Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Blackford, John Ellison Senator _____

Represented Winnebago, Kossuth, Emmet, Palo Alto, Dickinson, Sac, Clay, and Buena Vista Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 4 Jan 1825 Warren County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Mary M. Call Sept 1845

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Charter member of the Grange that was organized in June 1873; first Master of the Order and Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry

B. Civic responsibilities Charter member of the Kossuth County Historical Society

C. Profession Manager of the Patrons Cooperative store; president of the Kossuth County Mutual Insurance Company; sawmill operator; farmer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 8th, 9th General Assemblies 1860, 1862

6. Public Offices

A. Local Kossuth County treasurer for one term; Justice of the Peace during the 1870's

B. State _____

C. National A delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860 that nominated Abraham Lincoln the first time

7. Death 20 Aug 1911 Algona, Iowa; buried Riverside Cemetery, Algona, Iowa

8. Children Ella Algona (Mrs. Eugene H. Clarke); Edwin J.; Earnest; George E.; Clarence; Mary Kate (preceded her father a year before his death)

9. Names of parents _____

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

Blackford, John Ellison

10. Education Attended a couple of terms of a district school since his neighborhood of Delaware was all primitive settlements and the schools very primitive; mostly self-taught

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information Republican

- While still a boy he moved with his parents to northern Indiana where he grew to manhood
- In Sept 1855 he came with his wife and 2 children moving to Algona, Iowa and arriving on 10 Oct 1855.
- During the Civil War he was largely influential in enabling Kossuth County to win the sanitary flag as a prize for furnishing more funds for the relief of the sick and wounded than any other company in the state
- His wife Mary M. Call was the sister of Asa and Cochrane Call who founded the town of Algona.
- Wife, Mary, died in 1905

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

Blackford, John Ellison

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary - The Kossuth County Advance, Algona, Iowa, Thurs. Aug. 24, 1911, p.1, col. 1, 2			
- Obituary - The Upper Des Moines Republican, Algona, Iowa, Thu. Aug. 23, 1911, p. 1, col 3, 4, 5			
- History of Kossuth County, Iowa 1913, p 42-46			
- ancestry.com (accessed 10/2/2007) ✓			

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

es Moines - Republ

ALGONA, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1911.

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DIES AFTER A LONG ILLNESS.

Hon. J. E. Blackford Enters His Long Sleep Sunday Afternoon at His Home in Algona.

Settled in Algona in 1855 and Was a Prominent Factor in the Building up of This Community.

The death Sunday evening about 5:30 o'clock, of J. E. Blackford, brings to an end the life of one whose history has been closely identified with that of Algona from its very earlist days. The beginning of his last illness dates back to about the first of the year and several times during the past six months it has seemed as if the old gentleman could not hold out much longer and then he would seem to rally and be quite like himself again. Throughout all, however, the family realized that, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Blackford was not confined to his bed all of the time, he was steadily failing, therefore there was no expression of surprise when the end came. At times he was quite restless and appeared as if he suffered pain but the end was very peaceful. He had been sitting in his easy chair and but a few minutes before his death had been assisted to bed. He soon fell into a quiet sleep and passed away without awakening. Mrs. Ed Blackford was sitting by his bedside and the only known

I did attend a couple of terms of a good district school." Evidently the taste for reading acquired at that school continued to follow him all through life.

In politics he was an old time abolitionist and free soil man and at the formation of the republican party naturally cast his lot with them. He represented this district in the Iowa legislature for two terms, from 1859 to 1862, and served four sessions. Relating his experiences during those campaigns Mr. Blackford said: "My district at this time comprised seven counties and in making my canvass I frequently traveled 40 miles to see a single voter." He served the county as treasurer one term, being elected to that office in October, 1869. He was also justice of the peace during several years of the 70's. Mr. Blackford was one of the members of the Iowa delegation to the national republican convention that nominated Lincoln for president the first time. He was at all times a strict temperance man and one of the charter members of the Good Templars lodge. He was also a charter member of the Grange, organized in June, 1873, being the first Master of the the order and Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry for about ten years, as well as a member of the National Grange in which he took a great interest.

