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male

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative E. Thurman - Lind at Chariton, Iowa Senator Doakill,

1. Birthday and place 4. Apr 1935 Algona, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Geraldine Anne Adkins 8 June 1958 Grinnell, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Three past president of National and Iowa Corn Producers U.S. Feed Grain Council

B. Civic responsibilities Shriners; American Legion; Rotary

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership Methodist

may be  
more  
sessions

5. Sessions served 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly 1978

6. Public Offices

A. Local Hancock County school boards

B. State

C. National

7. Death

8. Children Elizabeth Ann; Mark Edwyn; David Brian

9. Names of parents George Edwyn and Mildred (Chapman) Doakill

10. Education Graduated from Corwith High School  
Corwith, Iowa in 1953.

11. Degrees Attended Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

12. Other applicable information \_\_\_\_\_

- Military service - U.S. Army 1954-1956

- He started farming in 1957



# HERITAGE OF HANCOCK COUNTY, IOWA

by  
The Hancock County Genealogical Society

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William's naturalization was September 14, 1883.

Grandpa was married on November 24, 1887 at Garner by Reverend R. Jansson of Immanuel Reformed Church of Belmond to Margaretha Alberta Smidt. On the ship's record she was called Mareka after a grandmother. Her parents were Johannes Jacobus Smidt and Renkemina Luitjens Venenga Smidt. This family came to America on the ship Braunschweig in 1883. She was born on February 13, 1863 at St. Georgiwold, Ostfriesland, Germany.

William Gartz was a barber in Garner, Iowa. They lived in a house across from the Court House. My mother showed me the house when I was quite a small child, perhaps seven or eight. The house seemed small and looked black, so weather worn. I think it was where the south water tower now is.

Grandpa was a barber, his shop being located about where the Iowa Electric Light and Power substation is now, north main street. He also played the violin for wedding dances of the area.

Later the family farmed just south of Duncan, Iowa. About 1904 the family moved northeast of Belmond having sold the farm near Duncan and bought one near Belmond.

On January 20, 1889 the original idea of another church in Garner became a reality and the group was officially organized as the German Reformed Church of Garner. There were twelve charter members; men only being listed as the women had no voice or vote in the congregation. W.A. Gartz was one of the twelve charter members. He was Lutheran in Germany.

Mrs. Gartz was one of the charter members of the Immanuel Reformed Church east of Belmond, Iowa in 1884.

Around the Belmond area William Gartz did much carpenter work and built a number of buildings. He was a school director for many years and also the director at large of Pleasant Twp.

The Gartz children were: Wilhemina Alberta, also known as Minnie, born October 31, 1888, baptized on January 13, 1889 at Zion Reformed Church at Garner, died March 29, 1895, Garner. Johanna (Jennie) Helene, born on February 1, 1890 in Garner, was baptized on August 3, 1890 at the Zion Reformed, married Charles Barkema on February 25, 1914 and died in 1972 at Belmond. She is buried at the Immanuel Reformed Church Cemetery in Belmond, Iowa. Caroline (Lena) Amelia, born March 27, 1891 at Garner; was christened on February 21, 1892 at Zion Reformed. She married John F. Halfpap on December 13, 1917 in Franklin County. She died on April 17, 1967 at Belmond, Iowa and is buried in the Immanuel Reformed Church Cemetery at Belmond, Iowa. Frederick William, born on September 10, 1892 at Garner, baptized at the Zion Reformed in Garner was married to Henrietta Smidt on November of 1917. He died on September 21, 1947 and is buried in Immanuel Reformed Church Cemetery. Alberta (Bertha) Lydia, born on September 29, 1895 at Garner, baptized at Zion Reformed and married Elbert Sylvester Barker on June 6, 1923 at Belmond. He died in August of 1924 and she then married Fred Dewey Halfpap on June 11, 1929. She died on January 4, 1979. An infant daughter was stillborn on March 15, 1897 at Garner. Lydia Annette, born on August 11, 1898 at Garner, baptized at Zion Reformed and married Fred Dewey Halfpap on March 3, 1921. She died on February 27, 1927 in Mason

City, Iowa. Margaretha Charlotte (called Grace) was born on August 5, 1901 at Garner and married Dirk J. Waalkes on July 4, 1924 in Belmond. She lives in Lena, Illinois as of 1986.

