

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Thompson, William George Senator Thompson,
William George - Represented Linn County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 17 Jan 1830 Butler County, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place

Harriet J. Parsons 12 June 1856

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the Bar 15 Oct 1853.

B. Civic responsibilities GAR, IOOF

C. Profession Lawyer, farmer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 6th, 7th General Assemblies - 1856, 1858 - Senate

6. Public Offices 21st General Assembly 1886 - House of Representatives

A. Local Prosecuting attorney elected in Aug 1854 for two years;
District Attorney

B. State

C. National He was appointed Chief Justice of the Iowa Territory in 1879 by Kirkpatrick B.
Hayes

7. Death 2 Apr. 1911, Kenwood Park, Springfield, Oak Shade Cemetery, Marion, Iowa

8. Children John M and a son who died in infancy

9. Names of parents William James and Jane Jennie C (McCandless) Thompson

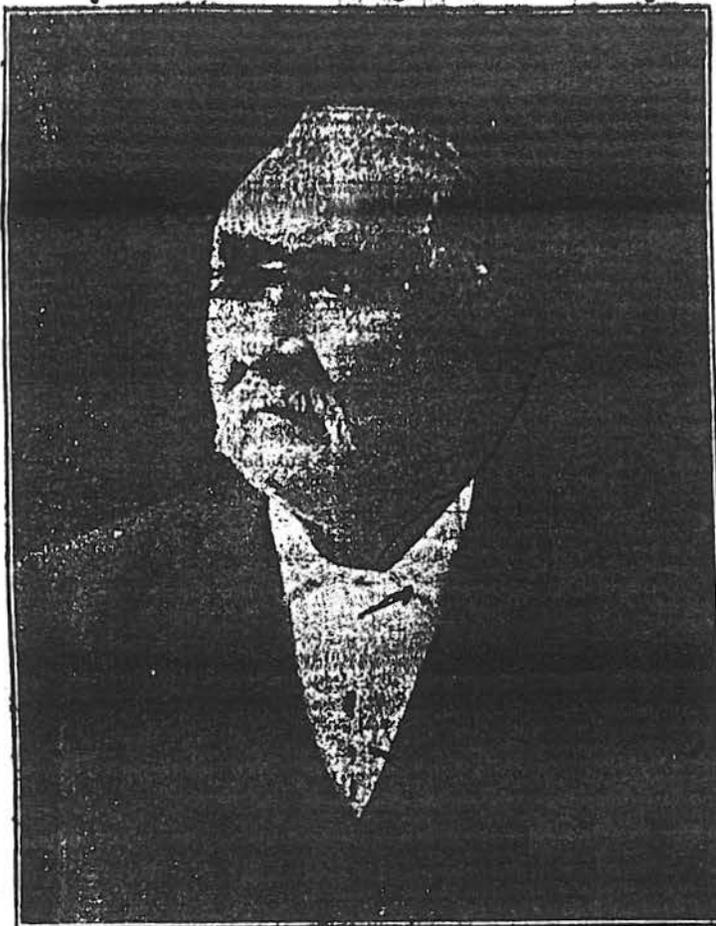
10. Education Educated in common schools of
Butler County, PA

11. Degrees Wetherpoon Institute, Butler, PA; read law with
William Demblin

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came to Iowa in 27 Nov 1853 settling in Marion, Iowa on the
family farm.
- Military service - Civil War - 20th Iowa Infantry Company S.
- He started a law practice in Marion, Iowa in partnership
with Colonel Isaac M. Preston until 1858 and then
he practiced alone.

MAJOR Wm. G. THOMPSON



passage; but we are positive that more are now opposed to it than originally favored it. When Lieut. U. S. Grant came west on his first assignment, he rode out over a Nebraska prairie with an officer who had never seen a prairie and at a certain point the general inquired what was the matter. "Why," said the officer, "How many prairie dogs do you suppose there are here?" "Oh," replied the general, "I don't know, but they topped the ridge and saw me." "But those burrows!" he said. "It is at the State Capital a few score lobbyists fill the ears of the legislators with more noise than all the rest of the State, and get what they demand, in the name of 'the people' they misrepresent. That's the way the primary bill was passed; that's the way, very soon after elections were made biennial to save expense, this farcical system was adopted, involving a great and useless expense. 'The people' do not express their real wishes when they vote, and when they do they are misled by the politicians. They do not vote for the revenue and they do not vote for the expense of the primary. The primary is a bad, pure and simple an expensive and annoying thing, and the cause of its absurdity is the 'primary' of political corruption. 'Abolish the primary' was now cried as loudly as was 'abolish the primary' a few years ago.

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NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

A man was killed and four were injured when a slide on Northwestern Pacific railway near Ukiah, Cal., engulfed a steam shovel and crew.

After October 1 it will be unlawful to have a "common drinking cup" in any park, public building, factory, theater, school, railroad station or tenement house in New York city.

A verdict of \$10,000 damages was awarded to Percival L. Harden, who sued William T. Hoops in New York courts for alienating the affections of Marie Alene Sullivan Harden Hoops.

Miss Gertrude H. Horrigan, thirty-four years old, niece of James J. Hill, was granted a divorce from William J. Horrigan, president of the Northwestern Ice and Fuel company, at St. Paul, Minn.