For many years Mr. Blackford was manager of the Patron's Co-operative store, finally buying out others' interest in the concern and continuing the business in his own name for sev-

The funeral will be held this afte noon at 2:30, from the late home the deceased and the burial in Riv view cemetery. Services will be co ducted by Rev. Foster A. Smiley, pa tor of the Presbyterian church.

AUTO TURNS TURTLE.

An Estherville Party of Five Have a Se ous Accident Sunday Near Wesley. Escape Injury.

Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Burney a young child, accompanied by Mr. a Mrs. A. D. Brown, all from Esth ville, met with a bad accident Su day, while on their way to Clear La for a day's outing. They were m ing the trip in Dr. Burney's n Chalmers car and had reached t high culvert just north of Wesl where the road to the lake turns ea There is a hole in the grade on north side of the road, just at the e of the bridge, about three foot ac and some five or six feet deep, wh cannot be seen from the west unt person has almost reached the s Even persons well acquainted w the road have to use extreme caut in order to pass over this plac safety and it is no wonder that Burney auto turned turtle into t hole. How all the occupants esca with only slight injuries is beyo comprehension.

Mr. Brown was the first to see danger and remembers that he m an effort to jump from the mach which is undoubtedly the reason landed clear of the auto. Dr. Mrs. Burney were held in the the machine but in such a manner not to seriously injure them

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

own private car. His di-
rom Billings, Montana, to
North Dakota, and be will
headquarters in Glendive.
ecognized as one of the best
en in the west and his rise
apid. He is one of the old-
na ys who have made
e rld's work and his
Algona friends are pleased
of his advancement to high
The Spokane Spokesman-
inted a picture of Harry
e story of his promotion as

antry, trainmaster of the
acific in Spokane, and con-
the Idaho division of the
since 1900 as dispatcher,
tcher and trainmaster, has
oted to superintendent of
stone division with head-
Glendive, Montana. Mr.
ceeds D. O. Johnson at
nd E. W. Walker is filling
caused by Mr. Lantry's
until his successor is nam-
Rapelie, superintendent of
ivision, was connected with
stone division for 20 years
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. Mr. Lantry entered up-
du August 7.

years ago T. H. Lantry
yed as brakeman on the
Prescott & Phoenix rail-
years later, on leaving the
s its chief dispatcher. His
perience began as an oper-
spatcher on the Soo Line
ater in the same year he
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n Pacific, where he remain-
4. After two years with
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. Lantry, in 1895, went to
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x months, going with the
acific in September, 1900.
ry' e on the Northern
bee steady, and his old
at division headquarters
with his promotion.

HON. J. E. BLACKFORD

Prominent Early Day Man Who Died Sunday Afternoon.

not hold out much longer and then he would seem to rally and be quite like himself again. Through all, however, the family realized that, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Blackford was not confined to his bed all of the time, he was steadily failing, therefore there was no expression of surprise when the end came. At times he was quite restless and appeared as if he suffered pain but the end was very peaceful. He had been sitting in his easy chair and but a few minutes before his death had been assisted to bed. He soon fell into a quiet sleep and passed away without awakening. Mrs. Ed Blackford was sitting by his bedside and the only knowledge she had that the end had come

Iowa delegation to the national republican convention that nominated Lincoln for president the first time. He was at all times a strict temperance man and one of the charter members of the Good Templars lodge. He was also a charter member of the Grange, organized in June, 1873, being the first Master of the the order and Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry for about ten years, as well as a member of the National Grange in which he took a great interest.

For many years Mr. Blackford was manager of the Patron's Co-operative store, finally buying out others' interest in the concern and continuing the business in his own name for several years more, in the Blackford

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MRS. LEO

Elizabeth Atley
Ohio, on January
parted this life

URT DENIES MOTION.

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

...ern Pacific, where he remain-
1894. After two years with
ta Fe, Prescott & Phoenix
Mr. Lantry, in 1895, went to
t Northern as a dispatcher,
remained until July, 1897.
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ve... h the Chicago, Bur-
& Quincy as a dispatcher,
remained until February,
then returned to the Great
as a dispatcher and remain-
six months, going with the
Pacific in September, 1900.
ntry's rise on the Northern
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COURT DENIES MOTION.

o Set Aside Divorce Decree
Andrew D. Clarke of Minne-
Year Ago.

