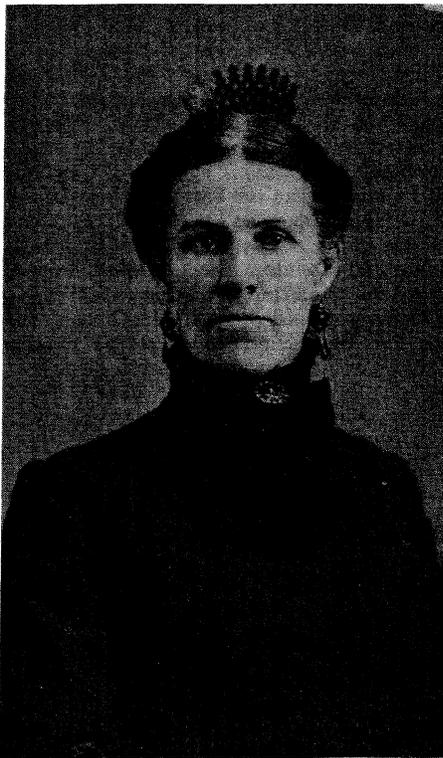
Joseph Calder Watson

It was in 1857 that young Joseph Calder Watson brought his young bride, Julia Ann Armstrong, to Warren Co. from their former home in Fairmont, WV. He had come three years earlier as a 21 year old attorney to begin his career and lay down his roots here.

He must have become known quite rapidly because in the April election of 1855, he was elected prosecuting attorney of Warren County, receiving 484 votes to 19 for all his opponents.

The election of 1859 was one of the most exciting local elections ever held in the county. One of the contests was between Joseph C. Watson and George E. Griffith for county judge. The contest raged hot and heavy for weeks, but the result was the election of Watson, with 774 votes compared to 672 for Griffith. He became one of the leading Democrats of the community.

He and his bride lived in Squaw Twp. for 12 to 15 years, where he, along with his law duties, farmed and dealt in land and livestock, before they moved to Indianola. Here they had their home and a dairy at the end of West Ashland Street. They were earnest



Julia Ann (Armstrong) Watson

members of the Baptist Church.

Julia became mother and grandmother to the Watson clan, who worshiped her. All family celebrations centered around her. From her home, she could see out to the fairgrounds. Her granddaughter said that when she saw people coming in their buggies, she went out and killed two chickens, and was ready for them.

To the union of Joseph Calder Watson and Julia Armstrong were born seven children, five of whom lived and became prominent citizens of Indianola and Warren County. They were: Fred Watson, born December 23, 1857, died February 12, 1858; P. Gad "Pete" Watson, born February 9, 1859, married Flora Kate Proudfoot October 16, 1883, died August 29, 1940; Fannie Kate Watson, born May 31, 1861, died August 6, 1863; James Harry Watson, born November 18, 1863, married Jessie Bryson October 31, 1900, died June 19, 1943; Martha Armstrong Watson, born June 12, 1866, died September 3, 1959; Joseph Otis Watson, born November 10, 1869, married Fannie Jackson Clark September 18, 1902, died February 5, 1936; and Julia Haymond Watson, born April 21, 1873, died December 23, 1929.

"Pete" became a business man and J.O. was an attorney in Indianola. Their families are described separately.

Harry and Jessie were the parents of two adopted sons, who were the nephews of Jessie. They were Jack and Donald, both now deceased. Harry was the first manager of the electric light plant and was the postmaster at Indianola for a time before he entered the coal business with his brother "Pete".

Martha, known to everyone as "Mattie", graduated from Simpson College, taught for 13 years in the Indianola schools, and then worked in the State Historical Building in Des Moines for many years. She was the organizer and first librarian of the genealogical department of the Iowa Department of

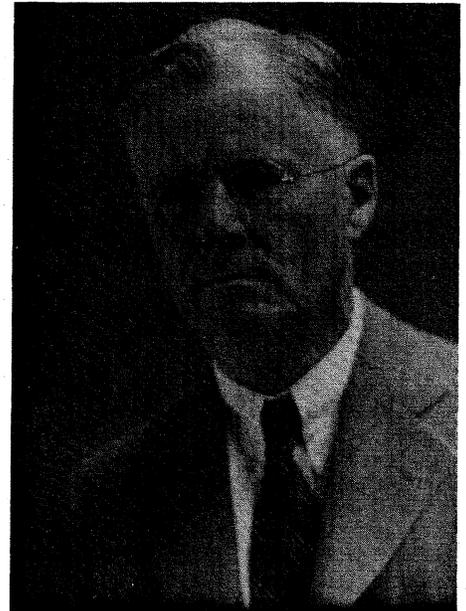
History and Archives. She also compiled a file of pictures of Iowans who died in World War I. At her retirement, she returned to Indianola to live.