Active opposition to revision of the tariff was undertaken by the officers of the National Wool Growers' association after a conference at Salt Lake City on the tariff situation as it affects wool.

Eleven Mexicans and two Americans were taken into custody at San Antonio, Tex., charged with setting on foot a military expedition against Mexico. In default of \$1,000 bonds twelve of the men were imprisoned at Del Rio.

The Honduras National railroad, of which L. H. Fairbanks of Mansfield, brother of former Vice-President Fairbanks, is president and chief promoter, was placed in the hands of a receiver, according to information received from Trujillo, Honduras.

Rear Admiral Charles E. Woodland, now in command of the United States division of the Atlantic fleet, has been detailed to represent the navy at the

There was a very large attendance at the funeral services of the late Judge Wm. G. Thompson, Wednesday afternoon. Old time friends from every part of the county were there. Many citizens of Marion and Cedar Rapids. The religious services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Ensign, pastor of the Marion Presbyterian church, after which the Marion Grand Army Post, of which the deceased was a member, gave their impressive ritualistic service. A male quartet composed of D. E. Voris, J. J. Booth, A. D. Hartson and Wm. Sebern furnished appropriate music. The pall bearers were, Wm. Dennis, Charles Sutliff, Charles Grommon, W. T. Jackson, Leroy Canedy and Percy Griffin, all members of the Marion Sons of Veterans Camp. The members of the Linn County Bar Association were nearly all present, a large delegation, also of the Cedar Rapids Grand Army Post and many Odd Fellows. The electric railway company furnished extra cars and Supt. Martin Evans gave the service his personal attention. In the death of Major Thompson Linn county and the state loses one of their leading and best citizens.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

William George Thompson was born in Centre township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, Jan. 17, 1830, and was a son of Wm. H. and Jane (McCandless) Thompson. The former was born about 1790, the latter about 1796. Mr. Thompson's

county until 1862, when he helped to raise the Twentieth Iowa regiment for the civil war, consisting of five companies from Linn and five from Scott counties, and he went to the front as major but the colonel, being a regular army officer, was detailed for brigade command, and the lieutenant-colonel being taken prisoner, the judge was left in command of the regiment for some time. He saw service in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Alabama, and was commander of the post at Arkansas Pass, Texas, for eight months. He was in the siege of Vicksburg, and at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, was severely wounded.

Believing the war was about over he resigned his commission and returned home in the fall of 1864. During the presidential campaign of that year he stumped the state for Abraham Lincoln, and was elected one of the electors at large. He took pride in the fact that he was able to cast his ballot at that time for the martyred president. Soon after this Judge Thompson was elected district attorney for seven counties of Iowa—Linn, Jones, Cedar, Johnson, Iowa, Benton and Tama—and after creditably filling that office for six years he was tendered the re-nomination without opposition, but refused it.

APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE.

Without his knowledge or solicitation he was then appointed chief justice of the Iowa supreme court, a responsible position for one term, resigning in 1879, when he returned to

Cedar Rapids & Iowa Railway & Light Co.

CLASS	FARE	HOURLY RATE
1st	1.00	1.00
2d	.75	.75
3d	.50	.50
4th	.25	.25
5th	.10	.10
6th	.05	.05
7th	.02	.02
8th	.01	.01
9th	.00	.00
10th	.00	.00
11th	.00	.00
12th	.00	.00
13th	.00	.00
14th	.00	.00
15th	.00	.00
16th	.00	.00
17th	.00	.00
18th	.00	.00
19th	.00	.00
20th	.00	.00

*Daily except Sunday. *Sundays All other trains daily. Special Service and Special Rates. Parties on application to managers. Passage equal to 10% and to 15% of regular amount of baggage fare.

Dec 18, 1910. CHICAGO TRAINS.

Train	Leave Marion	Arrive
No 2	daily 7:35 am	Arli C
No 4	daily 3:52 pm	
No 6	daily 2:12 am	
No 10	6:10 am ex Sun to Savannah	
No 18	2:55 pm daily	
Leave Chicago Arrive		
No 1	daily 7:00 pm	
No 3	daily 10:10 pm	
No 37	daily (from Savannah)	
No 9	1:30 pm ex Sun	
No 11	6:05 pm daily	

Train	Leave Marion	Arrive
No 1	daily 12:30 am	
No 3	daily 6:00 am	
No 37	daily 3:00 pm	
No 11	11:50 pm daily	
Leave Omaha Arrive		
No 2	daily 11:43 pm	
No 4	daily 7:15 am	
No 6	daily 6:00 pm	
No 18	7:12 am	

Train	Leave Marion	Arrive
No 103	ex Sun 6:15 am	Arr K
No 9	ex Sun 9:33 pm	
Leave Kan City Arrive		
No 108	ex Sun 9:03 am	
No 10	ex Sun 5:55 pm	

Train	Leave Marion	Arrive
No 22	6:54 am ex Sunday	6
Leave St Paul Arrive Ma		
No 21	8:30 am	7
FAIRLEY LINE.		
Leave Marion Arrive Fa		
No 24	5:15 pm ex Sun	8
Leave Farley Arrive Ma		
No 23	8:10 am ex Sun	10
MARION AND CEDAR RAPIDS TR.		
(Daily Except Sunday.)		
Leave Marion Ar. Ced. Rap		
No 104	6:15 am	6P
No 19	7:35 am	7
No 22	10:35 am	11 1
New train		
No 25	4:15 pm	1
No 21	7:45 pm	8 0