D. Clarke is again receiv-
paper notoriety through the
of the Minneapolis papers.
that Mr. Clarke recently ap-
the Nevada courts to have
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1910, declared null and void.
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that ...e statutory limit of
hs in which such an action
taken had expired.
hat Mr. Clarke expected to
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aside can hardly be under-
ess he thought by so doing
be enabled to obtain a prop-
separation from his wife and
ble to marry another in the
re. The refusal of the Ne-
rts to set aside the divorce
no way affects the ruling of
esota courts which has de-
he divorce illegal on the
of having been obtained
perjury and fraud. Under
ditions if Mr. Clarke should
in getting married again he
liable to criminal action for

Hinchon Two Loads.

Tribune: Well! well! Hinchon,
...atic editor of Algona was
... Canada, according to
account. At the Falls of
renci Hinchon says: "The ele-
king us up in two loads."
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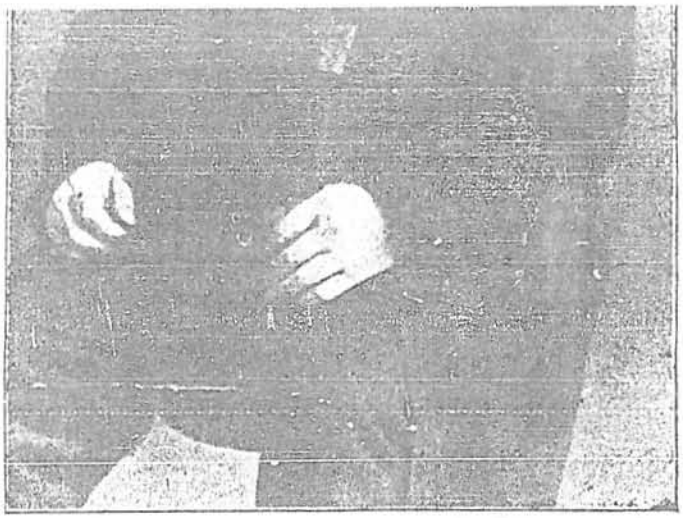

Prominent Early Day Man Who Died Sunday Afternoon.

edge she had that the end had come was the discovery that Mr. Blackford had ceased to breathe.

John Ellison Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825, which means that he was 86 years, 7 and one-half months of age at the time of his death, August 20, 1911. While yet a boy his parents moved to the then frontier of northern Indiana, where he grew to manhood. In September, 1845, he was married to Mary M. Call, who preceded him into the future world some six years ago.

In September, 1855, Mr. Blackford, with his wife and two children, started for Iowa with the slow, sure but steady method of transportation, the ox team and wagon, arriving in Algona October 10, 1855. Only three log cabins then existed where the city is now built; Judge Call's on the spot where W. C. Danson now resides, J. W. Moore's where the Fred Corey barn now stands, and the Levi Maxwell home in the west edge of town. A log addition to the Call cabin was the Blackford home during their first winter in Algona, but in the following spring they moved into the Maxwell cabin which stood on the spot that has been the Blackford homestead ever since.

Mr. Blackford was a well informed man, and a ready off-hand speaker on any topic up for consideration. Speaking of his early life he said: "My opportunities for an education were very limited. The country was like all primitive settlements, and the schools primitive in the extreme, but eral years more, in the Blackford building south of the court house. He was the first president of the Kossuth County Mutual Insurance Company, and in company with the late C. C. Chubb and other early members of the organization, labored early and late for the success of this popular organization. Thus was a long and busy life filled in with the performance of duties that related to the welfare of not only himself but also the community in which he dwelt. During the war of the rebellion he was largely influential in enabling Kossuth county to win the sanitary flag as a prize for furnishing more funds for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers than any other county in the state, in proportion to its population. He was an active member of the old settlers' association and a charter member of the County Historical Society. In all matters pertaining to the wellfare of Algona or Kossuth county, Mr. Blackford always exhibited a living interest and any history of this county, without a record of his part in the early life of this community, would be incomplete.

Of six children born into this family, Mary Kate, who passed away about a year ago, is the only one missing. His daughter, Ella Algona Blackford-Clarke, was the first white child born on the townsite of Algona. Mrs. Clarke and her four brothers survive, the brothers being Edwin, Earnest and George of Algona, and Clarence of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Their mother was a sister of Asa C. Call and Ambrose A. Call, the founders of Algona.

