

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Hells, Charles Frank Senator _____

Represented Taylor County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 31 Jul 1892 New Market, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place _____

Eta M. Hutchinson 27 Aug 1924 Bedford, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business In 1921 he helped organize the Bedford Lumber Company.
He owned and managed the business from 1936-1960

B. Civic responsibilities IOOF; Rebekah; American Legion;
Mason; Fairview Cemetery Association

C. Profession Auctioneer - owner and operator of the Bedford Lumber
Company

4. Church membership Baptist

5. Sessions served 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th General Assemblies 1957, 1959,
1961, 1963

6. Public Offices

A. Local Taylor County deputy sheriff - 10 years; Taylor County sheriff - 4 years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death Dec 1984 Bedford, Iowa; Buried Memory Cemetery, New Market, Iowa

8. Children Euladoria (died in 1931 at age 6); Lucille Jean (Mrs. Robert Park)

9. Names of parents Jacob S. and Jennie (Cavenders) Hells

10. Education He was educated in the Siam, Iowa public school

11. Degrees Graduate of the Missouri Auction School, Trenton, Missouri, 1910

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He grew to manhood in the Siam, Iowa area where he attended school and was a part of the community affairs.
- After marriage, they moved to Bedford where they lived all their married life.
- Military service - World War I - U. S. Army serving in the European theater in artillery
- He lived in Taylor County his entire life.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

- | Source | Non Applicable | Applicable | Information obtained |
|--|----------------|------------|----------------------|
| - Taylor County History, 1981, p. 430-431 | | | |
| - Taylor County Tombstones 1994, p. 103 | | | |
| - Iowa Press Association of Historical in Iowa 1940, p. 1180 | | | |
| - Obituary - The Bedford Times Press, Bedford, Iowa,
Thurs. Dec. 13, 1984, p. 6, col. 6 | | | |
| - Iowa Official Register 1963-1964, p. 96 | | | |
| - rootsweb.com (accessed 14 Apr 2009) | | | |
| - findagrave.com (accessed 28 Jan 2009 and 14 Apr 2009) | | | |

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Christiansen of Grinnell. She was
preceded in death by her parents.

Last rites for Charles Ivan Wells

Services for Ivan Wells, 92, were
held December 9 at First Baptist
Church in Bedford, officiated by
Rev. Carl Cummings and Rev. Ted
DeHass. Burial was at Fairview
Cemetery, Bedford. Mr. Wells died
Dec. 6, 1984 at St. Joseph Hospital,
Omaha, Ne.

Charles Ivan Wells, son of Jacob
Wells and Jennie Cavender Wells
was born near Siam in Taylor
County Iowa July 31, 1892 and
grew to maturity in the Siam com-
munity where he attended the public
school and was a part of the
various community activities.

On August 27, 1924 he was unit-
ed in marriage to Esta Marie
Hutchinson at the home of the
bride's parents and they lived in
Bedford all of their married life.
Two daughters were born to
them-Eula and Jeanne.

He attended Missouri Auction
School and was graduated in the
Class of 1910 and he followed this
profession as long as health per-
mitted. He had helped to conduct
approximately 6000 sales during his
career.

In 1921 he helped to organize the
Bedford Sale Company and he
owned and managed this business
from 1936 until 1960. In addition to
being an auctioneer he was a Real
Estate Broker. He served as Deputy
Sheriff of Taylor County for three
terms and was elected Sheriff of
Taylor County and served for two
terms. He was elected and served as
State Representative for three terms
in the Iowa Legislature at Des
Moines, Iowa.

During World War I he enlisted
in the U.S. Army on September 21,
1917 and was discharged August 14,
1919. He served in the European
Theatre. He was a member of the
American Legion; a long time mem-
ber of the Baptist Church; over 50
year member of Plumb Lodge No.
285 A.F. & A.M.; and I.O.O.F.
Bedford Lodge 91; Golden Rule Re-
bekah Lodge No. 134. He served

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School and was graduated in the Class of 1910 and he followed this profession as long as health permitted. He had helped to conduct approximately 6000 sales during his career.

In 1921 he helped to organize the Bedford Sale Company and he owned and managed this business from 1936 until 1960. In addition to being an auctioneer he was a Real Estate Broker. He served as Deputy Sheriff of Taylor County for three terms and was elected Sheriff of Taylor County and served for two terms. He was elected and served as State Representative for three terms in the Iowa Legislature at Des Moines, Iowa.

