

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Sheffer, Joshua
Monsie - Represented Jefferson County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 13 Sept 1830 Washington County, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place
Married James Curry 18 Mar 1856 Elizabeth, Pennsylvania

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Has been appointed Commissioner from Iowa for the Paris Exposition in 1867. Elected secretary of the Iowa Agricultural Society of Keokuk, Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Physician

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 9th General Assembly 1862

6. Public Offices

A. Local Secretary and Librarian of the Jefferson County Library

B. State Was the first secretary of the Iowa State Agricultural Society 1853-1874

C. National

7. Death 25 Mar 1913 Keokuk, Iowa - no burial - cremated in Chicago

8. Children Jessie (Miss Helms); William Monsie

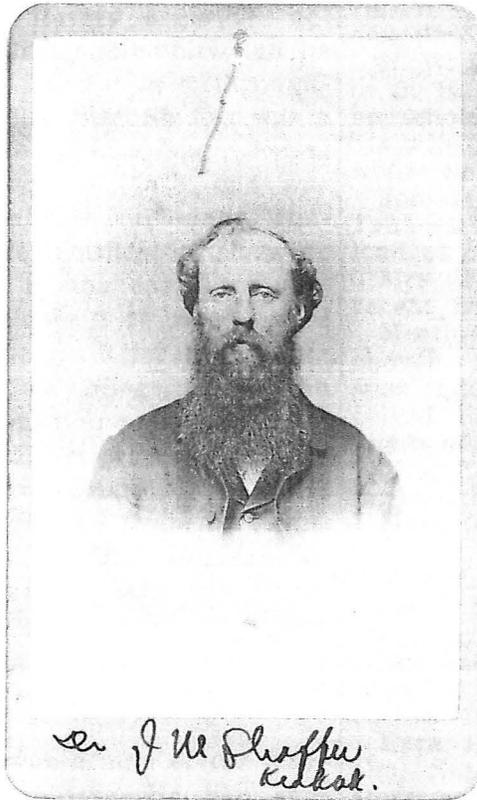
9. Names of parents John and Charlotte (Slagle) Sheffer

10. Education He was educated in the common schools near his home
in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

11. Degrees He graduated from Washington College, Pennsylvania and
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa - Iowa Medical
Department

12. Other applicable information

- After graduating from medical schools he moved to Fairfield Iowa
in 1852 to practice medicine.
- Military service - Civil War - he was surgeon of enrollment of his
congressional district for soldiers in 1863. He examined more
than 5000 men for the Army.
- Then he became secretary of the first Life Insurance Company of Keokuk Iowa
he moved to Keokuk where he practiced medicine until the company
went out of business
- He was one of the early naturalists and had collections of native birds
and mammals, insects and reptiles
- In 1876-1877 he was a lecturer at the College of Physicians and Surgeons
at Keokuk, Iowa.
- He was a writer of great proportions on history, biography and nature articles.
- He contributed many articles, lists, etc. to the State Historical Society
that had been saved by tape-drawing



Mrs. F. C. Hargreth gave a reception Monday afternoon at which she had as guests about seventy ladies. It was a very pleasant social affair.

Many Years in Jefferson County.

Mrs. Cyrus D. Bailey, who died at Ingham March 27th, was for many years a resident of this county. She was born in Lee county, February 8th, 1852. Mrs. Bailey was the mother of twelve children, nine of whom are living—C. W. of Pleasant Plain, G. M. of Fairfield, Mrs. M. J. Broz of Rich Hill, Mo., Mrs. M. A. Hall, Charles D., Guy C., Robert W., Susie I. and Richard W. of Birmingham. Her husband also survives her. Mrs. Bailey was an excellent woman and many old friends in southern Jefferson county will regret her death. Funeral services were held at Birmingham Saturday by Rev. U. L. Nash and Rev. D. W. Cassat.

Mr. Tracy Has Passed Away.