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MRS. LE...

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

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PIONEER OF FIFTIES DIES FULL OF YEARS

At 86 John Ellison Blackford Passes Over Jordan.

FRIEND AND CO-WORKER IN FARRAR, IOWA, ALSO DEAD

Obituaries of Former Master and Secretary of Grange Appear Back to Back in Leading Daily.

John Ellison Blackford, one of the few remaining Kossuth county pioneers of the fifties, died Sunday afternoon, shortly after five o'clock. By a peculiar coincidence, on the same day and at the same age, there died at Farrar, Iowa, the Rev. J. W. Murphy, with whom Mr. Blackford was closely associated for many years while the latter was Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and the former secretary. The twain's obituaries appeared back to back in Tuesday's Register & Leader.

Mr. Blackford's death was not unexpected. He had been ill since last winter and of late weeks his mind had failed. It was seen early last week that he could not long survive.

56 Years an Algonian.

The life of the deceased covers almost the entire history of Algona. His wife, nee Mary M. Call, was a sister of Asa C. and Ambrose Call. The brothers founded the town in 1854 and the Blackfords followed the next year. At first Mr. Blackford ran a sawmill for his brother-in-law, Asa. Later he acquired and farmed the homestead where he spent the rest of his long life.

Mr. Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825. He was therefore 30 years old when he

GOVERNMENT WEAT

Supplied weekly on
Dr. F. T. Seeley, Lo
Metereological Observe
Crop Service of the W
U. S. Department of Ag

Date	Temp. Highest	Temp. Lowest	Rainfall in inches and hundredths	
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17	86	75	.....	Cle
18	84	73	.10	Cle
19	85	72	.....	Cle
20	88	72	.....	Cle
21	86	72	.....	Cle
22	73	57	.....	Cle

a self educated man.
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The funeral occurred
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conduct the last rites.
simple but impressive.
were present and accom
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from abroad who were

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

ALGONA

'ARE CO.

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EPAIR WORK

price.

MISSION TO THE IOWA STATE FAIR.

n Iowa Offered Opportun-
S(Iowa State Fair

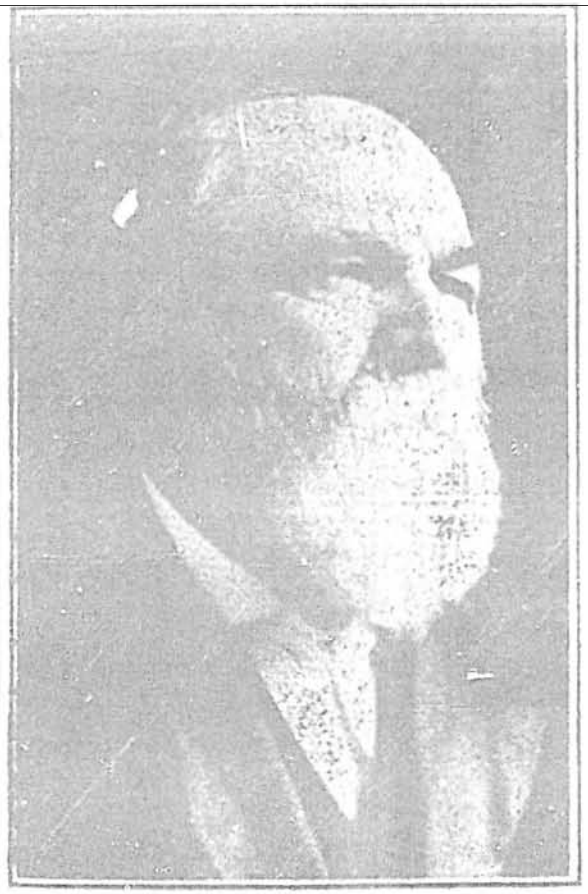
Moines News wants all its guest at the State Fair le arrangements to do so, ıding the fact that he pub- lize what a stupenduous ı it would be.

Without Cost.