During World War I he enlisted in the U.S. Army on September 21, 1917 and was discharged August 14, 1919. He served in the European Theatre. He was a member of the American Legion; a long time member of the Baptist Church; over 50 year member of Plumb Lodge No. 285 A.F. & A.M.; and I.O.O.F. Bedford Lodge 91; Golden Rule Rebekah Lodge No. 134. He served many years as a member of the Board of the Fairview Cemetery Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter Eula who died in 1931; a brother Ray Wells and a sister Mae Holland.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Esta of Bedford; daughter Jeanne and her husband Robert Park of Santa Ana, Calif.; three grandchildren Craig Park and his wife Meg of Reno, Nev.; Kim Park and his wife Debbie of Orange, California; Beth Park of Portland, Oregon; a great granddaughter Natalie Park; two sisters, Anna Scott and Gladys Wells both of Bedford and a brother, Elvin Wells and his wife Berniece of Bedford; a nephew Lowell Scott of Bedford; other relatives and many many friends.

His family and friends will remember him as a good, kind and considerate person and he will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

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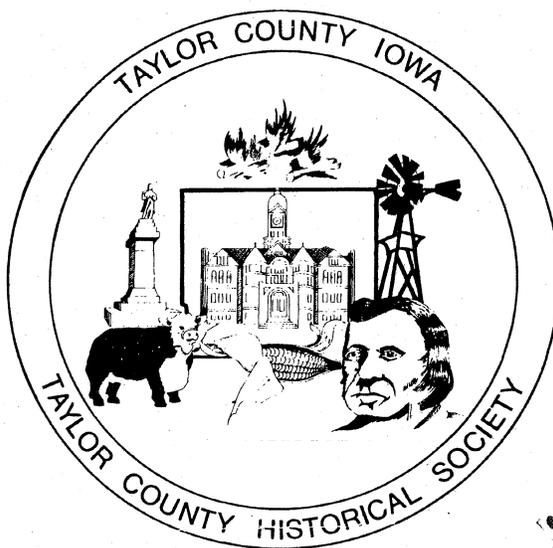
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History of Taylor County Iowa

1981



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**Written by the People of
Taylor County Iowa and Compiled
by the Taylor County Historical
Society, Bedford, Iowa**

RALPH WELLER FAMILY

Ralph Edwin Weller was born in 1916 at the farmhouse where he presently lives. His parents were Fannie Belle Greeley b. 1888 and Charles D. Weller b. 1883. He has three sisters, Laura, Mrs. Corwyn Hicks, Harriett, Mrs. Harold Barchus, and Ruby Woodyard. He graduated from Gravity High School and owns and farms the 200 acres that his father owned. He enjoys woodworking and hunting.

Ralph met his wife, Ruth Greenwood while she was teaching at the country school ½ mile north of his house. Ruth was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1926 while her father was going to Drew Seminary. Her father, John Lester Greenwood, b. 1898 was a Methodist minister for 50 years. Her mother was Leona Pearl Clyde b. 1900. Ruth has four brothers, Arthur, John, Frank, and David and three sisters, Mary, Mrs. Harold South, Leona, Mrs. James King, and Doris, Mrs. Charles Lisle. Ruth graduated from Simpson College with majors in social studies and English. She enjoys gardening and raising flowers. She raises over forty different kinds of flowers. Her favorite flowers are: blue delphiniums, white Madonna lilies, pink and yellow dwarf hollyhocks, lavender blue ageratum, white baby's breath, blue salvia, blue cornflowers, and pink roses. There is joy and a closeness to God in tending a garden.

Ruth and Ralph have two children, Cathryn Irene Weller, b. 1953 and Charles David Weller, b. 1954. Cathy enjoyed speech, English, art and music in high school. She studied piano for 15 years. She graduated from Simpson College with a major in English. She lives in Des Moines and works for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate. As a small boy, Charles liked all the aspects of farming, even putting up hay and feeding the livestock. Charles enjoyed wrestling, track, and F.F.A. in high school. He received a farming degree from Creston College. He is presently farming 320 acres owned by Sylvan D. Naber. His great-great-grandparents were farmers in England and Scotland. His great-grandfathers, Frank Walton Clyde, b. 1876 and John Elmer Greenwood, b. 1863 were farmers in Phillipsburg and Macomb, Missouri. His other great-grandfathers, William Estley Weller, b. 1852 and Frank P. Greeley, b. 1852 were also farmers around Gravity.



