

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Cavanaugh, James Senator _____
Represented Johnson County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 29 Nov 1806 Hamilton, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place _____

Amy Kinney Howard ca. 1830 probably Michigan

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession _____

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 7th General Assembly 1858

6. Public Offices

A. Local Johnson County commissioner; Johnson County assessor;
Johnson County auditor

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 14 Feb 1880 Lova City, Iowa Buried

8. Children Matthew; Samalich T.; Abram T.; Michael M.;

Uriah J. (Lawrence preceded his father in death); James (preceded his father in death); Wallace (preceded his father in death)

9. Names of parents _____

Cavanaugh, James

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

- In 1828 he moved from Ohio to Michigan with his family.
- He was a Justice of the Peace in Michigan and for 4 years was
associate judge of the Circuit Court of Cass County, Michigan
- He came to Iowa in 1839

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source Non Applicable Applicable Information obtained

- Obituary - The Iowa State Press, Iowa City, Iowa,
Feb. Mar. 10, 1880, p. 3, col. 6

- History of Johnson County, Iowa 1912, p. 960-961

? - Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa 1912, p. 36

Housebreakers broke into Jerry Wilson's place at Tiffin one night this week and stole segars, tobacco and some clothing.

Burglars spent much labor breaking into the B. C. R. & N. depot last night, pried open the cash drawer and found nothing for all their work.

Marshal Stevens arrested Sam Sing, the washeeman for beating Mrs. Sam Sing, a Caucasian female, who had shown the indomitable spirit of her race by nearly scratching out the almond eyes of her Mongolian mate. Esquire Dodder fined the pagan \$10.45. He paid the fine and then gave the woman \$21.00 to pay her fare to her friends in Canada and helped carry her trunk to the baggage wagon as she departed, and so ended the row in Chinatown.

Father Smyth, of St. Patrick's church forwarded several hundred dollars collected in his parish to relieve suffering in Ireland. He is in receipt of acknowledgements from several quarters, amongst them from the Venerable Archbishop of Tuam, the oldest Bishop in the world, and this which we are permitted to copy in full.

LETTERKERRY, (Feb. 20th 1880.)

REV. DEAR SIR:—I beg to return you my most sincere thanks for your very kind letter and generous contribution of £20, toward the relief of distress in this diocese.

I am sorry to say that there is not much chance, at present, for a change for the better in those laws, which, as you justly remark, have led up to the terrible state of things which at present exists here. Neither is there any great effort made by the government to alleviate the sufferings to which these defective laws gave rise. We have the old, familiar succession of red tape, interminable talk, specious plans which are never reduced to practice, but no relief for the people.

Meanwhile the people suffer terribly and their condition is daily becoming worse. Did not public charity stand between them and starvation, deaths from want would be things of every day occurrence. At present we have 12,000 families of 60,000 individuals in this county who wholly depend on relief committees for their scanty dole of Indian meal where with they support life and I fear the numbers in this condition will be still greater.

May God reward and your faithful people for the liberal aid you send us.

Wishing you and them every blessing, spiritual and temporal I am, Rev. dear sir, your faithful servant.

MICHAEL LOOUE

REV. P. SMYTH.

The High School contest last night filled the Opera House to the walls. It was a critical audience. Grown people remember their childhood and are tolerant of the mistakes of the young. But orators of ten or fourteen years have for each other the same feeling as orators of twenty-five or fifty years, so that those who were not permitted to appear last night were not permitted to split the pitying kids of their seniors only, but must play for the favor of an

JAMES CAVANAUGH, born in Hamilton, OHIO, Nov. 29th 1806, died in IOWA CITY, Feb. 14th 1880, aged 73 years 2 months and 15 days.

For forty-one years Judge Cavanaugh was actively and creditably identified with Johnson County. His father was a native of Ireland, of that Cavanagh family which left its name stamped upon the geographical nomenclature of Ireland but was driven from its native soil by the oppressions which sent at one time 450,000 of the flower of Irish youth to fight in the armies of every country of Europe. A Cavanagh and a McMahon offered their swords to France and in our day a Cavnagac has sat upon his war horse and kept order in Paris when paving stones were flying into barricades almost without hands, and a McMahon has been the Marshal-President of the Republic which sprouted in the bloody ground of Sedan.

Another Cavanagh and a Morrissey went to Italy, and in recent history Lamoriciere has marshalled the Zouaves and the stones of the British residency of far Cabul are yet red with the blood of murdered Cavagnari, whose Italianized name retains three of its good Irish syllables. In the scattering of this and other Irish families, the elder Cavanagh came to America, and married an Irish born girl. Of this pair James Cavanagh was born. In 1828 he removed to Michigan with his family and there James, two years later married Amy Kinney Townsend, of the New York Townsends.