· 50c admission ticket good ɔ day will be given FREE year's subscription to THE SUNDAY NEWS or Daily months. The price is onl regular suscription rate. ıbscribers can renew now, when their subscription ex- ubscribers to other papers their ticket to the fair THE NEWS started when ription to the other paper

ır order direct today and to the Fair will be sent ırı ail.

bruises may be healed in hird the time required by eatment by applying Chas. iniment. It is an antisep-



came to Algona. He had been married ten years before at South Bend, Indiana. His wife died six years ago. They had six children and all of them are living, except Mary Kate, whose death occurred last year. The other children are: Mrs. Ella Algona Clarke, Edwin, Ernest and George, all of this city, and Clarence of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Mrs. Clarke was the first white child born in Algona.

A Contemporary of Kirkwood.

The next year after Mr. Blackford came to Algona he was made justice of the peace. Three years later he was chosen state representative. Of his canvass for office he wrote: "My district at this time (in 1859) comprised seven counties and I frequently travelled forty miles to see a single voter." He was re-elected in 1861. Those were stirring war times. Though his mind was clouded as to many matters during his last months, his memory in respect to the happenings of those early days was singularly acute. Only a few weeks since he told his son, Edwin, one night, how, when the news of the surrender of Fort Donelson came while the legislature was in session, the members rushed out pell mell without the formality of adjournment to find Governor Kirkwood and join in rejoicing over the victory.

An old time abolitionist and a fo-

were Gardner Cl dren, and Mrs. Dr. Des Moines; J. C. Bla Fayetteville, Arkan Blackford and son, Clarke, Chicago, and Wesley.

DEDICATION BEGI

Fort Defiance Monu veiled at Es

Next Thursday at begin a three-day c unveiling and dedica ment erected to mak Defiance.

The program will evening with a conce ville Military Band, in the M. E. chur editorial writer for a ka paper, will delive titled, "The Early S

The next morning, concert, Rev. Benne deliver the invocatio will then welcome Mr. Bixby will respo

At noon will occu barbecue. At twe Ingham will give hi Iowa Indian." At game will begin and a colonial ball will

Capt. E. B. Soper will deliver the princ urday morning A will be taken to form old settlers' associa a. m. will occur a rade."

Saturday afternoo monument unveiled Rhodes. The dedicat be delivered by Ma base ball game will evening the "camp f will take place. A speeches are to be Ridley, Howard Gra Ingham, Geo. C. Ca B. Funk, Congressm resentative Mustagh

BELATED TWP. C

Lincoln and Germ

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

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g it would be.

Without Cost.

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year's subscription to THE
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subscribers to other papers
: their ticket to the fair
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Kansas. Mrs. Clarke was the first white child born in Algona.

A Contemporary of Kirkwood.

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An old time abolitionist and a free soiler, Mr. Blackford naturally became a republican upon the formation of the republican party. He was elected a member of the Iowa delegation to the convention which nominated Lincoln, but could not attend and gave his proxy to a friend. His last public office was that of county treasurer, his election occurring in the fall of 1869.

For ten years Mr. Blackford was Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. He was one of the organizers and mainstays of the granger movement. For several years he conducted the grange store in Algona. He was a member of the national grange, in which he took great interest. He was one of the organizers of the Kossuth County Mutual Insurance Co., incorporated in 1887, and was its first president, holding the office for seven years.

Unschooled, But Self Educated.

In an account of his life, written by himself, Mr. Blackford says of his education: "My opportunities for an education were very limited. The country where I lived as a boy was like all primitive settlements, the schools being primitive in the extreme; but I did attend a couple of terms in a good district school." But, though he had but little schooling, Mr. Blackford became

a colonial [illegible]

Capt. E. B. Sc[illegible] will deliver the pa[illegible] urday morning. [illegible] will be taken to for[illegible] old settlers' assoc[illegible] a. m. will occur [illegible] rade."

Saturday afterno[illegible] monument unveiled [illegible] Rhodes. The dedic[illegible] be delivered by Ma[illegible] base ball game wi[illegible] evening the Camp[illegible] will take place. A[illegible] speeches are to be [illegible] Ridley, Howard Gr[illegible] Ingham, Geo. C. Ca[illegible] B. Funk, Congress[illegible] resentative Mustard[illegible]

BELATED TWP. [illegible]

Lincoln and Germ[illegible]

Until Too Late for [illegible]

When the Advan[illegible] last week every town[illegible] sent in its crop re[illegible] tion. Only Grant, [illegible] and Riverdale were [illegible] wards reports from [illegible] man were received [illegible]

LINCOLN:—High[illegible] bushels; lowest, 4 [illegible] 11 bushels. Think [illegible] about 10 bushels [illegible] grasshoppers dama[illegible] and we also had [illegible] went about half a [illegible] The potato yield [illegible] went from 10 to 15 [illegible] —William Baum.

