

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Jennings, John D. Senator Jennings, John D.  
Represented Dubuque County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 8 Feb 1824 Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place

① Julia St. Vrain Aug 1851 St. Genevieve, Missouri

② Octavia Swales Feb 1868

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership \_\_\_\_\_

5. Sessions served 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1860 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1862 - Senate

A. Local Justice of the Peace; City auditor; president of the board of education

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 23 Mar 1889 Dubuque, Iowa;

8. Children Helix, John D.; Theodora; Josephine; Julia; two other children preceded their father in death)

9. Names of parents \_\_\_\_\_

Jennings, John D.

10. Education Educated in schools of Pittsburgh, PA

11. Degrees Earned law degree in Pittsburgh, PA

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- Came to Iowa and located in Dubuque on 17 Apr 1851,  
and engaged in practice of law
- Soon became editor of The Miners Express and  
later engaged in real estate business.
- First wife, Julia, died 1864
- Involved in real estate until 1857 with the firm of  
King, David and Jennings
- Law firm was McNeely and Jennings
- Wrote in the Dubuque Journal over the nom de plume  
"Pedro" while he was in the legislature.



Illinois Central's Iowa  
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General- Wanamaker  
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his book, the "Life of  
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the Grant family. We  
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**THE CENTENNIAL.**  
the State Superintend-  
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bserving the Centenni-  
on's inauguration. In  
his advice general  
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aming of the country's  
the hundred years of  
overnment just closing.  
cellent one. It is all  
he youth of the last  
full knowledge of the  
to give the nation a foot-

slightest pulsation on the border. but  
the difficulty is, How shall these dis-  
turbating elements be kept at bay? that's  
the question which confronts the sages  
of the land today. Who shall settle it?

**TO-MORROW NIGHT'S WORK.**  
The Republican primaries are to be  
held to-morrow evening. A candidate  
for Alderman will be nominated in each  
Ward and delegates chosen to the Re-  
publican convention to be held on Tues-  
day. At no time for years has there  
been as good prospects as now for the  
Republicans to elect their city ticket,  
hence the responsibility resting on each  
individual is accordingly increased.  
Every Republican is interested in the  
welfare of the city and for this reason,  
if no other, should go to the primaries  
tomorrow night and aid in placing in  
nomination strong men. Let there be a  
rousing turn-out, and considerate action.  
If this be done the next City Council  
will be Republican. The primary meet-  
ing is the place for laying the founda-  
tion for victory.

**DEATH OF HON. J. D. JENNINGS.**  
Hon. John D. Jennings died at his  
residence in this city yesterday morn-  
ing at 3 o'clock. He passed away at  
the age of sixty-five years, which, though  
not attaining unto the scriptural "three  
score and ten," yet nearly compassed  
the average period of mature human  
existence. In bodily build he was  
rather spare and tall and in constitu-  
tional vigor not robust. A careful life  
exempted him from disease, and the ill-  
ness that dissolved the union of spirit  
wit' body was characterized by the  
gentle debility of nature simply yielding  
in weariness to the ordained sleep that  
comes to all at that moment when the  
silver cord of social ties must be loosened,  
and the golden bowl of earthly ex-  
perience broken, with the pitcher at the  
fountain of happiness and the wheel at  
the cistern of accustomed duty.

Mr. Jennings has lived out the mea-  
sure of a life of varied and active use-  
fulness, honored and esteemed by those  
among whom his lot was cast. He was  
born in Pittsburg, Pa., February 8, 1824,  
and there received his education and  
grew up to manhood. He studied law,  
was admitted to the bar and practiced  
the profession awhile in his native city.

curate methods of book-keeping and  
was thereby instrumental in bringing  
the records of the office out  
of a state of chaos and confusion into  
which they had been allowed to fall.

In August, 1851, Mr. Jennings was  
married to Miss Julia St. Vrain, of St.  
Genevieve, Mo., daughter of Mr. Felix  
St. Vrain. She died in 1864. They had  
seven children, four of whom survive:  
John D., Theodore B., Julia and Jose-  
phine; John is living in Sioux City,  
Theodore is a traveling salesman for H.  
B. Glover & Co. of this city, and Julia  
and Josephine are both in Detroit Mich.,  
the former married to Mr. James W.  
Donovan, and the latter to Mr. F. J.  
Schwankoskie, an American gentleman  
of Polish extraction. In July, 1868,  
Mr. Jennings married Mrs. Octavia  
Turner, daughter of James  
Soulard, of Galena, Ills. In her con-  
genial companionship he enjoyed a  
great degree of happiness, and the  
bereaved widow now mourns the loss  
of one whose tender and devoted at-  
tachment ever irradiated the household  
with the light of domestic sunshine.