Cathy and Charles Weller

WILLIAM DEAN WELLER

William Dean Weller, son of William Wallace Weller and Maude Ellen Knott Weller, was born February 24, 1921 in Taylor County on the farm where he now resides, which has been in the Weller name since 1901. He has one brother, Howard, now living in Shenandoah and one sister, Mary Ellen Lewellen, now living in Maryville, Missouri. He attended country school at Marshall No. 4 and high school at Sharpsburg and graduated with the class of 1939. He started taking the responsibility of farming at

the age of 16 at the death of his father. He was married to Betty Joan Black of Lenox, who was the daughter of Edgar Black and Etta Lillian Recknor-Black on April 18, 1943.

I have three brothers, Kenneth and Donald of Lenox, and Raymond of Peoria, Ill. I attended country school at Platte No. 4, having the same teacher all eight years — Lenore Dunbar Bailey; attended Lenox High School, graduating with the class of 1941; attended commercial college, A.T.B., in Des Moines and worked in the office of the defense plant at Ankeny until getting married.

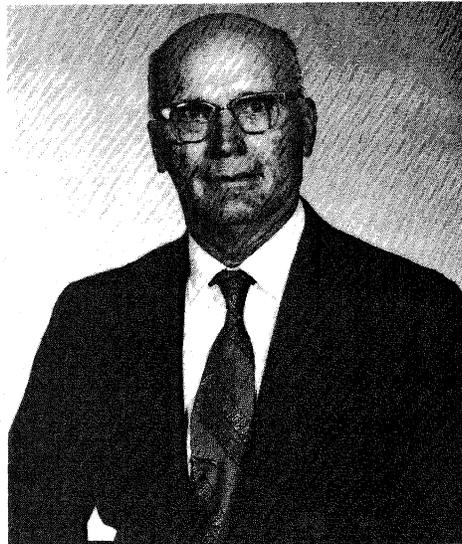
Two children blessed this home, Ronald Dean, born March 12, 1947, and Karen Beth, born Aug. 15, 1950. They both attended country school at Marshall No. 4 until reorganization and then they both attended the Bedford Community School.

Ronald got his degree in agriculture business from Iowa State University; served two years in the Armed Service, spending one year in Vietnam; worked five years for Job Service of Iowa in Des Moines, then purchased a farm in Taylor County where he now resides.

Karen has her degree in home economics from Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri; taught home economics for two years at Waynesville, Missouri in high school. She has her Master's in guidance and counseling from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky. On June 30, 1972 Karen was married to Stanley Price of Junction, Utah. To this union two children have blessed the home: Scott Dean, born Jan. 5, 1975; and Tracy Melvin, born Dec. 21, 1977.

Karen's husband, S.F.C. Stanley, is serving in the Armed Forces and at this time they are stationed in Germany, living in a small German village of Dittweiler. We spent a month visiting them last year and traveled into Switzerland and Austria while there. This was a highlight of our life, as we had never expected to travel overseas.

We are members of the Sharpsburg Methodist Church.



ELVIN WELLS HISTORY

After finishing school I farmed with my father and brother, Ivan. In 1922 he left the farm so I continued at home until my parents moved to New Market.

In 1925 I worked as a farm hand near New Market. February 10, 1926, I married Betty Penwell and we went to housekeeping on a farm south of New Market where we lived for 5 years which led up to the depression of the early 30's. We moved to Villisca where I got employment with a construction firm working on Highway 25 in Guthrie County. In 1933 we came back to the farm where I was born and where we spent the

rest of our married lives, Betty passing away on November 11, 1967.

I first met her at a box supper at Dallas Center schoolhouse when I was there selling boxes, the beginning of a career as an auctioneer. During those early years I went from east to west of Siam to south of Villisca to northeast of Guss selling box and pie suppers. Had lots of fun and it was good experience.

Betty was a 4-H leader, served as township chairman of the Red Cross, was Sunday School superintendent at the Methodist Church in Siam where we were members for many years, and active in community affairs. In 1940 she was vice-chairman of the County Home-Project Committee as well as Mason Township chairman, and was selected to attend the Iowa State Fair where she and Mary Armstrong had charge of Taylor County's home project exhibit. She taught school for nearly 3 years before we were married. Why not 3? Because I came along and changed her mind and in the meantime became an enemy of her students. She also taught 2 years after our marriage.

In 1941 she had the champion cherry pie at the Taylor County Fair, which was also the overall champion, with Verda Irwin winning second place with a gooseberry pie.