GERMAN: High[illegible] bushels; lowest, [illegible] 15 bushels. I belie[illegible] go about 14 bushels [illegible] sidering the outlook [illegible] of the season we [illegible] bushels to the acre. [illegible] was too dry afterwa[illegible] age done by grassh[illegible] Hay went a half ton [illegible] wheat 18 bushels. [illegible] tion last spring was [illegible] the drought spoile[illegible] pect.—Henry Meyer.

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

DIES FULL OF YEARS

At 86 John Ellison Blackford Passes Over Jordan.

FRIEND AND CO-WORKER IN FARRAR, IOWA, ALSO DEAD

Obituaries of Former Master and Secretary of Grange Appear Back to Back in Leading Daily.

John Ellison Blackford, one of the few remaining Kossuth county pioneers of the fifties, died Sunday afternoon, shortly after five o'clock. By a peculiar coincidence, on the same day and at the same age, there died at Farrar, Iowa, the Rev. J. W. Murphy, with whom Mr. Blackford was closely associated for many years while the latter was Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and the former secretary. The twain's obituaries appeared back to back in Tuesday's Register & Leader.

Mr. Blackford's death was not unexpected. He had been ill since last winter and of late weeks his mind had failed. It was seen early last week that he could not long survive.

56 Years an Algonian.

The life of the deceased covers almost the entire history of Algona. His wife, nee Mary M. Call, was a sister of Asa C. and Ambrose Call. The brothers founded the town in 1854 and the Blackfords followed the next year. At first Mr. Blackford ran a sawmill for his brother-in-law, Asa. Later he acquired and farmed the homestead where he spent the rest of his long life.

Mr. Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825. He was therefore 30 years old when he

Supplied weekly on Wednesdays by Dr. F. T. Seeley, Local Co-operative Metereological Observer, Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Date	Temp. Highest	Temp. Lowest	Rainfall in inches and hundredths	Character of day
16	92	77	.....	Clear
17	86	75	.....	Clear
18	84	73	.10	Clear
19	85	72	.....	Clear
20	88	72	.....	Clear
21	86	72	.....	Clear
22	73	57	.....	Clear

a self educated man. He was a wide reader, an apt student and a deep thinker. He was, besides, a ready speaker and a born leader. Thus he acquired great influence among his neighbors. His bearing was dignified, though courteous and kindly. He earned and held the deep respect of everyone that knew him; the warm friendship and confidence of his intimates; the abiding love of his family. To the end he took an active interest in every good movement that came to his notice. Almost his last public concern had to do with the formation of the recently organized Kossuth County Historical Society, of which he was a charter member. His was a most useful career. He died full of years not only, but of honors also.

The funeral occurred yesterday afternoon from the decedent's late home. Rev. F. A. Smiley, pastor of the Presbyterian church, who was out of town on his vacation, came home specially to conduct the last rites. The service was simple but impressive. Many pioneers were present and accompanied the remains to the grave in the family burial plot in Riverview cemetery. Those from abroad who were in attendance were: Gardner Cowles, wife and children, and Mrs. Dr. F. E. V. Shore, Des Moines; J. C. Blackford and wife, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Mrs. Ellison Blackford and son, Boone; Elizabeth Clarke, Chicago, and W. M. Colby of Wesley.

DEDICATION BEGINS THURSDAY

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

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HISTORY OF KOSSUTH COUNTY IOWA

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

Vol. 2

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

J. E. BLACKFORD

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

MRS. J. E. BLACKFORD

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

was one of the promoters of the new public-school building which was completed in Burt in 1911. He has served as a delegate to county and state conventions and as committeeman for Burt and Portland townships. His life has been marked by broad ideals of personal service in the cause of his fellow citizens who have intrusted so many important offices to him. He has never been suspected of any corruption in office and has always been regarded as a man of thorough integrity and honesty.