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 Runkle,
 accountant.

which L. H. Fairbanks of Mansfield, Ill., brother of former Vice-President Fairbanks, is president and chief promoter, was placed in the hands of a receiver, according to information received from Trujillo, Honduras.
 Rear Admiral Charles E. Vreeland, now in command of the second division of the Atlantic fleet, has been detailed to represent the navy at the coronation of King George V. Admiral Dewey declined the appointment because of the length of the voyage.
 The grand jury of Floyd county, Ky., which has been investigating vote selling, has returned 210 indictments, and that many more true bills will be found against voters before the inquiry is concluded. This is an increase of about 100 indictments over the last report.

IN NEW YORK.

The American Economist says: New York is in a peculiar sense a self-centered, self-absorbed and self-sufficient city. In the minds of most New Yorkers the boundaries of Manhattan Island, together with a part of Long Island and some territory in the Bronx, are the boundaries of the whole country. Once in every four years they are temporarily reminded by the election returns of that fact that somebody besides themselves lives and does things in the United States. But they soon forget it and go right on thinking that the sun rises and sets in New York alone. New Yorkers think they make money. They don't. They get money. A late breakfast, two or three hours at business, a downtown lunch, an afternoon whirl in the automobile, a 7 o'clock dinner, an evening at the opera, then a late supper, late to bed, another late breakfast, and so on. Such is New York's conception of the ideal existence. The rest of the country exists only when the goods go out and the checks come in.
 The New York millionaire is firmly convinced that cheaper food articles are the exigent necessity of the day. He spends \$50 for a dinner for four. He would pay the same prices if the farmer gave his stuff away for nothing.

IOWA NEWS.

Ames and Grinnell will debate the Canadian reciprocity question.
 William Burns, Iowa Falls, is hunting for his wife who has been missing for ten days.
 C. M. Clark marketed forty-two head of hogs at Elliot that weighed 416 1-2 pounds apiece.
 A new smokestack on the electric light plant at Creston will be erected soon, costing \$5,000.
 Fire at Marcus caused a loss of \$50,000 but Cherokee sent firemen and prevented the entire destruction of the town.
 North-Western railroad is planning to spend \$300,000 in improving the machine shops of the road at Missouri Valley.

citizens.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

William George Thompson was born in Centre township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, Jan. 17, 1830, and was a son of Wm. H. and Jane (McCandless) Thompson, also natives of that locality. The former was born about 1700, the latter about 1706. Mr. Thompson's paternal grandparents, John and Martha (Humes) Thompson, were natives of Perthshire, Scotland, and his maternal grandparents, John and Mary A. (Smythe) McCandless, who on coming to America located within two miles of where Mr. Thompson's parents spent their lives. The grandfathers both bought land and made for themselves homes. In religious faith they were strong Presbyterians. John Thompson lived to be ninety-eight years of age, his death occurring in 1846. The father, William H. Thompson, was a farmer by occupation. He, too, was a strict Presbyterian, and in politics was first a Whig and later a republican. He died in 1865, his wife in 1866, honored and respected by all who knew them.
 Judge Thompson's primary education was obtained in the common schools near his boyhood home, and when not in the school room he assisted in the work of the farm. At 19 he attended the Witherspoon Institute at Butler, Pennsylvania, going home to work during harvest. He next read law at that place with William Timblin and was admitted to the bar October 15, 1853. Hon. Daniel Agnew, afterward chief justice of the United States, presided at the examination.

CAME TO MARION IN 1853.

On the 27th of November, 1853, Judge Thompson came to Marion, traveling as far west as his money would carry him. Marion at that time was a new town and larger than Cedar Rapids. Here he was first engaged in the practice of his profession, in partnership with Colonel Isaac M. Preston under the firm name of Preston & Thompson, this connection continuing until 1858, after which Judge Thompson was alone in business. Judge Thompson's first dollar was earned about two weeks after he located in Marion. It was the trial of a suit before a justice of the peace. Those who listened to the trial recognized his ability and from that time on his success was assured. His reputation as a lawyer soon spread. He won considerable renown in the practice of criminal law, having defended in twelve murder cases, and losing but two. In August, 1854, Mr. Thompson was elected prosecuting attorney and held that position for two years. He was elected to the state senate on the republican ticket in 1856, for a two years' term, which proved to be a very important year in framing the laws of the state that still exist. Mr. Thompson being a member of the judiciary committee. The code of 1851, was revised during the session of 1856-7, and with additions is still in use.

WAS AT SEIGE OF VICKSBURG.

On leaving the senate Judge Thompson was engaged in practice in Linn

Illing that office for six years he was tendered the re-nomination without opposition, but refused it.

APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE.