Mr. Jennings was a man of mild and  
gentle manners united with dignity,  
judgment, and an intuitive sense of that  
which is proper and just—all enlivened  
with a kindness and courtesy that  
made him peculiarly sociable  
and attractive. Well educated and  
scholarly he was also habitually a stu-  
dent and thinker with severely critical  
tastes, yet liberal in his views and tol-  
erant of the opinions of others. His  
literary acquirements made him a good  
writer. Many will remember his com-  
munications over the nom de plume  
"Pedro," published in THE DUBUQUE  
TIMES while he was in the Legislature.  
In later years he thought much on the  
profound mysteries of life and the  
duties and destiny of the soul. In fact,  
he was an independent, unshackled  
thinker, and, in an atmosphere of good-  
ness and thoughtfulness, wrestled with  
those great questions that at one time  
or another, in man's career, impose  
themselves on all who rise to a realiza-  
tion of the responsibility of living. He  
was willing to die when summoned, and  
has passed from the presence of loving  
friends, a good man and true.

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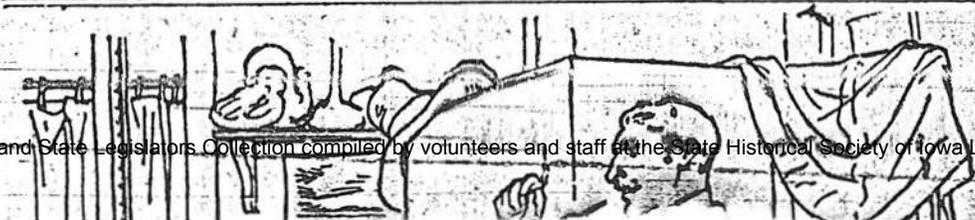
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THE DAILY TIMES. SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 24 1889

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 afterward the ties that  
 ether as leaders in the  
 nation must grow strong-  
 er as the days go by.

and Cedar Rapids are  
 wa cities which will cele-  
 atennial of Washington's

can show a better  
 Iowa? Last year, accord-  
 statisticians, her farmers  
 h corn to pay off all their  
 d have 100,000,000 bushels  
 and seed.

ic Short Line," to run from  
 Ogden, Utah, seems to be  
 fact. When that road is  
 making a line nearly 300  
 from Chicago to San Fran-  
 y other one now existing,  
 the Illinois Central's Iowa  
 reatly enhanced.

R. General Wanamaker  
 eye on that great store of  
 Delphia, although he does  
 and sleep in Washington.

by means of electricity he  
 egraph wire running from  
 e department to headquar-  
 Quaker City. Between the  
 ments his hands are pretty

little more than a month  
 when the centennial of  
 a inauguration will be cel-  
 : Dubuque going to observe  
 IE TIMES search was a territorial and  
 ore but the response, if any,  
 was not heard. It cannot

be a virtue. The Democrats would  
 charge the existence of trusts to the  
 protective system of tariff but it is a  
 charge made without foundation. Trusts  
 are but gigantic combinations of private  
 capital for controlling not only the  
 price, but the output of any article or  
 commodity in which they see a chance by  
 so doing to make money. Trusts can as  
 well exist where there is no protective  
 tariff as where such a system prevails,  
 as in the United States. But there is no  
 use of arguing that point now. The  
 one thing needful is to find a way out of  
 this unfortunate predicament in which  
 the general public is placed by the ex-  
 istence of the various trusts. When this  
 shall be accomplished there will be good  
 reason for rejoicing. When exhorbi-  
 tantly high prices must be paid for such  
 an article as binding twine, even, the  
 prices of other things are more or less  
 affected. It can't be otherwise; the  
 great trade centres is influenced by the  
 slightest pulsation on the border. But  
 the difficulty is, How shall these dis-  
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 been as good prospects as now for the  
 Republicans to elect their city ticket,  
 hence the responsibility resting on each  
 individual is accordingly increased.  
 Every Republican is interested in the  
 state legislators' collection and compiled by volunteers and staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.  
 if no other, should go to the primaries  
 tomorrow night and aid in placing in

Afterwards he sought a new home in  
 the West and selected Dubuque, locat-  
 ing here April 17th, 1851, still continu-  
 ing the practice of law. He, however,  
 soon became one of the editors of the  
 Miner's Express, and engaged in the  
 real estate business as one of the firm of  
 Kinsey, David & Jennings. They trans-  
 acted a large business. The firm clos-  
 ing in 1857, he again resumed the law  
 practice in partnership with Hon. H. T.  
 McNulty. In 1859 he was elected to the  
 State Legislature. After his term ex-  
 pired he was returned for four years  
 further service in the Senate. While  
 State Senator he received from the  
 Democrats the compliment of a nomina-  
 tion for United States Senator, but was  
 not elected. In this city he has been  
 prominently identified with educational  
 interests and was twice chosen Presi-  
 dent of the School Board, each-time de-  
 clining a re-election. Subsequently he  
 was elected City Auditor. While in this  
 position he instituted careful and ac-  
 curate methods of book-keeping and  
 was thereby instrumental in bringing  
 the records of the office out  
 of a state of chaos and confusion into  
 which they had been allowed to fall.