Levi M. Tracy died at Pleasant Plain March 21st. He was born in Belmont county, O., September 27th, 1840, and came to Iowa in 1881. His home had been in this county most of the time since, and he lived on a farm east of this city for several years. His wife, a son and a daughter, Clark W. Tracy and Daisy M. Tracy, survive him. Mr. Tracy was a member of a family of fifteen children, only four of whom are now living. He was a member of the Christian church and a man of excellent character. The body was interred at Pleasant Plain.

For Relief of Flood Sufferers.

A meeting was held at the courthouse Saturday to devise plans for taking contributions for the relief of sufferers by the recent floods in Indiana and Ohio. Mayor J. P. Starr presided over the temporary organization, while Perry King was chosen chairman and R. H. Munro secretary. It was decided that the various churches and lodges of the city should present the matter to their members, and the banks of the city were requested to receive subscriptions. Frank Light was designated as general treasurer and was instructed to transmit funds by wire to Gov. Geo. W. Clarke at Des Moines.

The Baseball Season.

Baseball practice at Parsons College has started and prospects are bright for a winning team. Some of the old men are back and with the new ones coming out it is thought the team will be a successful one. Following is the schedule:

In 1914 Dr. Shaffer was elected secretary of the Iowa Life Insurance company of Keokuk, removed to that city and had since resided there, resuming his medical practice when the company went out of business.

Dr. Shaffer was a man of unusually genial disposition. Care rested lightly upon him, and he ever saw the brightest side of everything. He was a man in all that the word implies and yet he had a heart as tender and as sympathetic as that of a woman. He was a lovable man and it was rare good fortune to have known him. A brief funeral service was held in Keokuk Thursday afternoon and the body was taken to Chicago for cremation, in accordance with his instructions.

In The Keokuk Gate City Dr. W. S. Moorhead, a life long friend of Dr. Shaffer, pays him this tribute:

Dear old Dr. Shaffer is dead. Yesterday afternoon, surrounded by relatives and friends, peacefully and unafraid he passed into the silence. Rich in years and honors and in the esteem of the community in which he had spent the greater part of his active and useful life, death found him fully prepared for the great change that awaited him, and he took his place in the silent halls "as one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams." Dr. Shaffer learned how to die by learning how to live. His career from first to last was an example and an inspiration. His warm heart ever beat responsive to the needs, hopes and aspirations of mankind, and his whole life was one of service to his fellows. He was a grand old man, beloved by all who knew him.

In his long journey through life Dr. Shaffer had eyes only for the most beautiful and he found it in all of God's creations. He was optimistic, appreciative, unaffected, big-hearted, broad-minded, genial, affable, courteous, gracious and tolerant. His patients had for him a genuine affection, and he returned their confidence and love in full measure.

It is difficult to realize that he is with us no more. His form was a familiar one on the streets of Keokuk, and his cheery greeting was a benediction that never became trite or stale. His pathway was strewn with sunshine and good cheer. No matter how trying the day or what obstacles confronted, with his presence the darkness vanished and a beautiful day was ushered in. His very life was the giving of pleasure to others. This was a part of his religion—and Dr. Shaffer was a profoundly religious man. Religion was ingrained in his nature and was an integral part of his daily life and conversation. He was therefore a leader in his church, to which he was greatly attached. No one could know him without being better for such association and knowledge. The removal of one so generally known and so well beloved necessarily leaves a large void in the community.

Ladies' Rest Room for Fairfield.

In a stock of drugs. Mr. Thomas is an experienced pharmacist, who comes highly recommended. He is a nephew of Mrs. Fred Steigleder.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Weir, who were on their way to Washington when the train was wrecked near Marshalltown recently, have been amply remunerated by the railway company for the loss of their trunks, which were burned when the baggage car was destroyed by fire.

Mrs. C. T. Moorman has two sisters and many relatives and friends at Dayton, O., from whom she has not heard since the flood.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Davis, Ollie, were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Dysert.