Without his knowledge or solicitation he was then appointed chief justice of Idaho by President Hayes, and held that responsible position for one term, resigning in 1879, when he returned to Marion. That fall he was elected to congress and took his seat in December. He was a member of the ~~MINNESOTA~~ OR ~~ILLINOIS~~ PRIVILEGES and elections, which required much work, having twenty-two contested cases. He was re-elected and served in all four years. For party reasons he was then persuaded to accept the nomination for representative to the state legislature, and being elected, was chosen chairman of the committee to re-organize the courts of the state, which business he successfully accomplished. He was also a member of the committee appointed to try State Auditor John L. Brown, before the state senate, sitting as a court of impeachment.

FINE RECORD AS DISTRICT JUDGE.

In August, 1894, he was appointed judge of the Eighteenth judicial district, and was elected to that position in November, 1894, and re-elected in November, 1899. His district comprised Jones, Cedar, and Linn counties. He won high commendation by his fair and impartial administration of justice. His mind always was analytical, logical and inducive. With a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental principles of law he combined a familiarity with statutory law and a sober, clear judgment, which made him not only a formidable adversary in legal combat, but gave him the distinction of being one of the ablest jurists of the state.

On the 12th of June, 1856, Judge Thompson married Miss Harriet J. Parsons, a daughter of Chester and Phoebe (Preston) Parsons, who came to Marion from New England in 1850. Mrs. Thompson died February 27, 1897 leaving one son, John M. Another son died in infancy.

MARION.

Has the purest city water, coming from never failing springs, and is the most healthful city in Iowa. It is the County Seat of Linn County, and is division headquarters on three lines of the C., M., & St. P. Ry.

It is located in the heart of Central Eastern Iowa, the richest agricultural region on the globe—a region destined to sustain a dense population, and certain to develop great manufacturing institutions.

It has street cars, electric lights, gas, paved streets, sewerage system, steam heating plant, unexcelled schools, beautiful church buildings, free public library and a public spirited, moral minded citizenship.

It has a wide-awake Commercial Club, ready to aid any project which will upbuild Marion or the surrounding country. For further information address C. O. Ingersoll, Sec'y Commercial Club, Marion, Iowa.

Salesmen wanted to look after our interest in Linn and adjacent counties. Salary or Commission. Address The Harvey Oil Co., Cleveland, O.

MARION AND CEDAR
 (Daily Except
 Leave Marion
 No 103 6 15 a m
 No 19 7 35 am
 No 23 10 55 a m
 New train
 No 37 daily 12 30 pm
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 No 21 7 45 pm
 No 9 9 35 pm
 Lv. Cedar Rapids
 No 103 6 15 a m
 No 22 6 35 am
 No 10 10 20 am
 No 18 2 30 pm daily
 No 26 3 25 pm
 No 24 5 00 pm
 No 108 8 15 pm
 Way fr to Ottumwa
 except Sunday

ORIGINAL

In the District Court of Iowa, April Term, A. D. 1911, Metta Mahol Hopkins, Plaintiff, vs. Everal Hopkins, Defendant. To Said Defendant: You are hereby notified on file in the office of the District Court of Linn County of the plaintiff's motion for an absolute divorce from the plaintiff on the ground that she be awarded minor child, Lela, in her favor. You are also notified to appear thereon and defend second day of the next Court of Linn County, Iowa, on the 10th day of default will be entered judgment rendered she prayed in said petition.

The Old

EYES TEST

LANDS
Geo. C. Roelandt
THE JEW

who have been thus honored; and by his masterly oration delivered at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the "Dedication of the Iowa Monuments," in 1907.

He was originally a Republican and supported Abraham Lincoln for President, but later became a Liberal Republican and affiliated with the Democrats. He was a delegate to the Cincinnati National Convention of 1872, President of the Democratic State Convention in 1898, and a delegate to the National Convention of that party during the same year. He was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention of 1891 and nominated Horace Boies for Governor.

For a time *C. J. Deacon* was a partner of Judge Hubbard, and also a member of the firm of Hubbard, Clark & Deacon. Mr. Deacon had studied in the office of Judge Hubbard, became an able and skilful lawyer who continued in successful practice for many years.

William C. Thompson was one of the early and widely known lawyers of Linn County. He came to and commenced practice at Marion in 1853, from Butler County, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1830, where he received his education, studied law and was admitted to the bar. His education was obtained in the common schools and Witherspoon Institute of his native County. Bill Thompson, as he was familiarly called, was a unique character. In many respects he had the characteristics of a pioneer—in fact, he was a pioneer lawyer. He chewed tobacco exuberantly and swore with a lisp, occasionally. He was outspoken, independent, broad, and sensible in his views, very popular, liked by every person who became acquainted with him. He was an original and amusing character, good natured and extremely humorous. He had an entertaining presence, shedding a genial glow that warmed his acquaintances and made for him hosts of friends wherever he went. We early became acquainted and I always felt a sincere pleasure in meeting him.

These traits, combined with his personal worth and talents, served in a comparatively short length of time to bring him a large clientage and favorably establish him in the public esteem. He early became a favorite, participated in politics, and was honored by his people in being elected in 1854, the next year after his coming there, Prosecuting Attorney of the County. In 1855 he was elected to the State Senate and served in the Sixth and Seventh General Assemblies. He was a leading and influential member of that body. He was one of the organizers of the Republican Party in the State and was elected to its first State Convention at Iowa City, in 1856.