Mr. Owen was married in Portland township, September 1, 1891, to Miss Anna F. Mann, who was born in Kossuth county and is a daughter of S. V. R. Mann and a sister of M. J. Mann, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Owen have been born two children, Verne W. and Merle Exina. Mr. Owen is a Master Mason and holds membership in Burt Lodge, No. 540, A. F. & A. M. He and his wife affiliate with the Order of the Eastern Star. He is an efficient public servant and a good man and during the thirty years of his residence in Kossuth has added not only to the material wealth of the district but has raised the qualities and standards of citizenship.

JOHN ELLISON BLACKFORD.

No history of Kossuth county or the city of Algona would be complete if it failed to make extended mention of John Ellison Blackford, one of the most successful and eminent citizens of the state of Iowa. His life has been intimately connected with the agricultural, political and industrial upbuilding of this section of the country. His wife was a sister of the founder of Algona and his daughter was the first white child born within its borders. He himself gave of his eminent talents and his high-minded and worthy life to the promotion of the progress and development of the county and upon his death, on August 20, 1911, the earthly career of an eminent organizer and builder of the middle west closed forever.

The record of Mr. Blackford's ancestry dates back for many generations. The family can be traced to two brothers who emigrated from Scotland at an early date but of whom no historical mention is made. The elder brother had two children: Sophia (Blackford) McLean, who was born in New Jersey in 1755 and later emigrated to Ohio; and Mary (Blackford) Drake. The other brother married Miss Mary Daniels and became the father of three children: Nathaniel, born in 1764 in New Jersey, who came to Ohio at an early day, where he died in 1834; Benjamin; and John. Nathaniel Blackford married Miss Catherine Ross and became the father of ten children: Nancy, born in 1788, who died in infancy; Sarah, born in 1789, who later became Mrs. Terrill and died in Indiana; Mary (Blackford) Cory, born in 1792; Margaret (Blackford) Kelsey, who was born in Kentucky in 1794, and died in Ohio; Sophia, who was born in Ohio in 1797 and married a Mr. Johns, a native of the same state where she died; James Ross, whose birth occurred in Ohio in 1800 and who died in Iowa in 1871; Desire (Blackford) Williamson, who was born in Ohio in 1803 and who died in Kansas;

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Eliza, who later became Mrs. Ball and who was born in Ohio in 1805 and died in Indiana; Phoebe (Blackford) Forbes, whose birth occurred in Ohio in 1808 and who died in the same state; Jemima, later Mrs. Welch, who was born in Ohio in 1811. In the next generation James Ross Blackford married Miss Clarissa De Camp Williams and to this union were born three children: Sarah, born in 1822 in Ohio, who died in Michigan in 1892; John Ellison, the subject of this sketch, who was born in Ohio and died in Algona, Iowa, August 20, 1911, at the age of eighty-six years, seven months and sixteen days; and Aaron Lawson, who was born in Ohio in 1831 and died in 1907.

John Ellison Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825. When he was yet a boy his parents moved to what was then the northern frontier of Indiana, where he grew to manhood. His educational opportunities were few, as the country was in an undeveloped condition and the school facilities were limited in the extreme. He, however, attended the district school for two terms, and laid the foundation for the life of learning and the taste for reading which distinguished him all during his life.

In September, 1845, Mr. Blackford was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Call, a sister of Asa C. and Ambrose A. Call, who founded the town of Algona in 1854.

In the fall of 1855, with his wife and two sons, he came to Algona, Iowa, where Mrs. Blackford's brothers had preceded them, making the long journey into the then frontier district by team and guiding their course by compass. In the spring of 1856, they moved into the log cabin situated on the site of the present residence. In the same year, he operated a saw and grist mill, sawing from native timber the lumber from which many of the earlier buildings were made. He was elected justice of the peace at Algona's first election on August 4, 1856, serving for some years with great ability. From his earliest manhood Mr. Blackford was interested and active in promoting the welfare of Kossuth county, and in his work along this line he has shown a power of organization unsurpassed by any citizen of his generation. He was very prominent politically, and gave most of his time and attention to his activities in this line. He was an old-time abolitionist and free-soil advocate, and, upon the formation of the republican party, he naturally cast his lot with that organization and was loyal to its principles and policies all during his life. He represented his district in the Iowa legislature for two terms, from 1859 until 1862 and was prominent in the affairs of four sessions. Relating his experience during his political campaign, Mr. Blackford, in a family history written by himself several years ago, says, "My district at this time comprised seven counties, and in making my canvass I frequently traveled forty miles to see a single voter." He was one of the members of the Iowa delegation to the national republican convention which nominated Lincoln for president for the first term.