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His father was a Catholic and his mother a Presbyterian. Reared in her faith he was all his life a member of that communion and rests to-day in the echo of its funeral rites. He and his good wife, who survives him, reared eight children, all sons, of whom five, Matthew, Gamaliel T., Abram T., Michael M., and Uriah F., are living and Lawrence James, and Wallace are dead. They all reached adult age before the family circle was broken, and all, living and dead, were men worthy their really heroic lineage and their circumspect training.

Judge Cavanaugh was a public spirited and exemplary citizen, who walked up

The robins are coming. How is your winter wheat. Bicycling is the prevailing amusement.

Trim up your trees before the sap runs.

Plant trees and kill the first small cow that touches them.

The State Declamatory Contest takes place in this city in May.

John Whetstone smiles blandly at you through a full plate front.

The telegraph office is moved into the new B., C. R. & N. depot building.

The annual Irving Exhibition occurs Friday, March 19th, at the Opera House.

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Watch the small boy. The junk shop allures him from the path of righteousness and he freezeth to whatever will bring to him ducats.

Henry Benner engineer of one of the busses came down from his high seat Saturday, and henceforth is in the employ of Jno. W. Porter.

Our Opera House is pronounced by the profession to be the cleanest, most convenient and best arranged building of the kind in the State.

The Emma Leland troupe which will hold the boards at the Opera House for a week during this month is pronounced a very good one. The Des Moines Register endorses it in every respect.

The busy bee will have a long summer before him—unless another cold snap visits this region. Rev. Mr. Clute's stands are in excellent condition and at present the youngsters are being crammed with graham flour, a substitute for pollen.

"Going! going!—Gone." That's what Starkey & Luse thought upon entering their auction store yesterday morning, and found it minus a large pile of pants, all the shirts, suspenders, neckties, pocket cutlery, razors and small articles of the value of \$150.00. The burglars entered at the entrance between the two buildings passed through the rooms up stairs descended and entered through a back door.

While Geo. Victor the barber was at supper Friday, a velvet footed sneak thief carried off his money drawer containing money and bread tickets of the value of \$15.00.

The services in connection with the Bishop's Annual Visitation of Trinity yesterday were largely attended and more than ordinarily interesting. The Litany service at eight o'clock was conducted by the Rector. At the usual morning service the Bishop baptized two infants, one the youngest in the Rectory family. The Bishop's morning sermon was an exceedingly able argument in support of Christianity, drawn from the fulfillment of the numerous Old Testament prophecies of the various events in the life of Christ.

February dry and cold winds prevail very low.

The mercury 12 degree above the zero.

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None of the contestants was perfect, but, God bless the children, who can criticise them!

A style compact of all their individualities would be perfect. Let them study dramatic earnestness of Eva Graham and sweetly modulated tones

a native of Ireland, of that Cavanagh family which left its name stamped upon the geographical nomenclature of Ireland but was driven from its native soil by the oppressions which sent at one time 450,000 of the flower of Irish youth to fight in the armies of every country of Europe. A Cavanagh and a McMahon offered their swords to France and in our day a Cavnagac has sat upon his war horse and kept order in Paris when paving stones were flying into barricades almost without hands, and a McMahon has been the Marshal-President of the Republic which sprouted in the bloody ground of Sedan.

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Judge Cavanagh was a public spirited and exemplary citizen, who walked uprightly and dealt justly with all men. His last days were affecting to those near him, in the philosophic resignation to the inevitable which lighted his path to the grave and the entire absence of revolt against the common lot of man and of all things that are. His funeral occurred to day, the service being held in the North Presbyterian Church

Below we present a full report of the

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hunters who went west at that time. In 1853 he returned to Johnson county and settled permanently on his farm south of Iowa City, which he improved from that time until he ceased active labor. Eighty-one years of life were allowed him and he gave the best of them to Johnson county as one of the pioneers.²²

Fifty years or more Isaac Bowen spent in Scott township, coming here in 1839. It was said of him that "in the momentous development of this county he played a great part." His name figures in public affairs from this early date until the time came for younger men to shoulder the responsibility.

James Cavanagh came to Johnson county in 1839 and became one of the early county commissioners, his name appearing in Book II of the records of the county commissioners in the proceedings for three years. He was county assessor under the old law that put all the assessing of taxes in the hands of one officer, and he was also one of the commissioners appointed by Gov. Stephen Hempstead to locate the 500,000 acres of land granted by the federal government to the state of Iowa. Following this he became a member of the legislature of the state, and was the last county judge when the duties of auditor fell to him after the provision was made for a county board of supervisors in 1861. Before coming to Iowa from Michigan he had held office in the judiciary, having been a justice and for four years an associate judge of the circuit court in Cass county of that state. For forty-one years he was actively identified with this county, and until his death at seventy-three was regarded as a strong citizen.²³

I. N. Sanders and Azariah Pinney were others who found homes in the county in 1839, and lived here more than a half century of its history.