He was progressing favorably both professionally and politically when the Civil War broke out. He locked his office door and bidding adieu to his clients and friends, entered the service, and was commissioned Major of the Twentieth Iowa Infantry. His subsequent career is thus depicted by B. L. Wicks, Fellow and Instructor in the Iowa State University, who has contributed much to Iowa history

through the Annals and other sources, in an obituary of Major Thompson, appearing in the July, 1911, number of the "Annals of Iowa:"

Major Thompson was wounded at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and captured at the siege of Vicksburg. He was present at the capture of Fort Arkansas Pass in Texas and was in command of a post there established. He was honorably discharged in 1864. In 1864 he was chosen as one of the presidential electors. In the same year he was elected District Attorney for the district comprising the counties of Linn, Jones, Cedar, Johnson, Iowa, Benton, and Tama. He was appointed Chief Justice of Idaho Territory in 1879 by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and in the same year he was elected to Congress from the Fifth Iowa District to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Rush Clarke, and was re-elected for the next regular term. In 1885 he was elected to the House of Representatives in the Twenty-first General Assembly of Iowa, during which service he was a member of the committee on the part of the House which prosecuted the impeachment proceedings against State Auditor John L. Brown. He was appointed a Judge of the District Court for the Eighteenth Judicial District in September, 1894, and continued until his retirement from the bench at the close of the year 1906.

Major Thompson was an able lawyer and his continuation on the bench for three terms, covering a period of twelve years, in a district comprising many of the first lawyers of the State, demonstrates the high esteem in which he was held as a jurist. He died at Kenwood Park, Linn County, in 1911, in the eighty-second year of his age. Few men have served the State with more efficiency and general usefulness.

Joseph B. Young, I became acquainted with in the winter of 1866, when we met as fellow members of the State Senate of the Eleventh General Assembly. He had been a previous member of that body, having been elected thereto in 1863 and served in the Tenth General Assembly; but during that term he was, in 1864, appointed a Paymaster in the army, serving until the close of the war. This created a vacancy, and in the fall of 1865 he was re-elected, so to speak, to fill his own vacancy. His seat was contested, but I have forgotten by whom and on what ground the contest was based. The Senate convened on the 8th of January, 1866, and during the contest Mr. Young was not admitted to his seat. The contest, in which I voted to sustain Mr. Young, was finally decided in his favor, and he was admitted to a seat on the 23d of the following February. He was a lively, as well as an able member. He was very irascible and could throw himself into a frenzy of speech and action quicker than any man I ever saw. But this was only occasional. He was a man of talents, a good lawyer, an animated and forceful public speaker. He was a political orator in great demand during heated political campaigns. He was an early, and for many years a prominent lawyer of Linn County. His irascibility may have been attributable to his extraction, for it is said he was of English-German-Irish ancestry, and would fight at the drop of a hat.* He was born in Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1832. His first paternal ancestor was John Young, of England, who received from the King a grant of land in Massachusetts,

* Tuttle's History of Iowa, page 713.

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

OF THE

THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA

WHICH CONVENED AT THE CAPITOL AT DES MOINES,
JANUARY 9, A. D. 1911, AND ADJOURNED
SINE DIE APRIL 12, A. D. 1911.

13632

DES MOINES
EMORY H. ENGLISH, STATE PRINTER
E. D. CHASSELL, STATE BINDER
1911

Senator Stuckslager, from a special committee, submitted the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life and public service of Wm. G. Thompson, submit the following report:

Wm. G. Thompson was born in Center Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1830, and died at his home in Kenwood Park, Iowa, April 3, 1911, was the son of Wm. T. and Jane Thompson, also natives of the same locality. The former was born in 1790, the latter in 1796. Mr. Thompson's paternal grandparents were natives of Scotland as were also his maternal grandparents.

Judge Thompson's primary education was obtained in the common schools near his boyhood home and when not in the school room he assisted in the work on the farm. At the age of nineteen he attended the Witherspoon Institute at Butler, Penn., going home to work on the farm during the harvest season. He next read law at that place and was admitted to the Bar October 15, 1853. Hon. Daniel Agnew, afterwards Chief Justice of the United States, presided at the examination.

On the 27th of November, 1852, Judge Thompson came to Marion, Iowa, traveling as far west as his money would carry him. Marion, at that time, was a new town and larger than Cedar Rapids. Here he was first engaged in the practice of his profession in partnership with Col. Isaac M. Preston under the firm name of Preston and Thompson.

Judge Thompson's first dollar in his chosen profession was earned about two weeks after he located in Marion. It was the trial of a suit before a Justice of the Peace. Those who listened to the trial recognized his ability and from that time on his success was assured. He won considerable renown in the practice of criminal law, having defended in twelve murder cases and losing but two. In August, 1854, Mr. Thompson was elected prosecuting attorney and held that position for two years.

He was elected to the State Senate on the republican ticket in 1856 for a full term, which proved a very important year in framing the laws of the state that still exist, Mr. Thompson being a member of the Judiciary Committee.

On leaving the Senate Judge Thompson was engaged in the practice of law in Linn County until 1862, when he helped to raise the Twentieth Iowa Regiment for the Civil War consisting of five companies from Linn and five from Scott Counties, and he went to the front as Major, but the Colonel, being a regular army officer, was detailed for Brigade Commander, and the Lieutenant Colonel being taken prisoner the Judge was left in command of the regiment for some time. He was in the service in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama, and was commander of the Post at Arkansas Pass for eight months. He was in the siege of Vicksburg, and at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, was severely wounded. After being wounded he resigned his commission and returned home in the fall of 1864.