DEATH OF MRS. TEDROW.

Phoebe Brown was born in Tuscarawas county, O., in 1846. In 1865, August 31st, she was married to Denton Tedrow of Harrison county, O. In 1871 they came to Iowa and located near Bethel. They lived in Birmingham for a while, moving back to the farm. They came to Libertyville thirteen years ago. The husband died October 15th, 1911. Mrs. Tedrow had been in ill health all winter, but was taken worse March 20th and suffered greatly until the 27th, when death came as a welcome messenger. All her children were with her during her last illness, and with the assistance of friends and neighbors, did everything possible to minister to the loved one. Mrs. Tedrow was converted in early life and had been an active member of the Methodist church since coming to Iowa, a member of the Home and Foreign Missionary societies and the Aid. In all the departments of the church she will be greatly missed. Of her seven children one died in infancy and six survive her—Mrs. Jennie L. Hale of Marshalltown, Mrs. Nettie A. Baldwin of Des Moines, Mrs. Stella Jones of Selma, Mrs. Minnie M. Baldwin of Eldon, Wm. D. Tedrow of Libertyville, and Joe B. of Selma. She also leaves two half sisters, three grandchildren, two great grandchildren. A short service was held at the home in Libertyville March 28th, after which the body was taken to the Bethel church, where services were held by Rev. H. C. Druse, assisted by Rev. W. M. Crowther of Birmingham and the weary body was laid to rest in the Bethel cemetery by the side of her companion. So passes away one whose place will long be sacred in the memory of all who knew her. The floral offerings were many and beautiful.

LIBERTYVILLE.

Floyd Glotfelty, Mt. Morris, Ill., is here for a visit.

Earl Howard left Monday for Passaic, Ill., where he will have charge of a section. His family will go in a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moss left Saturday for a visit with relatives in Missouri, Tennessee and Indiana.

Mrs. Jennie Campbell and daughter, Davenport, are visiting the former. Mrs. Campbell is the daughter of Harry Hale, Marshalltown, Miss Ruth, Rolla and Otho Baldwin, Des Moines.

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HISTORY OF IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FOUR VOLUMES

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BY BENJAMIN F. GUE

*Illustrated with Photographic Views of the Natural Scenery of
the State, Public Buildings, Pioneer Life, Etc.*

WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN OF IOWA

VOLUME IV
IOWA BIOGRAPHY



SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA

THE CENTURY HISTORY COMPANY
41 LAFAYETTE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

Society and its first secretary; he served in that capacity at different times for fourteen years, doing very much to make the State fairs successful. In 1862 he was elected to the State Senate to fill the unexpired term of James F. Wilson, elected to Congress. For many years he was secretary and librarian of the Jefferson County Library. During the Civil War he was surgeon of the Board of Enrollment from 1863 to 1865. In 1876-7 Dr. Shaffer was a lecturer at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk where he had taken up his residence. For many years he was a trustee of the Unitarian Society at Keokuk, and later secretary of the board of trustees. The doctor has for many years been a student of natural science, and for twenty-five years has been a promoter of cremation as against earth burial, and is a member of an association pledged to the cremation of their own bodies. During the mature years of his life Dr. Shaffer has been a continuous contributor to the press on a variety of subjects of interest to the public, always working for some worthy purpose.

BENJAMIN F. SHAMBAUGH is a native of Iowa, born at Elvira, January 29, 1871. He acquired his education at the Iowa City Academy and the State University of Iowa, and was fellow in the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, in 1893-95. In the latter year he became instructor in the University of Iowa, assistant professor in 1896 and Professor of Political Science in 1897. Professor Shambaugh is a curator of the State Historical Society at Iowa City and editor of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. He has written much of value to the student of Iowa history, including three volumes on "Documentary Material Relating to the History of Iowa," "Fragments of Debates of the Constitutional Conventions of 1844 and 1846," and a "History of the Constitutions of Iowa."