Until I sold our farm, which we bought after my parents passed away, I continued living there, selling it in 1970 and moving to Bedford in 1971.

I have been active in the church serving as lay leader of the Siam Methodist Church, and since coming to Bedford, have taught the adult Sunday School class for 6 years, and at present am a member of the finance committee. I am a member of the Oddfellow's Lodge, have served 2 terms as Noble Grand and at present, financial secretary. I am a member of all 4 branches of the order of Oddfellow's presently, holding an office in the Encampment and Canton. In 1980 I have served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Was associated with brother, Ivan, in the auction business for many years. Served as township trustee for 34 years. Served as a member and president of the New Market Telephone Exchange.

In 1975 I married Berniece Bennett who moved to Bedford from Stark City, Missouri in 1973, her husband passing away in July of that year. She has 2 sons, one in California and one in Wyoming, and another son passed away in March, 1968. She is a native of Colorado, being born south of Julesburg. At present she is president of the U.M.W. of the United Methodist Church. Active in club work as well as the church. She is a member of the Rebekah's, served as Noble Grand, is Past Chief Matriarch of the Encampment branch of the ladies L.E.A. Auxiliary, and at present, is president of L.A.P.M. Auxiliary of the Canton at Clarinda, Ia.
Submitted by Elvin Wells

JACOB S. WELLS

Our parents, Jacob S. Wells and Jennie Cavender, were married at the home of her parents, Jan. 11, 1888, and went to housekeeping on a farm south of New Market, Iowa where they spent all but 8 years of their married life.

In 1924 they rented the farm to their daughter and husband and moved to New Market. In 1933 they returned to the farm where they spent the rest of their lives. Mother passed away Dec. 22, 1947 and our father, Mar. 29, 1955. They were the parents of 8 children.

Ray, the oldest was married to Neva Hutchinson, June 25, 1911. He spent many years working for Swift & Co., also the Pepsi Cola Co. After failing health, they moved to Bedford where he passed away in Aug., 1968.

Ivan married Esta Hutchinson, Aug. 27, 1924, and have spent their married life in Bedford. He spent 10 years in the sheriff's office, 6 as deputy and 4 as sheriff. He also was State Representative for 5 yrs.; owned and operated the Bedford Sale Co. for 25 yrs., selling it in the



Jacob Wells Family — 1921

fall of 1960. They were the parents of 2 daughters, Eula who passed away in 1931 at the age of 6 years and Jean who married Robert Park and are the parents of 3 children and are living in Santa Ana, Ca.

Mae married Frank Holland, Feb. 16, 1916, and spent their life farming in the New Market area. Frank passed away May 15, 1962. Then Mae moved to New Market where she lived until her death in Mar., 1970. They were the parents of one daughter, Jennie, who was married to Edd Glidden and she passed away in Aug., 1970. They raised a family of 7 children.

Anna married Basil Scott, June 28, 1924, and to them 2 children were born, Lowell, and Lois Ann who passed away at the age of 10 months. Basil passed away in May, 1975. They spent their married life farming in the New Market and Bedford areas with the exception of 2 years near Clearfield. Anna and son, Lowell, still live on the farm north of Bedford.

Gladys, after graduation from New Market High School in 1928, went to work at Earl May Seed Co., Shenandoah. In 1929 moved to Des Moines working at the Rollins Hosiery Mills; and the restaurant business for a time. Selling it, went to work at the day care center for 10 years. Worked at Mercy Hospital for several years and was transferred to Bergen-Mercy Hospital in Omaha, Nebr., working there for several years, retiring in 1972 to her home in Des Moines and moving to Bedford in 1976. She now resides in the Northside Apts.

Two brothers died in infancy. Submitted by Elvin Wells

THE JOHN WEST FAMILY

My great-grandfather, John West, came to Iowa from Illinois about 1869 with 2 of his children and his second wife. They purchased land in Holt Twp. No. 8, Taylor County. He is laid to rest in the Old Holt Cemetery a half mile from the farmstead.

My grandfather, Bruce West, was 19 when he came to Iowa with his father and sister. She married James Barton and they farmed in the area, having 2 children.