During the presidential campaign of that year he stumped the state for Abraham Lincoln and was elected one of the electors at large. He took great pride in the fact that he was able to cast his ballot at that time

for the martyred president. Soon after this Judge Thompson was elected District Attorney for seven counties of Iowa, to-wit: Linn, Jones, Cedar, Johnson, Iowa, Benton and Tama, and after creditably filling that office for six years he was tendered the renomination without opposition but refused it. Without his knowledge or solicitation he was then appointed Chief Justice of Idaho by President Hayes, and held that responsible position for one term resigning in 1879, when he returned to Marion. That fall he was elected to Congress and took his seat in December. He was a member of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, which required much work, having twenty-two contested cases. He was re-elected and served in all four years. For party reasons he was in 1883 persuaded to accept the nomination for representative to the state legislature and being elected was chosen Chairman of the Committee to reorganize the courts of the state, which business he successfully accomplished.

In August, 1894, he was appointed judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District and was elected to that position in November 1894 and re-elected in November, 1898 and 1902. His district comprised Jones, Cedar, and Linn Counties. He won high commendation for his fair and impartial administration of justice.

His mind was always analytical, logical and inductive, with a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental principles of the law, he combined a familiarity with statutory laws and a sober, clear judgment which made him not only a formidable adversary in a legal combat but gave him the distinction of being one of the ablest jurists of the state.

In the death of Judge Thompson, Iowa has lost one of its noblest citizens, beloved by all who knew him. But few men in Iowa were better and more favorably known, and it is a universal expression that the State of Iowa has suffered a great loss in his death.

In honor of his memory it is therefore.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered in the Journal of the Senate and that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to mail an engrossed copy of the same to the surviving members of the family of the decedent.

WILLARD C. STUCKSLAGER,
A. L. AMES,
H. R. CHAPMAN,
Committee.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

Senator Fitchpatrick, from a special committee, submitted the following report and moved its adoption:

To the President of the Senate: Your Special Committee to prepare resolutions upon the character and public services of the late Senator Ericson, beg leave to report as follows:

Charles John Alfred Ericson was born in Sodra Vi Parish, Sweden, March 8, 1840. The family emigrated to America in 1852, settling on a farm in Rock Island County, Illinois, where Charles worked on the farm,

THE UNITED STATES
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY
AND
PORTRAIT GALLERY
OF
EMINENT AND SELF-MADE MEN.

IOWA VOLUME.

CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1878.

forty dollars, but under the steady and persistent growth of business his emoluments increased also, and during the last year of his active partnership his share of the proceeds amounted to over fifty thousand dollars.

In 1873 his health gave way under a nervous attack, and relaxation and change being necessary for his restoration, he made a visit to Europe in that year with his family, and remained two and a half years absent, visiting the principal cities in that part of the globe. Since his return he has engaged in banking operations in connection with the Davenport National Bank, of which he is an officer and large stockholder.

Mr. Smith is still in the prime of life, a most amiable and accomplished gentleman, courteous,

benevolent and modest. As a financier, he has few superiors, while all his transactions are governed by probity and wisdom.

He has been a member of the Baptist church since his fifteenth year, and is one of the most successful workers and generous contributors in its ranks.

In politics, he has always been republican.

On the 17th of August, 1863, he married Miss Mary, daughter of the Rev. Julius A. Reed, of Davenport, Iowa, a graduate of Yale College, who came west in 1831, and who for nearly twenty-five years has been connected with the Congregational Home Mission Cause in Iowa. They have a child, a daughter named Anna Reed Smith, born on the 15th of September, 1870.

HON. WILLIAM G. THOMPSON,

MARION.

OUR recollections of William George Thompson, of Linn county, Iowa, extend back nearly twenty years, when he had opened a law office at Marion, the county seat. It required but a short acquaintance to discover his brilliancy, and the other elements likely to lead to success in his profession to eminence in the judicial district. His career has not disappointed the expectation of his friends.

William G. Thompson is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in Butler county, on the 17th of January, 1830. His parents, William H. and Jane McClandess Thompson, were of Highland-Scotch descent. His father was a farmer, and young William spent the first eighteen years of his life at home aiding in tilling the soil during the summers and attending a district school two miles away during the winters. He had a strong desire for knowledge, and made the best progress possible under the circumstances. When about nineteen he went to Witherspoon College, in Butler county, and spent two years there, pursuing such studies as he thought would be of most service to him, he having the legal profession in view. In 1851 he entered the law office of William Timblin, of Butler, and was admitted to the bar on the 15th of October, 1853, being examined by Hon. Daniel Agnew, now of the supreme bench of Pennsylvania.

With an independent spirit, and full of ambition, Mr. Thompson struck out for himself with more

enthusiasm in his heart than money in his pocket. On the 27th of November, the month following his examination, he started for Iowa, and pitched his tent in Marion, one of the most lovely rural towns in the state. He opened an office without delay, and had a good practice almost from the start, and for twenty years has been one of the leading lawyers at the Linn county bar.