JOHN SHANE was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, on the 26th of May, 1822, and was educated at Jefferson College. He studied law with Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's great Secretary of War and was admitted to the bar in 1848, beginning practice at Steubenville. In 1855, he removed to Iowa, locating at Vinton where he engaged in the practice of law. He was a delegate to the State Convention which organized the Republican party at Iowa City in 1856. He entered the military service as captain of Company G, Thirteenth Infantry in 1861, in October was promoted to major and was in the Battle of Shiloh. Soon after he became lieutenant-colonel and in March, 1863, was promoted to colonel of the regiment. He served in this position with distinction until November, 1864, when the term of enlistment expired. In 1871 Colonel Shane was elected on the Republican ticket to the State Senate, serving four years. In 1876 he was appointed judge of the Eighth Judicial District and was

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Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

Belonging to the First and Second
Generations, with Anecdotes and
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

By

EDWARD H. STILES

For many years a member of the Iowa Bar; member of its House of Representatives, 1863-1864; member of its Senate, 1865-1866; Reporter of its Supreme Court, 1867-1875; author of Complete Digest of its Decisions from the earliest Territorial period to the 56th Iowa Reports.

"In old age alone we are masters of a treasure of which we cannot be deprived, the only treasure we can call our own. The pleasures of memory and the retrospect of the varied images which in an active life have floated before the mind, compensate, and more than compensate, for the alternate pleasures and cares of active life."—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

"Personal anecdotes, when characteristic, greatly enliven the pages of a biography."—SAMUEL SMILES.

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DES MOINES
THE HOMESTEAD PUBLISHING CO.
1916

itics, though neither seeking nor being willing to accept political office. In a Democratic County Convention called in 1846 to discuss certain provisions recommended for incorporation into the new constitution, we find him taking a spirited part in the debate.* As I recollect him when he was a comparatively young man, he was small in stature, and quite different in temperament and appearance from his partner, Mr. Slagle, for, while the latter was what might be termed on the blonde order, the former was rather on that of the brunette: dark, nervous, quick in movement, eloquent in speech. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Hemphill. He left surviving him two daughters and two sons. One of the daughters married Charles Clarke, a Lieutenant in the United States Navy; another, Mr. Frank Garretson, then a resident of Kansas City; while the two sons, John and George, at the time of their father's death, were in business in Fairfield.

Doctor Joshua M. Shaffer was one of the rarest men that have graced the history of Iowa—not in a political, or in any respect, ostentatious sense, but in an enduring and useful one. For nearly half a century he was a steady contributor to its historical collections along almost every line of thought and investigation. The "Annals of Iowa" fairly teem with his contributions, or notices of his contributions. He was limited to no particular subject, for his activities were general and ranged from the writing of biographies to the collection of the rarest specimens of natural history, to ornithology, to practical taxidermy, to the gathering of choice mementoes of the past in every field. The collections of natural history in the Iowa Historical Department, in the Fairfield Library and Museum, are replete with evidences of his industry, his liberality and his genius. When we consider that these various achievements were but mere side efforts of an eminent physician, we are easily and inexorably brought to the conclusion that he was a man of remarkable gifts.

As hereinbefore stated, he was a relative of Christian W. Slagle, and a native of the same place, Washington, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1830, and where he received his preliminary education before entering the medical department of the Pennsylvania University, from which he was graduated with honors. When he was twenty-two years of age, he came to Fairfield, Iowa, and entered upon the practice of his profession, in which he attained signal eminence. During the Civil War he was surgeon of the board of enrollment. He removed to Keokuk in the early seventies, and became a lecturer at the College of Physicians and Surgeons there. Besides the ordinary degree of M. D., he had conferred upon him those of A. B. and A. M.