When the Civil war broke out Mr. Blackford was largely influential in enabling Kossuth county to win the sanitary flag which was given as a prize to the district which furnished the largest per capita funds for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers. Kossuth county led every other county of the state in proportion to its population. He was all during his life a strict

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prohibitionist, and did efficient work in controlling the sale of liquor in his state. He regarded public office as a public trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens, and believed it his duty to give his highest talents and his utmost energies for securing efficient legislation. His political career was marked by activity in every great and worthy cause, and he never used the power which his office gave him in any dishonorable way. His life was devoted to the upbuilding and improvement of his section, and his cooperation could always be counted upon in any movement looking toward the future progress of Kossuth county.

He was one of the charter members of the Patrons of Husbandry, or as it is usually called, the Grange, organized in June, 1873, and was worthy master of the Iowa State Grange for about ten years. He was likewise a member of the National Grange, in which he took an active and helpful interest.

Mr. Blackford during his life was prominently identified with the business development of Algona. He was the manager of the Patron's Cooperative Store, and he finally obtained the sole ownership of this enterprise by buying out his partners. He conducted the business in his own name for many years in the Blackford building, south of the courthouse in Algona. He was the first president of the Kossuth County Insurance Company, and in association with C. C. Chubb and other early members of the organization labored with unwavering industry for the success and prosperity of the enterprise. He was an active member of the Old Settlers Association, and was one of the organizers of the County Historical Society.

The Blackford family consisted of six children, Mary Kate, who died in 1910, is the only one not living. Mr. Blackford's elder daughter, Ella Algona who was born in January, 1856, was the first white child born in the town and the township of Algona and besides this enjoys the distinction of having been the first girl born in Kossuth county. She later became Mrs. Eugene H. Clarke, and resides in Algona. Mr. Blackford's other children are: Edwin, J. Ernest and George E., residents of Algona; and Clarus, who resides in St. Louis, Missouri. His wife died in 1905.

John E. Blackford passed away on Sunday evening, August 20, 1911, in Algona, Iowa, the funeral services being conducted according to the ceremony of the Presbyterian church. He is buried in Riverview cemetery. His character to a great extent molded his destiny. His ideals were always high, worthy and honorable. His life was spent in useful efforts after great results. His mind was keen, and his intellect bright, and his life was a distinct influence in the upbuilding of Kossuth county, as his death was a conspicuous loss to its development.

THEODORE ANDERSON.

Theodore Anderson has the distinction of being the first settler of Eagle township, where he owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres of land. He was born in the Province of Småland, Sweden, on the 14th of September, 1862, and is a son of Freden and Sarah (Johnson) Anderson, also

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

ancestry.com

1910 United States Federal Census

Name:	**John E Blackford**
Age in 1910:	85
Estimated birth year:	abt 1825
Birthplace:	Ohio
Relation to Head of House:	Head
Father's Birth Place:	Ohio
Mother's Birth Place:	New Jersey
Home in 1910:	Cresco, Kossuth, Iowa
Marital Status:	Widowed
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Neighbors:	

Household Members:

Name	Age
John E Blackford	85
Ernest Blackford	57
Ella Clark	54
Hattie M Blackford	46
George E Blackford	39

Source Citation: Year: *1910*; Census Place: *Cresco, Kossuth, Iowa*; Roll: *T624_408*; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: *151*; Image: *1050*.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2006. For details on the cont the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: NARA Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Thirteenth Census of th United States, 1910*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1910, T624, 1,178 rolls.

Description:
This database is an index to the head of households enumerated in the 1910 United States Federal Census, the Thirteenth Census of the United State addition, each indexed name is linked to actual images of the 1910 Federal Census. The information recorded in the census includes: name, relation head of family, age at last birthday, sex, color or race, whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, an Learn more...

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