In 1855 and 1856 he edited the Linn county "Register," displaying good abilities as a writer.

In August, 1862, he went into the army as major of the 20th regiment of Iowa Infantry; was in the service two years, and had command of the regiment no inconsiderable part of the time. In the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, on the 7th of December, 1862, Major Thompson was severely wounded, but soon recovered, and in six weeks was again in the service. He was at the siege of Vicksburgh; in all the Missouri and Arkansas campaign; then in Texas, where he had command at Aransas Pass for eight months. Few officers in Iowa regiments had more dash, bravery and coolness than Major Thompson. He was held in the warmest esteem by the heroic 20th.

Major Thompson has been the recipient of repeated honors at the hands of the people, and has been proffered more offices than he would accept. In 1854 he was elected prosecuting attorney, serving two years. He was member of the state senate in

1855 and 1856, and though the youngest member ever in that body, he was very active, advocating important measures with a good deal of logical force, and receiving the warmest congratulations of fellow-members of the senate and of his constituents. For eight years, up to January, 1875, Major Thompson was district attorney for the eighth judicial district, and so popular that he was urged by both political parties to stand for another renomination, but peremptorily declined.

Major Thompson is a Knight Templar in the Masonic order, also an Odd-Fellow.

He has the ancestral regard for the Presbyterian faith, and attends that church.

He has always been an earnest advocate of the principles of the republican party, and is one of the

ablest stump speakers in central Iowa. In 1864 he was one of the electors at large, and did very effective work during the canvass.

On the 12th of June, 1856, he married Miss Harriet J. Parsons, of Marion, previously of Syracuse, New York. They have one child.

With no friends and not much money, Major Thompson opened an office in Marion twenty-three years ago. He made friends rapidly, and money at first with moderate speed; both he has continued to accumulate. He has long had a host of friends, and a competency. He is a generous-hearted man, ready to help the needy, and does not believe in anybody's living wholly for himself. The major is known all over the state, is a pet of the legal fraternity, and much respected by all classes.

HON. LORING WHEELER,

DE WITT.

LORING WHEELER, son of Jonas and Sarah Boynton Wheeler, was born on the 16th of July, 1799, the place of his nativity being Westmoreland, Cheshire county, New Hampshire. His grandfather, John Wheeler, fought for American independence, beginning on the 17th of June, 1775, and spending his fortune in that grand struggle. His father, Jonas Wheeler, was a farmer, and Loring followed that occupation at home until about 1816, after which date he spent two years at an academy in Chesterfield, making good use of the precious opportunity; then returning to Westmoreland he became a clerk in a store.

On the 21st of April, 1821, with three other enterprising young men, Mr. Wheeler started for the west in a two-horse buggy, going by the way of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There they purchased a flat-boat, took their team down the Ohio river as far as Shawneetown, Illinois, at which place they disposed of the boat, and struck across the country to Alton, Illinois, where they had friends.

Mr. Wheeler soon went to Green county, Illinois, whence, after clerking two years, he repaired to Exeter, Morgan county, and worked for Colonel Enoch C. Marsh, an extensive trader and flour manufacturer. While thus employed he was often sent to New Orleans with various kinds of stock and provisions, he acting at different times in almost every official capacity on the boat, including the

positions of mate and captain. A writer in the Clinton county "Advertiser" states that Mr. Wheeler's was the first flat-boat that ran out of the Illinois, and that he saw the first steamboat that ever ascended that river.

Interested in the reports of lead at Galena, Illinois, in 1827 he went there, and mined until 1834, when he crossed the Mississippi river to Dubuque. On the 26th of December of that year he was commissioned chief justice of the county court for Dubuque county, which was then in Michigan territory, and embraced the northern half of what is now the State of Iowa. After holding one term of the court he resigned. He sold goods two years in Dubuque in company with Hiram Loomis, and in the summer of 1836 came to Round Grove, near where De Witt now stands, made a claim on the 4th of July, and there, with his brother-in-law, Alva G. Harrison, erected a cabin, and then returned to Dubuque. The next winter he was a member of the legislature of Wisconsin territory, to which Iowa then belonged, the session being held at Belmont, on the east side of the river, near Dubuque, and was also a member of the next legislature, which met at Burlington, on the west side of the river. In the spring of 1841 he settled on his farm at Round Grove, and in the autumn of that year was appointed clerk of the court for the new county of Clinton, holding that office during the territorial history of Iowa. In 1846

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Thompson, William George
 Residence
 Occupation
 Date birth Jan. 7, 1830 Place Butler Co. Penn.
 Date death 12 Ap 1911. Place Marion, Iowa
 Cause Oak Shade Cem. Place burial " "
 War record Major 20 Iowa Inf.
 Rank Company Regiment State Organization
 Age 32 Res. Marion b. Fa
 Enlisted Apptd Major 1 Ag 1862
 Date Place
 Wded severely 7 D 1862,
 Prairie Grove, Ark.
 Resigned 18 My 1864
 Discharged Date Place

War
 Battles, etc.
 Nearest relatives
 Father William H Nativity
 Mother Jane McCandless Nativity
 Wife Harriet Parsons
 Children
 John M
 William C

Sources Roster Iowa Soldiers: Thompson, Wm. G.
 Fremont Gazette Apr. 13, 1911 p 3- Col. 1.