Julia Haymond, the youngest offspring of Joseph C. Watson was an elocutionist. She was a special attraction at all family gatherings, especially at Christmas when she could entertain the family for hours. The children always requested "The Two Little Magpies" and "Bobby Shaftoe". The adults enjoyed her recounting of the time she caught the Wabash. She was known by the family as "Aunt Babe".

by Margaret L. Watson

## WATSON, JOSEPH OTIS AND FANNIE CLARK

F1127



Joseph Otis Watson, Sr.

Joseph Otis Watson graduated from Simpson College and taught French and German there for two years. In 1897, he received his law degree from the University of Iowa and began the practice of law in Indianola. He was Warren County Attorney until 1908, and was regarded as one of the most prominent attorneys of the city. He became a staunch Republican. He was married to Fannie Jackson Clark on September 18, 1902, and they became the parents of three sons and a daughter who died at the age of two weeks. The sons were:

Joseph Otis Watson, Jr., born August 28, 1903, married Betty Virginia Gay February 15, 1930; Vinton Clark Watson, born April 5, 1905, married Margaret Louise Liebe December 16, 1938 - died May 19, 1970; and Richard Dudley Watson, born October 19, 1906, married to Martha Elizabeth Webster June 20, 1932 - died March 7, 1936.

Joseph Otis, Jr. graduated from Simpson and the University of Iowa Law School. He practiced law in Indianola for a great many

years and served one term in the Iowa Legislature. He now practices law on a part-time basis in Tampa, FL. He and Betty Gay are the parents of three sons:

J.O. III, born May 21, 1933, who is now the owner-operator of several cemeteries. He was married to Kay Strayer and they became the parents of two sons, Jason Gregory, born January 11, 1956 and Robert Keith, born April 14, 1958. After a divorce, he married Linda Cheatham and they are the parents of Jo Lynn, born April 14, 1966 and Virginia Gay, born July 29, 1967.

Richard Gay, born August 3, 1940, who is in the insurance business in Iowa City. He is married to Penelope Vanek, and they are the parents of Evelyn Ann, born January 27, 1967, Michelle Aimee, born July 6, 1967, and Elisabeth Gay, born May 4, 1969.

John Frederick, born December 4, 1944, deals in real estate in Florida. He is not married.

Vinton Clark graduated from Simpson and received his M.B.A. degree from Harvard in 1929. He was in the insurance business and was also associated with the Peoples Trust and Savings Bank. He served on the city council for many years. He helped to bring fluoridated water to Indianola and is credited with saving the railroad for the city. He was also a long time member of the Board of Trustees of Simpson College, where he served on the finance committee. He and Margaret "Peg" became the parents of two sons and a daughter. They are:

Vinton Philip, born June 19, 1941, who graduated from Simpson College and Drake Law School. He maintains his law office on the south side of Des Moines and lives in Indianola. He and Judith Hutchinson were married on August 22, 1965. They are the parents of Laura Ann, born March 14, 1969 and Vinton Philip Jr., born October 14, 1972.

James Liebe, born May 20, 1944, also graduated from Simpson College, then received a D.D.S. from the University of Iowa Dental School. He now practices dentistry in Kailua, HI. He was married to Vlasta Stupka and they had one son, Jove Liebe, born May 5, 1971. After a divorce in 1973, he married Diana Escola on December 27, 1983.

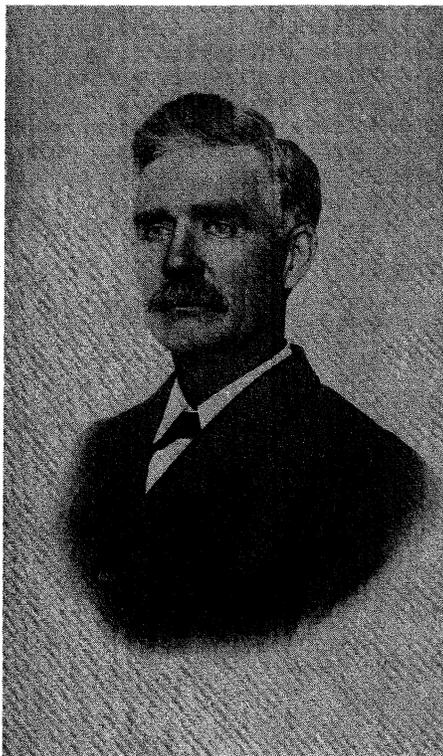
Margaret Jo, born November 15, 1946, graduated from Simpson and received her certificate in Physical Therapy from the University of Iowa. She is now a Physical Therapist for the Fairfax County, VA, school system. She married Howard Soroos on December 22, 1969, and they are the parents of Eric David, born September 3, 1972, Cynthia Marie, born July 31, 1974 and Sarah Louise, born April 4, 1976.