Grandma said her family arrived at Belmond on May 11, 1883 by train. At that time a few roads of one or two miles in length were available, but there were mostly trails going across anywhere. Indians roamed the area, not causing too much trouble but often stopping to beg for many things. The men and papooses rode ponies, but the women always walked. There were so many wild strawberries that they would go out mornings to pick a big supply.

by Phyllis N. Boelman

## GASKILL ROOTS

F204

Sunny Slope Stock Farm, the original name of the "Home Place" of the present Gaskill Family, had its beginning in the summer of 1884. David Walter Gaskill of Blackstone, Massachusetts came to Iowa to look over this inviting prairie state. His father's parting words to him were, "Now Walter, don't go out there and buy a lot of that worthless land." Of course that is exactly what he did. First buying one quarter, then all of section 17, Magor Township, Hancock County, Iowa, with his father, David Metcalf Gaskill's name on the deed. Later the father willed the land to his son, David Walter, and daughter, Ida L. Bennet.

On August 13, 1895 Walter and Ida conveyed to Magor Township the necessary acreage for a schoolhouse on the southwest corner of Section 17. The next year Ida deeded her interest in the land to her brother, David Walter.

According to the History of Worcester County Massachusetts, Volume I, and beginning with Edward Gaskill, a ship carpenter from England, the Gaskill's settled in Massachusetts around 1630. They lived in the general area of Salem and Blackstone, Massachusetts for nine generations. Elisha T. and wife, Susan Taft Gaskill, (she was a cousin of Wm. Howard Taft) and their young family moved to Bureau County, Illinois. On October 18, 1872, their son, William A. Gaskill, (1852-1913) married Alice Holroyd, (1855-1910) daughter of Mark Holroyd and Cordelia Knickerbocker. To this union were born two children: Elwyn Guy Gaskill (1874-1950) and Edith L. Gaskill Gowdy (1877-1949). In 1884, the family moved from Wyanet, Illinois to Corwith, Iowa to farm the land belonging to Cousin Walter.

In 1901, William A. Gaskill and son Elwyn purchased the south half of Section 17. Elwyn was the first to live on the land and this was in a "converted" granary, where he and a hired man lived, so they could care for the livestock through the winter months. William and Alice lived in town for a while but decided to turn the granary into a house so added a three room wing and porch to the south side. Here they resided for their remaining years.

by Mrs. George Gaskill

## GASKILL, E. THURMAN AND GERALDINE (ADKINS)

F205

Elwyn Thurman Gaskill, born April 4, 1935 at Algona, Iowa, son of George Elwyn and Mildred Chapman Gaskill, lives on the family farm near Corwith, Iowa. He graduated from the Corwith Consolidated Schools in 1953, attended Iowa State College at Ames, and served two years with the United States Army in southern U.S. and Germany (1954-56), prior to entering farming in 1957. He now operates an 1120 acre grain and livestock farm, producing and finishing 1000 head of hogs annually. Thurman has served in leadership capacities in many agriculturally related organizations including: President (Chm.) of the Iowa and National Corn Growers Associations, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, and the United States Feed Grains Council. He has served on the Agricultural Advisory Committee for Iowa State University, as Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the Iowa Development Commission, and as Vice Chairman of the Iowa Agricultural Promotion Board. He was appointed as an agricultural representative to the Federal Energy Advisory Committee in 1973. Earlier activities include President of the Iowa Farm Business Association, Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Council of America, and in 1969, he was the agricultural representative on a six-man Rotary Group Study Exchange Team from Iowa which conducted a two month study of Australia. In 1974, representing the U.S. farmer, he addressed food seminars in Lima, Peru, and Tokyo, Japan. As a member of a Federal Trade Policy Team, Thurman visited China in 1981. He is currently a member of the U.S. Peace Institute, and serves as a director of the First Federal Savings and Loan in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is a member of the United Methodist Church, Rotary, the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners. He has been active in Republican Party politics.

On June 8, 1958, he was united in marriage with Geraldine Anne Adkins, at Grinnell, Iowa. Their three children, all born in Belmond, Iowa, include Elizabeth Anne, who was born June 6, 1965. Beth currently attends Iowa State University majoring in Consumer Food Science. Mark Elwyn was born December 21, 1967. Mark is currently attending Iowa State University majoring in Electrical Engineering. David Brian was born January 12, 1969. David is a 1987 graduate of Corwith-Wesley-LuVerne High School and is planning to attend Iowa State University to major in Agriculture.

Geraldine Anne Adkins Gaskill was born in Grinnell, Iowa, February 27, 1936, daughter of Kenneth Harold and Ruth Hotka Adkins. She received her elementary education in the rural schools of Washington Township, Poweshiek County, Iowa, graduated from Grinnell High School in 1953, attended Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, and later Iowa State Teacher's College at Cedar Falls. She married Elwyn Thurman Gaskill in 1958 and taught elementary school in Belmond Community and the Corwith-Wesley Community School systems. Following the birth of their children, she was active in church and community organizations as Sunday School teacher, U.M.W. officer, O.E.S., Woman's Federated Club, local and county 4-H organizations, the Community Edu-

cation Board and school activities. She later returned to the education field in 1982, and is currently teaching in the Corwith-Wesley Elementary School. She returned to college classes at the University of Northern Iowa, receiving a BA degree in 1987.