Bruce married Sarah Monahan in 1871. She had come from Indiana as a child. They bought land in the Holt No. 2 Fairview area. Their children and spouses are: Edgar-Anna Heatherinton; Grace-Zay McClure; Effie-Ab. Huntington; Cleaver-May Vincent; Pearl-Richard Cox; Frank-Flossie Bristow; Blanche-Arthur Fudge; and Hazel Wetzel. Bruce died in 1910. Sarah continued to live on the farm, making the house into a duplex when Frank married and took over running the farm. She purchased a home in Corning in 1924. She, her son, Edgar, and family resided there until her death in 1958 at the age of 106. Their children all remained in Iowa farming except Edgar. Except for Zay and his wife, they are all buried in the Prairie Rose Cemetery a few miles from their farm home.

My father, Cleaver, married May Vincent in 1901. In March, 1903, they moved to 80 acres in Holt No. 8, formerly his grandfather's owned by his father, Bruce. After Bruce's death, Sarah bought 80 acres across the road. Cleaver and his family have lived on the farm and State Legislators collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa

death. Cleaver and May had nine children, 3 dying in infancy. Those living and their spouses: Claude; Lloyd-Estella Sterling; Frank-Kathryn Hartman; John-Berniece Jurries; Darlene; and Mary-Darrell Sollars. They grew to adulthood on the farm, got their schooling at Holt No. 8, and attended the Oak Hill Christian Church. The church was built in 1907 with the Wests helping anytime labor was needed. Cleaver, May, Claude, and Darlene were members, and the church and vicinity remain as very important memories for Darlene.

Cleaver died in 1952. Claude and Darlene never married and made a home for their mother and each other, living on the home place until Sarah's death. They purchased 80 acres 1 mile south, but Claude's health failed and in 1969 they purchased a home in Gravity. Claude died in 1972 and May in 1976. At this date, 1980, I, Darlene, am still here. Lloyds have no children and live in Corning. Franks had a daughter and lived in Nebraska. He died in 1970. Johns had a son and 2 daughters and live in Minnesota. Marys had a daughter and two sons and live in Missouri. Submitted by Darlene West

SMITH AND VIVIAN WEST

My grandmother, Grove (Reed) Fordyce Brown, born June, 1855 one of first white children born in Jefferson Township, told about an Indian laughing when she fell off a rail fence after he yelled; also coyotes bothering as she rode horseback after cows. She and my aunt Ophie homesteaded with each having a cabin on corner of their land and across the lane from each other. Earlier my aunt operated a millinery shop in Blockton. My grandfather, Leroy Clay Fordyce, came from Pennsylvania.

My parents, Corb and Della (Davidson) Fordyce lived on farms west of Blockton after their marriage, 1897. In 1921 we moved to Blockton. My brother, Leroy and Marie (Ford) Fordyce, later moved to farm. My sisters and I all taught school in Blockton. Crystal (first, second grades, later Waterloo, Ia.) Garland (fifth, sixth, later seventh, eighth) and I (fifth, sixth, later third, fourth). Garland had taught Brush College, Ringgold County; I had taught Red Top (where all four of us had attended) and Gay 8.

Averill Smith West and I were married in 1939 and live where his parents, Lewis and Nora (Smith) West, started housekeeping, 1902, making 79 years this land has been in West family. We also own 40 acres that has been West land for 100 years. Smith's brother, Raymond, married Beaulah Patrick, Blockton; his sister Nina, now of Sheridan, Mo., married Monta Runyon. Smith's grandparents, John A. (Civil War veteran) and Susan West, lived in Blockton, raising ginseng, selling by mail.

Smith picked corn by hand with team and wagon; aimed to be in field (one was 2 miles away) by daylight. At times he hired a neighbor boy for one dollar a day with dinner; they had a long day! That first winter, being snowbound, we rode in one horse sleigh via fields to go with neighbors to Blockton. Luckily we didn't upset the full cream can or break any eggs that bought our supplies!

We had our own potatoes, apples, home canned meat, fruit, vegetables in cave and cured meat. We cooked on oil stove or wood range; used wood heater; listened to battery radio and enjoyed Aladdin lamp, gas iron, and gasoline motor on washing machine. REA brought electricity, 1941, changing our life style for better.

