

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Ross,

Lewis Williams - Represented Sherrill, Miller, Cass, and Pottawattamie  
Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 15 Oct 1827 Hanover Township, Butler County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Zoe M. Brown Lebanon, Ohio

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Honored member of the Iowa Period Lawmakers Association;  
former member of the Pottawattamie County bar

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

C. Profession Lawyer; chancellor of the law department of the  
University of Iowa, Iowa City Iowa

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1864, 1866

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State Trustee of Iowa State University 1864-1865; regent of State University of Iowa  
1874-1880

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

7. Death 22 Nov 1902 Council Bluffs Iowa; buried Walnut Hill Cemetery, Council  
Bluffs, Iowa

8. Children Lillian; Charles; Walter; Edith; Anna

9. Names of parents Amos and Lydia (Williams) Ross

10. Education

11. Degrees

Farmers' College near Cincinnati, Ohio, May 1848-1850,  
later Miami University, Oxford, Ohio graduating June 1852

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- After college he read law in Hamilton, Ohio and was admitted to the bar in 1854.
- In August 1856 he moved to Lewis, Iowa in Cass County
- On 3 Jan 1861 he settled in Council Bluffs, Iowa
- 1880 made a resident professor of State University of Iowa law department
- 1884 promoted to office of chancellor of the law department of State University of Iowa



# LEWIS W. ROSS DEAD

FORMER CHANCELLOR OF IOWA UNIVERSITY PASSES.

SUDDEN ATTACK OF HEART FAILURE ENDS HIS CAREER.

WAS ONE OF THE FOREMOST BARRISTERS OF WEST.

Equally as Highly Honored for His Model, Christian Career—Funeral on Monday.

Lewis W. Ross, the pioneer member of the Pottawattamie county bar and former chancellor of the law department of the University of Iowa, died at his home, 617 Willow avenue, in this city, yesterday morning at 5:30. His death, which was due to heart failure, was entirely unexpected and was a severe blow to the family and the hundreds of friends throughout the city and state.

Chancellor Ross was apparently in good health, and though somewhat enfeebled by seventy-five years he was still vigorous in his public life. Up to the day of his death he had rarely missed being at work in his law office. He enjoyed this usual good health until Friday, when at intervals during the day he spoke to the members of the family of slight pains felt in the region of the heart. Chancellor Ross retired Friday evening, however, without feeling any serious results from the affection, but yesterday morning about 5 o'clock he awoke and spoke to his wife of sudden pains and difficulty of breathing. He had risen from his bed, but had laid down again, feeling unable to stand. Mrs. Ross at once became alarmed and assisted Mr. Ross to assume a more comfortable position, but he suddenly became unconscious. The family at once sent for Drs. Macrae and Barstow, but before they could reach the bedside Chancellor Ross had breathed his last.

The funeral will be Monday afternoon, services being held at the home. Rev. James Thomson of the First Congregational church will deliver the address, and Rev. George G. Rice, a lifelong friend of Mr. Ross, will assist in the services. The interment will follow at Walnut Hill cemetery, the burial being private.

relatives last night stating that Charles Ross, of Mobile, Ala., the older

college Mr. Ross has been a faithful member of the Congregational church, and during his forty years' residence in Council Bluffs he has been one of the mainstays in the First Congregational church of this city. He has served on the church boards and has been an active member in the spiritual as well as the business life of his church society.

The social life of the deceased was faultless. He was in the true sense a scholar and a literary man. His affiliation outside his home, his church and political affairs was almost centered during the last year or two in the Council Bluffs club, of which he was founder and president. He was the pioneer member of the Pottawattamie Bar association, and the tributes paid to him yesterday by the association and by its individual members evinces the great respect and esteem with which he was held.

In his personal life purity and nobility were personified. His life was a spotless one and his influence for good and morality is statewide in results. His home life was ideal. Chancellor and Mrs. Ross maintained a household from which has radiated an influence which is wide in its effect. Being a scholar himself, in his home was a well filled library, and an atmosphere of culture and refinement was always a fundamental part of his domestic life.

## LIFE OF LEWIS W. ROSS.

### Sketch of His Honored Career Taken from His Own Record.

Lewis W. Ross, who died yesterday morning at his home in this city, was born of Scotch lineage, October 15, 1827, in Hanover township, Butler county, Ohio. His grandfather, Ezekiel Ross, and his father, Amos Ross, were natives of Essex county, New Jersey, and settled in Butler county, Ohio, in 1814. On May 1, 1848, Lewis W. Ross entered Farmers' college, near Cincinnati, and continued there until the winter of 1850, when he changed to Miami university at Oxford, O., and was graduated from that institution in June, 1852. During his college life he numbered among his student acquaintances Oliver W. Nixon of the Chicago Inter Ocean, Murat Halsted, Dr. Jacob C. Denise of Omaha, and the late President Benjamin Harrison. After leaving college Mr. Ross read law at Hamilton, O., and was admitted to the bar in the summer of 1854.