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years in this office. In 1889 he was elected to the State Senate, and served in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth General Assemblies. He was a Democrat in politics, and one of the most influential leaders of his party. In 1892 he was chosen a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago, and made Chairman of the Iowa Delegation. In the same year he was the nominee of his party for Congress, but was defeated by Colonel Henderson. In the later years of his life he devoted himself largely to business interests.

*Myron H. Beach* commenced practice in Dubuque, in 1856. He was born in Seneca County, New York, in 1828. He was highly educated, a graduate of Hamilton College. Soon after his arrival in Dubuque he entered into partnership with Lincoln Clark, whose term as Representative in Congress had recently expired. When Judge Clark removed to Chicago, George Grey—a Scotchman, and a writer in the *Signal of Edinburg*—was admitted to the firm, and subsequently L. C. Hurd became his partner. During the seventies Mr. Beach removed to Chicago and enjoyed a lucrative practice, and became a recognized authority on Insurance Law. In the winter of 1910 he suffered a severe attack of illness. He did not afterward return to the practice, and I am told by William Graham that he is now (May, 1913) living with his son at San Antonio, Texas, and though in his eighty-fifth year, is alert and sound of mind, but feeble in body. His Alma Mater conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws some years ago. He was a soldier during the war and was commissioned Lieutenant of Company A, Forty-fourth Iowa Infantry. He served for a number of years as a member of the Board of Education of Dubuque.

*John D. Jennings* was one of the young lawyers attracted to Dubuque in the "Fifties." Among his compeers were John S. Coval, William C. Friend, Fred Gottschalk, Henry S. Jennings and Henry S. Munson. Coval was for a time associated with General John Hodgson, but died in the early "Sixties." Friend and Henry S. Jennings (who I think was a brother of John D.) came from Pittsburg, and were for a time partners—first in the firm of Wiltse, Friend & Jennings, and after that in the firm of Vandever, Friend & Jennings. When Vandever went to the army, Friend returned to Pittsburg, and practiced law there until his death, while Jennings, after a brief partnership with Eugene Cowles, who came from Jackson County, also returned to Pennsylvania. Munson removed to Chicago about the time of the commencement of the Civil War, where he secured a lucrative practice. Fred Gottschalk was a German, and commanded the first company of Iowa troops that went to the front—a company almost exclusively of Germans. After the war he removed to St. Louis and engaged in practice there.

John D. Jennings, of whom I come now to speak further, figured largely, as well as usefully, in the early history of the State. He was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1824, and came to Dubuque in 1851, and entered upon the practice

of his profession. He was for a time one of the editors of the *Miner's Express*, and for a while a legal partner with Henry T. McNulty, under the firm name of McNulty & Jennings. In 1859 he was elected to the House of the Eighth General Assembly. In 1861 he was elected to the Senate and served through the Ninth and Tenth General Assemblies. I was a member of the House while he was serving as Senator in the Tenth General Assembly, and I know that he was regarded as one of the most painstaking, industrious and useful members of that body. That was his reputation and standing at the time. While in the Senate, he received in the Democratic caucus the entire Democratic vote for United States Senator. He was prominently identified with the educational interests of Dubuque, and was twice President of its School Board. He was City Auditor of Dubuque, and brought the records of that office out of chaos and confusion. He was married in 1851 to Julia St. Vrain, of St. Genevieve, Missouri, a descendant of Felix St. Vrain, whose life and tragic death is interwoven with early western history. St. Vrain was a brother-in-law of Senator George Wallace Jones, of Dubuque, United States Agent for the Confederate Tribe of Sacs and Foxes, including Black Hawk's band. He spoke their language and was adopted by them as a friend and brother, but was finally slaughtered by those to whom he had been a friend. The famous Indian Treaty, which included the Black Hawk purchase, was certified by him as United States Agent, and by Antoine LeClaire, United States Interpreter, on behalf of the tribe.\*

*Jeffrey M. Griffith, William J. Knight.*

*Jeffrey M. Griffith* was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, in 1829. He was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Baltimore in 1850. He came to Dubuque and entered upon the practice in 1854. In 1857 he took into partnership William J. Knight, who had just been admitted to the bar, and the firm of Griffith & Knight for a good many years, and to the time of Mr. Griffith's death continued to be one of the best known and strongest legal firms in the State. Before his partnership with Mr. Knight, he had been associated with M. B. Mulkern.

Mr. Griffith was a man of remarkably fine ability, and took pronounced leadership at the bar. As a trial lawyer, especially, he might be matched with the best of the profession, not only in Iowa, but in the nation. In the famous "Oats" cases, he particularly signalized himself. He met single-handed some of the ablest members of the Bar of Indiana and Cincinnati. His opponents afterward retained him to recoup their losses from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, which he did, and then the Railroad Company retained him to recover their damages from the General Government. The firm of Griffith & Knight became the attorneys of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul

\* *Annals of Iowa*, Vol. 4, 531-532.