Richard Dudley Watson, the third son of J.O. and Fannie Watson, was born October 29, 1906. He was graduated from Simpson and the University of Iowa Law School. He practiced law in association with his father and brother. He was married to Elizabeth Webster on June 20, 1932, and they were the parents of Noel Francis, born December 20, 1935. Richard and his father both died as a result of an automobile accident, Richard's death occurred about a month after that of his father; it was March 7, 1936. Noel lives with his mother in Mars Hill, NC.

by Margaret L. Watson

## WATSON, P. GAD "PETE" AND KATE PROUDFOOT

F1128



P. Gad "Pete" Watson

P. Gad "Pete" Watson attended Simpson College for three years where he was an outstanding baseball player. He and his brother Harry were in the grocery business on the north side of the square for several years. Later, Pete started a coal company, and when his brother Harry joined him, it became the Watson Brothers Coal Company which was a thriving concern for a full generation. It was eventually sold and became the Cronk Coal Company. Pete also ran for office in Warren County on the Prohibition ticket.

Pete was married to Flora Kate Proudfoot on October 16, 1883. Kate, as she was known, was a member of a prominent Warren County family. She was an accomplished musician. Together they had five daughters. They were: Fannie Beth, born May 7, 1884, deceased; Leila Marie, born February 11, 1887, deceased; Georgia Louise, born July 7, 1889, deceased; Julia Barnett, born March 9, 1894, deceased; and Dorothy Blanch, born December 3, 1896.

Beth was married to Charles Battles on June 30, 1912. They lived most of their life in Tampa, FL. They had three daughters:

Gertrude, who married A.C. Brannon, and were the parents of Calvin and Bonnie.

Katherine, who married Walter Watson, (no relation) and were the parents of five children.

Betty, who married Neal Osgood and had three children, Carl, Sandy and Larry. Before her marriage, Beth operated an express business behind the Watson Brothers Gro-

cery. She was a graduate of the Simpson Conservatory.

Leila became a teacher, and for 19 years taught in the Clinton, IA High School. She also taught in the Indianola High School for two or three years. After her retirement, she made her home in Indianola, living in the parental home with Julia and Dorothy.

Georgia was married to Charles Nelson. They had two sons, Charles Jr., now deceased, the father of four, and Glen. Georgia attended Simpson College for two years, after which she taught at Irving School.

Julia was employed at the Herald office for about 18 years. She always lived at home.

Dorothy was married to Joseph Earl Lewis. They had two sons, Thomas Watson, who was born in 1917, was an Air Force pilot, a 2nd lieutenant joined to the English eighth army when he was killed on October 29, 1942. The second son is Richard Lloyd, who was born on May 17, 1920. Richard became the North Central Regional manager for the Speed King Company. He is married to Colleen Kralik and they have four adult offspring. They are:

Diane, a nurse, married to Dennis Numan, living in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Richard K., married to Ann Mosebrook, and is the general manager of the Public Radio Station of Long Beach, CA.

Thomas J., married to Jane Kasper, and is an American Lutheran minister in Mason City, IA.

David Edward, married to Julie Burr, and is an agent for actors, directors and producers, associated with the International Creative Management Association.

Dorothy returned home several different times to take care of first her mother, then each of her sisters in turn. Between and after the death of her sisters, she was the matron of a Mission Home and Hospital for unwed mothers, which was sponsored by the Church of the Nazarene. In 1965, Dorothy married Arthur Adamson.

by Margaret L. Watson

## WEAVER, GEORGE

F1129

George Weaver was born in Taylor Co., (West) Virginia on August 5, 1824, son of John and Martha (Keller) Weaver. He died January 26, 1903 at New Virginia, IA. He married Geulda Duckworth on December 18, 1845. (See Geulda Duckworth Weaver).

They were the parents of seven children. John was born March 22, 1846 and married Mary Bryant.

Leonard was born June 15, 1849 and married Termillia Strawn.

Emily Jane was born April 25, 1851 and married Wm. McIntosh November 29, 1868.

Moses T. was born May 28, 1853. (See Moses T. Weaver Family).

Martha was born November 6, 1855 and married Phillip Hamilton Mitchell.

George Weston was born October 13, 1857. Abigale Ellen was born November 7, 1860 and married Louis Braught on August 20, 1879.

George and Geulda are buried at New Virginia Cemetery.

Family stories tell that George came to Warren Co. in 1854, took one look and decided it was too desolate and wild and went