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Thompson, William G
 Offices of honor in G. A. R.

Record Membership and Dues Paid

Post name	Post No.	Place	Date Joined
Robert Mitchell	206(35)	Marion	19 Jun 1884

Year	Date Paid	Amount
Member-at-Large		

Upon leaving the service he returned to Marion, Iowa and again entered into the practice of law. Marion remained his home until the time of his death. He had a remarkable career, being elected and serving two terms in the Legislature of Iowa: two terms as Prosecuting Attorney of the old Judicial District, composed of Jones, Cedar, Linn, Benton, Tama, Iowa and Johnson Counties: two terms in Congress. He was appointed Federal Judge in Idaho and served a short time in that capacity, when he resigned. He was afterward elected and served twelve years on the District Bench of the Eighteenth Judicial District of Iowa.
 Suspended
 Died

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William G. Thompson

Birth: Jan. 17, 1830
Butler
Butler County
Pennsylvania, USA

Death: Apr. 2, 1911
Marion
Linn County
Iowa, USA

US Congressman. From 1854 to 1856, he was the prosecuting attorney of Linn County, Iowa and member of the State Senate, 1856 to 1860. During the Civil War he served as a Major in the 20th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Afterwards he was appointed chief justice of the Territory of Idaho and served until his resignation in 1879. That same year he was elected as a Republican to the Forty-sixth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Rush Clark. He was reelected to the Forty-seventh Congress and served until 1883. Declining to be a candidate for renomination, he was a member of the State house of representatives, 1885 to 1887 and judge of the eighteenth judicial district of Iowa, 1894 to 1906. His brother was Congressman John McCandless Thompson of Iowa. (bio by: John "J-Cat" Griffith)

Family links:

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Burial:
[Oak Shade Cemetery](#)
Marion
Linn County
Iowa, USA

Maintained by: Find A Grave
Record added: May 16, 2007
Find A Grave Memorial# 19395898



Cemetery Photo
Added by: Hiesela

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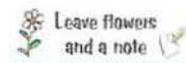
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Added: May. 18, 2007



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Contact: Martin Hauan martin@parbell.net

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- **ID:** I4206
- **Name:** William G. THOMPSON
- **Given Name:** William G.
- **Surname:** Thompson [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#)
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** 17 Jan 1830 in Butler Co., PA [4](#) [2](#)
- **Death:** 2 Apr 1911 in Kenwood Park, IA [2](#)
- **Burial:** Oak Shade Cemetery, Marion, IA [2](#)
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- **Change Date:** 24 Oct 2006 at 22:19



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Father: [William Humes THOMPSON](#) b: 1 Dec 1796 in Alleghany Co., PA
Mother: [Jane C. MCCANDLESS](#) b: 1796

Sources:

1. Media: Book
 Abbrev: Butler County PA
 Title: History of Butler County Pennsylvania, 1895
 Publication: History of Butler Co., PA
 R. C. Brown Co., Publishers, 1895
 Repository:
 Name: n/a
2. Media: On-line family tree
 Abbrev: Extended Family Tree
 Title: Extended Family Tree
 Author: Jennifer Davidson
 Publication: 10 Oct 2004
 Ancestry.com. [database online]. Provo, UT: MyFamily.com,



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Children (1)

John M Thompson

B: 1875

William George Thompson
B: 17 JAN 1830 in Butler County, PA
D: 2 APR 1911 in Kenwood Park, IA
H J Thompson B:abt 1830 in New York

Parents

William Humes Thompson
 1797-1853

Jane Jennie C. McCandless
 1798-1868

1860 United States Federal Census

Name: **William G Thompson**Age in 1860: **28**Birth Year: **abt 1832**Birthplace: **Pennsylvania**Home in 1860: **Marion, Linn, Iowa**Gender: **Male**Post Office: **Marion**Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William G Thompson	28
	H J Thompson	24
	Clark Akers	17
	Isabel Milner	17

Source Citation: Year: 1860; Census Place: Marion, Linn, Iowa; Roll: M653_332; Page: 217; Image: 217; Family History Library Film: 802332.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Eighth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color, birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1860 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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Home Person

William George Thompson

Birth **17 JAN 1830** in Butler County, PA
Death **2 APR 1911** in Kenwood Park, IA

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Comment on this

Show immediate family More options

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Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

Timeline (View details)

- 1830** Birth
Butler County, PA
- 1860** Residence
Marion, Linn, Iowa
Age: 30
1 source citation
- 1885** Residence
Franklin, Fremont, IA
Age: 55
1 source citation
- 1900** Residence
Rapids, Linn, Iowa
Age: 70
1 source citation
- 1911** Death
Kenwood Park, IA
2 Apr
Age: 81
1 source citation
- Burial
Oak Shade Cemetery, Marion, IA
1 source citation
- Occupation
Teacher, Lawyer, Congressman, Judge

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

Add a comment

Family Members

Parents

William Humes Thompson
1797 - 1884

Jane Jennie C. McCandless
1798 - 1868

Show siblings

Spouse & Children

H J Thompson
1836 -

John M Thompson
1875 -

Family group sheet

Historical Records

1860 United States Federal Census

1900 United States Federal Census

Iowa State Census 1885

View source citations (5)

Web Links

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