The family currently lives on the original Gaskill farmstead, south of Corwith, Iowa, having moved there in 1979. At that time extensive remodeling of the farm home and grounds was completed. Travel is a special interest for the family and together they have enjoyed trips to Australia in 1979, Nova Scotia in 1981, Europe in 1984, and numerous other areas of the United States. The European trip included a visit to the home of the Gaskill's 1980-81 foreign exchange daughter, Irene Hofstetter of Bern, Switzerland.

by Mrs. Thurman Gaskill

## GASKILL, ELWYN G.

F206

On November 4, 1902, Elwyn Guy Gaskill and Winnifred Clara Bravinder (1877-1924), daughter of Alfred Albert Bravinder and Lucy Lyon, were married at Corwith, Iowa. To this union were born three children: William Albert Gaskill (1904-19??), Marjorie Gaskill Stanton (Jan. 9, 1907), and George Elwyn Gaskill (May 24, 1912).

Elwyn was educated in the schools of Bureau Co. Ill., Chicago, Ill., Corwith, Iowa, and attended Iowa State College. His interests were in farming, machinery and electricity. As a young man he spent a year in Texas where he ran the engines in a saw mill, and when he returned home to farm he ran and maintained the steam engine for the neighborhood threshing ring. He built and maintained the LuVern telephone system and also was hired to maintain the Corwith telephone system until it was sold to Fay Scaee. In 1937 when Rural Electric Coop. brought electricity to Iowa farms, he conducted the "sign up" campaign in this area and was on the founding board of the Hancock Co. Rural Electric Cooperative until his health failed and his son, George, replaced him on the Board. Elwyn was a Master Mason, a Methodist, and on the building committee of the Methodist Church. He served on the board of the Grain Elevator and the Farmers Savings Bank.

Winnifred Bravinder Gaskill was educated in the schools of Humboldt County and the Teachers College at Cedar Falls. She taught in Humboldt County and Corwith. She was dedicated to her home and family, taught in the Methodist Sunday School and at the time of her death in 1924 was president of the Corwith School Board.

In 1925 Elwyn Gaskill married Louise Bravinder (1882-1965), a sister of Winnifred; she was always known as Aunt Kit. Louise received her nurse's training at Des Moines Methodist Hospital. She nursed in the days when nurses lived in the home to care for the ill. She nursed in Iowa, Minnesota, and in the area of Areba, Colorado, where she filed for a claim just across the road from her sister and family. Sometimes prospective fathers came in the middle of the night to have her attend their wives. She sometimes went on horseback as places were few and far between.

by Mrs. George Gaskill

## GASKILL, GEORGE

F207



Back Row: E. Thurman Gaskill, Geraldine (wife), Elizabeth, George Gaskill, Paul Crockett. 2nd Row: Allison, Andrea Crockett, Mildred Gaskill, Georgia Crockett. Seated: Mark and David Gaskill.

George Elwyn Gaskill was born May 24, 1912 to Elwyn Guy Gaskill and Winnifred Bravinder Gaskill, on the family farm two and one-half miles south of Corwith, Iowa. George was educated in the Corwith Public School and attended Iowa State College. He joined his father in farming and became active in the Corwith community. He was a member of the founding board of the Corwith State Bank, spent 37 years serving as a board member and officer of the Iowa Rural Electric Cooperatives. George is a Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. The family is a member of the United Methodist Church.

On June 29, 1933, George was united in marriage to Mildred Genevieve Chapman (Dec. 21, 1907) in Maysville, Missouri. She is the daughter of H. Thurman Chapman and Lydia Ballou Chapman. Mildred was born near Prescott, Iowa on the south Chapman farm. Her education was provided by the Prescott Schools and she was graduated with a B.A. Degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She taught in the high schools of Renwick and Corwith. Mildred has served as President of United Methodist Women, Corwith Women's Club, and the Iowa Rural Electric Women, and Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star. She is member of D.A.R. and Phi Mu Sorority. She has been a leader for Girls 4-H and a member of the North Iowa Development Commission.

George and Mildred are the parents of two children. Elwyn Thurman Gaskill was born April 4, 1935 at Algona, Iowa. He was educated in the Corwith Schools and attended Iowa State College. Georgia Ann Gaskill was born January 27, 1937 at Algona, Iowa. She was educated in the Corwith Schools and received a B.S. Degree from Iowa State College.