Capt. F. M. Irish was one of the very first of the pioneers of the county and a prominent figure when the capital was located here. The records of the county mention his home as the first meeting place of the county commissioners when they adjourned from Napoleon to Iowa City before they had even located the county seat. This pioneer was almost instantly killed on the corner of Dubuque street and Iowa avenue on February 17, 1875, through an accident. Two vehicles came into collision in which the blind pioneer was thrown to the

the practice of his profession and took part in the politics of the period, repeatedly leading the whig party, and by voice and pen enforcing its views of public policy and contributing to its energies. He was, we believe, the first president of the State Agricultural Society, was a Taylor elector in 1848, and was selected as messenger to carry the vote of Iowa's electoral college to Washington. He was appointed register of the State land office, and laying aside that public trust lapsed into private life with the decay of the whig party. When party ranks were reformed he was in the van of the new republican organization, his house was the center of activity. To an hereditary hatred of slavery he united the clearest conception of the means of hardest warfare against it. Let it be said now in praise of his courage that when even Gerritt Smith quailed before popular opinion and slunk into the shelter of an insane asylum after the John Brown arrest at Harper's Ferry, Dr. Bowen, with the dauntless courage that was his highest attribute, faced a nation in arms, and when Seward and even Phillips and Garrison were frightened into seclusion, he walked abroad clothed on with the courage of his convictions. He returned to public life as a member of the Iowa Senate, was then appointed adjutant general, an office which he surrendered early in the war to accept promotion to the post of paymaster in the regular army, which he held through the civil struggle and until he resigned it some time after the war. His whole life betrayed the high blood of Virginia; self-poised, brave public spirited, with a dash of the cavalier in him, few men have so well filled the space in life allotted to them. Five daughters survive him, one the widow of Ex-Senator Howell, of Keokuk, is in Europe, Mrs. Cadwallader lives at Stockton, California. Mrs. A. Beach is in Washington City, Mrs. Brad Pendleton, lives in Kansas, and Mrs. Capt. Sterling in Iowa City.

JAMES CAVANAGH, born in Hamilton, Ohio, November 29, 1806, died in Iowa City, February 14, 1880, aged 73 years, 2 months and 15 days. For forty-one years Judge Cavanagh was actively and creditably identified with Johnson county. His father was a native of Ireland, of that Cavanagh family which left its name stamped upon the geographical nomenclature of Ireland, but was driven from its native soil by the oppressions which sent at one time 450,000 of the flower of Irish youth to fight in the armies of every country of Europe. A Cavanagh and a McMahon offered their swords to France and in our day a Cavignac has sat upon his war horse and kept order in Paris when paving stones were flying into barricades almost without hands, and a McMahon has been the Marshal-President of the Republic which sprouted in the bloody ground of Sedan. In the scattering of this and other Irish families, the elder Cavanagh came to America, and married an Irish born girl. Of this pair James Cavanagh was born. In 1828 he removed to Michigan with his family and there James, two years later married Amy Kinney Townsend, of the New York Townsends. In Michigan he was successively

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EMILY F. CUSTER, wife of James T. Robinson, born in Herkimer county, New York, February 26, 1822, died near Iowa City May 2, 1881. Mrs. Robinson was a sister of Messrs Paul and A. B. Custer. She was of that stout Knickerbocker race which settled not only the Island of New York but the shores of the Hudson as far north as Albany and away up the lovely valley threaded by the silvery Mohawk, leaving for all time its impress upon all the country in the names of its streams and mountains and valleys and villages. Of that blood were Van Ransellaer and the other great patrons, whose manors, larger than feudal baronies, spread their borders over a great part of the Empire Colony. The domestic virtues of her race and its graces of character were marked in Mrs. Robinson. She was married in 1842 and came to Iowa the following year. Of her twelve children, seven daughters and one son survive her, mourning one who was indeed to them a mother in the tenderest implications of that tie which binds hearts but once and is broken never to be mended.

GEORGE B. DE SELLEM, a farmer, residing in Pleasant Valley, post-office address, Iowa City; was born February 22, 1849, in Jefferson county, Ohio. He settled in Pleasant Valley township, Johnson county, in the fall of 1858, and resides on section 26. He acquired his education in Iowa City and was a graduate of the law school of the class of 1877. He was married October 24, 1873, to Miss Mary Guant, the daughter of William Guant, of Pleasant Valley. They have two children: Zou, five years of age, and Annie. He is a republican in politics. A member of the I. O. O. F. of Iowa City, also a member of the A. O. U. W., and Legion of Honor.

CHARLES H. FAIRALL, farmer, post-office, West Branch; residing on section 2, Scott township; was born July 14, 1847, in Maryland, came to Johnson county in 1861. He was married November 30, 1872, to Miss Mary Lanning, of Iowa City. They have five children: Mary, Truman, Clara and Charles. Mr. Fairall is a democrat in politics, and has the honor of being elected to the office of clerk for Scott township. The only democrat ever filling that office since Scott township has been republican. He resides on the old Harris farm, owns 320 acres, 100 acres of it