In addition to his other labors and achievements, he took upon himself those connected with forming the State Agricultural Society. He was one of the organizers of that body, and became its first secretary, a capacity in which he served with

* Annals of Iowa, October, 1871, in an article by Charles Negus, entitled, "The Early History of Iowa."

the greatest efficiency for some fifteen years, and until the institution had attained a permanent basis. He also took great interest in founding and developing in every possible way the Fairfield, or Jefferson County Library.

As already intimated, he had a great taste for natural history and was, himself, a skilful taxidermist. He had made the finest and largest collection of stuffed birds and small mammals in the State, valued at several thousand dollars, and this he presented to that library. He also acted as its Secretary for a number of years, and his name, as well as those of Christian W. Sigle and James F. Wilson is inseparably connected with it.

As throwing some light upon the various and useful contributions of Dr. Shaffer to the State and its history, I can do no better than present the following extracts, from what the late curator of the Historical Department of Iowa, Charles Aldrich, has said of him:

Dr. Shaffer is one of the men of Iowa who has left footprints upon its history which will endure for many generations. In addition to his other and various works, he has kept a daily journal during all the time he has been a medical practitioner. Possibly some future antiquary may unearth this interesting mass of manuscripts and publish to distant times what will throw a flood of light upon the medical history of the last four decades of this century.*

And again, among the very last writings of Mr. Aldrich just before his death, and found in his closed desk—was this final tribute:

No one but the designer of a man's work can so perfectly complete it. The Historical Department is indebted for its existence largely to strong and great men of this character. Two who never ceased their labors have recently sent to the Department what they protest shall be their last active efforts—they maintain they have cleared their desks. They are William Salter, D. D., of Burlington, and J. M. Simler, M. D., of Keokuk. These names occur in the early correspondence of the Department, and from that time to the present they occur with frequency not exceeded by any others, and over with wisdom were wise counsels were needed, and with material assistance were that might be provided. Both these grand men remain in the active and accurate use of their faculties and both today conduct their correspondence in their own fine, legible hands. Both are over eighty years of age, and both have lately prepared and forwarded items considerably augmenting the collections of the Department, and as usual without cost or expense to the State.

Dr. Shaffer was a frequent contributor to the press through all the years, but for mere politics he had but little inclination, though in 1862 he was elected to the State Senate, and proved himself a wise and efficient member. In religion he was a Unitarian and an active member of that organization.

I cannot leave Dr. Shaffer without a glance at his personal side. When we first met he was thirty-four or five, and I was twenty-nine or thirty. He certainly was the most old-fashioned young man I had ever seen. He wore trousers with the old-fashioned let down flap in front, such as our grandfathers wore, instead of the more modern perpendicular opening, which was introduced when I was a small boy.

* *Journal of the Historical Department of Iowa*, Vol. I, p. 102, 103.

and which I well remember caused a tremor among the prudish old ladies, who denounced the new fashion as vulgar and Frenchy. The old style was such as we see in all the pictures of the early time, and of which the present generation, or any of the last seventy years, have no knowledge. Joshua's trousers in the respect referred to, followed the style of his forefathers and for years and years he persisted in it. It displayed his characteristic of cherishing and sticking to things of the past. In other respects his attire conformed to the fashion of the times. He had a good person, of medium height, rotund and well formed; regular features, a pleasing, and when I knew him, full bearded face. In disposition and manner, he was so open, frank and prepossessing as to at once inspire perfect confidence and respect. As a delightful entertaining companion, he had few equals. He was in the main, a conservative instead of a radical, and against sudden changes that often go to extremes; though, for many years, he was a strenuous advocate of cremation, and belonged to a society, each member of which was pledged to the disposition of his body in that manner. Taken all in all, he was one of those fine characters, whose appearance, like those of some planets, occur only at intervals.

Daniel P. Stubbs.