Thurman Elwyn Gaskill was married June 8, 1958 to Geraldine Ann Adkins (February 27, 1936), daughter of Kenneth Harold Adkins and Ruth Barbara Hotka of Grinnell, Iowa. Both husband and wife attended Iowa State College and Geraldine continued her work at Northern Iowa University. They reside on the Gaskill farm two and one-half miles south of Corwith, Iowa. To this union were born three children: Elizabeth Anne, born June 6, 1965 at Belmond, Iowa; Mark Elwyn, born December 21, 1967 at

Belmond, Iowa; and David Brian, born January 12, 1969 at Belmond, Iowa. Elizabeth (Beth) and Mark are enrolled at Iowa State University and David is a senior at Corwith-Wesley-LuVern School.

On October 29, 1960, Georgia Gaskill married Paul Bane Crockett, born January 10, 1937 at Oskaloosa, Iowa, son of Henry Paul Crockett and Frances Bane Crockett of Britt, Iowa. Paul was graduated from Britt High School and has a B.S. Degree from Iowa State University. They have two daughters, Andrea Leigh, born September 30, 1967 at Minneapolis, Minnesota and Allison Lynn, born February 11, 1970 at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Andrea is enrolled at Gustavus Adolphus College and Allison is a junior at Breck School. The Crocketts reside in Minneapolis, Minnesota and are in the real estate business.

by Mrs. George Gaskill

## GAST, HERMAN AND META (BREDLOW)

F208



Herman and Meta Gast

Herman Gast, son of William and Maria (Kruger) Gast, was born July 23, 1888 in German (Liberty) Twp., Hancock Co., IA, on the farm where his parents had lived since 1881. He was the youngest of nine children, his mother died when he was four years old. He attended rural Liberty #8 school.

Meta Ann Bredlow, daughter of William and Maria (Griewe) Bredlow, was born Oct. 12, 1890 in German (Liberty) Twp., the fourth of six children. She attended Liberty #2 rural school.

Jan. 26, 1910 Herman Gast and Meta Bredlow were married at the home of her parents. They began farming on the Gast home place, and purchased the farm in 1920 for \$200.00 an acre, which was a high price for that time. They were told prices could never break, but the depression came and times were difficult. They lived on the farm until retiring to a home in Klemme in 1946. Their son, Loren and his wife,

FEB 4 2003

# STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of IOWA

NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR E. Thurman Gaskill

1. BIRTHDATE AND PLACE April 4, 1935 - Algona, IA

2. MARRIAGE(S) TO WHOM/DATE/PLACE Geraldine Anne Adkins - June 8, 1958 - Grinnell, IA

3. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

B. CIVIC DUTIES \_\_\_\_\_

C. PROFESSION \_\_\_\_\_

*Please see attached resume*

4. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION\* Methodist

5. NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS SERVED 5 (Now beginning the 6th)

6. PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

A. LOCAL County School Board

B. STATE State Senator

C. NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

*Please see attached resume for additional information*

7. CHILDREN 3 - Elizabeth Ann, Mark Elwyn, David Brian

8. NAMES OF PARENTS George + Mildred (Chapman) Gaskill

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

FEB 4 2013

**Senator E. Thurman Gaskill**

**Education:** Graduated Corwith Community H.S.; attended Iowa State University.

**Military Service:** U.S. Army 1954-1956.

**Profession:** Farm owner and operator 1956-present; Iowa State Senator 1998-present.

**Activities, Past and Present:**

**Agriculture:**

- President of National Corn Growers
- Chair, U.S. Feed Grain Council
- President of Iowa Corn Growers
- President Iowa Corn Promotion Board
- Addressed Food Conferences in Lima, Peru and Tokyo, Japan on American Agriculture
- U.S. Feed Grains Council Trade Team to China
- Vice President, Iowa Agricultural Promotion Board
- USDA Honors Award Selection Committee
- Rotary Group Study Exchange Team to Australia
- Advisory Committee to College of Agriculture (Iowa State University)
- Vice Chair, Agricultural Council of America
- President Iowa Farm Business Association

**Political:**

- National Deputy Director of Bush Agricultural Campaign
- Co-Leader, USDA Transition Team
- Commissioner of Iowa Development Commission
- Appointed to Federal Agriculture Energy Advisory Committee and USDA Users Advisory Board by USDA Secretary of Agriculture
- Commissioner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Chair, Farmers for Nixon and Ford Agricultural campaigns
- Co-Chair, Iowa Farmers for Reagan/Bush and Iowa Farmers for Bush/Quayle

**Other:**

- Director, First Federal Savings Bank of the Midwest
- Iowa Peace Institute (charter member of the Board of Directors)
- Member, Methodist Church and past Sunday School Superintendent
- Member: Iowa Farm Bureau, American Legion, Rotary, County Board of Education.

**Awards:** Selected to Iowa State University Agriculture Hall of Fame