Our children are Averill Allen, Rosalie Alice, and Gary Gene. Av married Patricia Bruch and their girls are Tanya and Brenna of Colorado Springs. Rosalie married Charles Combs; live in Albany, Mo. with daughter, Suzanne, and son, Zachary. Gary married Cathy Mabarry; also live Colorado Springs. All three were active in 4-H, and we were 4-H leaders. All three showed

Interstate, St. Joseph, Mo. Rosalie was selected Interstate Girl 1965; also had champion barrow, Interstate. All three attended American Royal, Kansas City and National 4-H Conference, Washington, D.C. We were adult leaders at American Royal, and I attended National 4-H Leaders' conference Washington, D.C. Submitted by Mrs. Vivian (Fordyce) West

FRANK L. WETMORE

Frank LeOane and Mary Edith Mawhinney Wetmore came to Bedford about 1909 from Blanchard, Iowa. The newly married couple were beginning what was to be a long and satisfying life in this new town. Frank began his funeral business in a location on Court Street. About 1915 they built the funeral home and residence at 708 Madison where they lived until their son took over the business after World War II.

Frank was born in 1883 to Rice and Geraldine Russell Wetmore. They lived on a farm near Blanchard. He was the only child born to this union and his father died when Frank was only five. His mother remarried and later moved to Bedford after she was again widowed. Here she married Chalton Perkins and lived in her home on Court Street until her death in the late thirties.

Edith had a brother who died in infancy. She was the only surviving child of Frank and Elizabeth Mawhinney. Edith was born in Kansas but the family moved to Blanchard when she was very young. Her father was a cattle buyer.

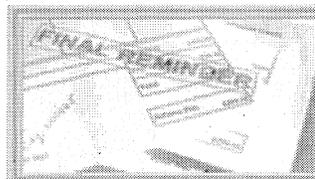
Frank and Edith were married September 9, 1908 in Blanchard. Three children were born after they moved to Bedford: Maxine LeOane, Frank L., Jr., and Mary Suzanne. All three married Bedford residents. None of the children or grandchildren now reside in Bedford.



Frank and Edith Wetmore

Frank was active in the development of the Lake of Three Fires project and before that the building of the local golf course and country club. He was a member of the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, and Oddfellows. Edith was a member of Eastern Star and Rebekah Lodge. The family were members of the Methodist Church.

Frank passed away in June of 1955 at the home they bought after they moved from the funeral home at 1302 Central. Edith still resides in Bedford at the Bedford Manor. She was 90 on May 24, 1980. By Suzanne Larsen

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- **ID:** I29858
- **Name:** Ivan Charles Wells
- **Surname:** Wells
- **Given Name:** Ivan Charles
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** 1892
- **Death:** 1984
- **Burial:** Memory Cemetery, New Market, Page Co, IA
- **_UID:** 4AD36FF969A5164BA38FE0CF8168AA59C16B
- **Note:**

see notes under Margaret Nadine White-Simmons on the Beford Sales Company

?Wells, Ivan of Nkt or Bfd wed Esta Hutchinson of Nkt; 27 Aug at Bfd. BTR 01 Sep 1924, BTR & BFP 28 Aug 1924?

?Wells, Ivan wed Esta Hutchinson; 27 Aug at Bfd. CH 08 Sep 1924?

?Wells, Ivan; IA. B 10 Sep 1981?

?Wells, Ivan's DAU, nee; 8 1/4#. BTR 22 Nov 1928?

?Wells, Ivan's DAU, nee; 8#. BFP 24 Sep 1925?

- **Change Date:** 27 Oct 2005 at 15:20:19

Father: [Jacob S Wells](#) b: 26 May 1860 in Andrew Co, MO

Mother: [Jennie Cavender](#) b: 17 Sep 1866 in Neelyville, IL

Marriage 1 [Esta M Hutchinson](#) b: 1902

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- *Married:* 27 Aug 1924

Children

1. Eula Doris Wells b: Sep 1925 in Bedford, Taylor Co,
IA
2. Jean Wells

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FIND A GRAVE



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Select record type: Public Birth Death Marriage Divorce

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Ivan C Wells

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Birth: 1892
Death: 1984

Husband of Esta M Hutchinson, married 8/27/1924. Son of Jacob S & Jennie Cavender Wells.

Burial:
Memory Cemetery
New Market
Page County
Iowa, USA

Created by: [Angie Connors](#)
Record added: Aug 30 2005
Find A Grave Memorial# 11648871

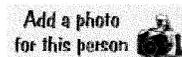


Added by: [Angie Connors](#)

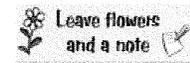


Cemetery Photo

Added by: [Cindy Baldogo](#)



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Select Record Type

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Search



Learn About Your Family History

Ivan

First Name

Wells

Last Name

State

Search

footnote

Photo left for [Ivan Wells](#)



Added by: [Angie Connors](#)
8/30/2005

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