With Daniel P. Stubbs, I had an intimate acquaintance; we lived in adjoining counties, and he was occasionally at our court and I was occasionally at his. In addition to this, we were both members of the Tenth and Eleventh General Assemblies, he being a member of the Senate in the Tenth, while I was a member of the House, and in the Eleventh we were fellow members of the Senate. We had, as I now recollect, five strikingly tall members in the Senate and Mr. Stubbs was one of them. He had a height of about six feet and three inches. While he was not handsome, his bearing was stately, and what he lacked in physical beauty, he made up for in intellectual strength. On all occasions in which he participated, he was not only conspicuous by his towering figure, but by the strength of his speech and reasonings as well. He was one of the ablest lawyers in the State, and I can testify that he exercised great influence in the proceedings and legislation of the Senate. He was not only a lawyer of extraordinary ability, but a high public-spirited citizen who aspired to do much and did much to forward the best interest of the State. He formed a legal partnership soon after he came to Fairfield, in 1857, with James F. Wilson, under the firm name of Wilson & Stubbs. This firm soon became well known throughout the State. It continued for a number of years, but after the entrance of Mr. Wilson into the field of national politics, the greater portion of the legal work fell upon Mr. Stubbs; and it could not have well fallen upon more competent shoulders. The reputation of Mr. Stubbs as a lawyer continued steadily to grow and it was not long before it became statewide. He only achieved wide distinction as a civil lawyer, but also as a criminal lawyer. Cases of the highest importance in both lines came to him without seeking. He was not only learned in legal

Biographical Index—Early Iowa Physicians

This is a photocopy of the biographical index file from the State Medical Library of Iowa regarding early Iowa physicians. The index cards include references to biographies, Iowa medical histories, and Iowa medical journals that contain obituaries and biographical information on Iowa physicians. The information was collected over a number of years and information may be limited or more detailed depending on the prominence of the physician.

Sampson - Thornell

195

Iowa-Doctors

Shaffer, J.^{show} Monroe (-1830- 1913) Fairfield, Jefferson Co.
Keokuk Lee Co.

Iowa M. J., V: Jan., 1899, p. 27. Geodes.

J. Ia.St. M.Soc. 24:646, Dec. 1934
25:52-53, Jan. 1935 Feb 1935
25:628, Nov. 1935 109
25:109, Feb. 1935
25:163, Mar. 1935

J. Ia. St. M. Soc., XXVII:234, May, 1937.

History Lee Co. Iowa 1879, 712.

B. Washington Co. Penn. Sept 13, 1830.

Came to Fairfield in 1852 - 1874.

Have small portrait (OVER) in Repertoire

Iowa - Doctors

Shaffer, Raymond Clement (1885- Odebolt Sac Co.

Hart: History Sac County, Ia. B.F. Bowen Pub. Indianapolis, Ind. 1914, 913

Iowa - Doctors

Shane, Robt.S.^{shane maker} (1886-1958) Pilot Mound, Boone Co.

Iowa Press Ass. Who's Who in Iowa (1E)'40, 127

See: One Hundred Years of Iowa Medicine (1 Fh) 1950, I.S.M.S. 440

Obit. J. Iowa St.M.Soc. Sept. 1958, p Lvii

Obit. JAMA Sept. 27, 1958, 429

Obit. St. Univ. Iowa Med. Bull. Fall 1958, 13



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You are here: Trees > OneWorldTree® > Joshua Monroe Shaffer

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Joshua Monroe Shaffer

Born: 13 Jul 1830
Washington, Pennsylvania, USA

Died: 25 Mar 1913
Keokuk, Iowa, USA

[View person's info](#)

[See Pedigree View](#)

PAGE TOOLS

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- [Start an Ancestry Member Tree with Joshua M Shaffer](#)
- [Find famous relatives BETA](#)

Family **Historical Records** Family Facts

Family Groups

Spouse

[Melanie Jane Curry](#)

Born:
Died:

Marriage: 18 Mar 1856 in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, USA

[View Info](#)

Children

Sex

Birth

HISTORICAL RECORDS

2 User-submitted trees

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