In the month of August, 1856, he moved to Lewis, Cass county, Ia. On January 3, 1861, he settled in Council Bluffs, which place had since been his home except during a temporary absence extended through seven years while chancellor of the law department of the State university at Iowa City. He was state senator from this district in the Tenth and Eleventh general assemblies and at the time of his death was an hon-

ored member of the Iowa legislature. He was elected the State university and in 1871 he was elected a member of the faculty for six years. He made a resident professorship of the university and was promoted to the chair of the department. As he labored earnestly as an active and largely in organizing and establishing local and homeopathic institutions. While in the hospital in aid of his plan "Outline of Common Lawing;" also, "An Outline of Real Property," and other works. At the bar ranked high as an equal lawyer. Causes of this him all the charms of After leaving the Chancellor Ross returned to Council Bluffs and resumed the law which he continued as the firm of Ross & Ross of his death, his son, the junior member of the great many years he practiced chancery for the federal city.

Mr. Ross was united in Lebanon, O., to Miss Eliza Ross. Five children were born to them, Hester, Edith, Anna, and Charles, whom are now living in Council Bluffs, Iowa, now a resident of Mobile, Ala., still being residents of

## BAR PAYS ITS

County Association Honors

Ross and Court met in the district court this day morning and approved the relative to the death of the member, Chancellor Ross. President Finley Burdett called the members of the association by motion the following were appointed:

- Arrangements—W. S. Gan, George S. Wright, Resolutions—J. N. Flickinger, J. J. Stewart, Flowers—W. W. Weston, C. G. Saunders.

An adjourned meeting of the association was held this afternoon, but on that at that time the general had not been so on arrangements was The committee, however, power to act for the committee on resolution a future meeting, and the association Judge that a copy of the records of the association be placed upon the records of the court.

Court adjourned yesterday to the memory of Chancellor Ross. The court will not convene again until next day.

With the death of Mr.

# Persuasive Value

aska county arrested investigation of the authorities. McKenzie is McKenzie of Silver and is charged with Price, the daughter of Padonia. The crime has been committed ago, and it is said conditions became McKenzie he left for The trial of the case Avoca at the next court.

Omaha—Harry Davis, employed by W. F. Paterson, Mynster Springs, hitched up a team and drove to while in the city it is intoxicated and drove the lost the team some driver and the Omaha driver him up for a drunk. He was notified of Davis' Tibbits and Deputy sought him to this night the team had Davis is locked up in charged with larceny

Boys—The local received a telegram from Pierce of the Lawrence, Kas., telling of Indian boys whom day evening on day away from Pierce said that here, who gave their Benlieu and Bazille ones wanted at inning away from would send for them boys have admitted from the Lawrence

Hermorley Full-stealing a set of harness of J. W. Wilcox, in police court until tomorrow. His \$200, which he failed Wingfield, the Colorado being arrested and er the suspicion of an Laster in the K. evening, also had his all this morning.

Coal—Albert Tietze, who was charged from the Milwaukee guilty before Justice yesterday afternoon and await the action of subject to good If nothing more company regarding rt may be freed of

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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committee of 27, will give the s of dances on er 26, at Hughes' of Omaha is the ay. convalescent after fever. of Madison, N. J., nd hotel. rust Steinhofel are by severe illness. L. Richardson left orthwestern for St. ge W. Hewett left hwestern route for will spend Thanks- it will return this h's sojourn in Old has returned from relatives at Get- well of Chambers, to visit with her Spencer Smith. of St. Joseph, was guest of M's. to her home Wineland of Alton, ng at the home of Morgan the past Rohrer will leave where she will be ora Landsberg of other of J. M. rening via the Illi- gor, Mich., where ald has gone to f weeks' visit. She lme at Milwaukee of Chicago is in er mother, Mrs. B. s. Mrs. J. T. Muli- an. art superintendent at linois Central, with go, was a Council y. was critically ill week, made such e was able to be ay. ville of Galesburg, ing for a week's er, Mrs. Victor E. nuc returned yesterday tittsburg, where he k in the interest of igital Co. hwestern pas- el Plate line, neapolis, was bluffs ticket offic- m Casson and John farmers of York city Saturday, on nd se- Source: Iowa Ter- ritorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Tribute to Chancellor Ross.**  
 Chancellor Ross was beloved and re- spected not only by his associates at the bar, but by every citizen of Council Bluffs who had the honor of know- ing him. Conscientious and noble in every act, his word was his bond. Chancellor Ross was a noble man, dignified by nature, yet approachable and kind to everyone. By his honor and uprightness he won the love and esteem of all his associates at the bar; by his kindness and fortitude he com- manded the deep respect of the younger generation.

He was the young man's friend. Many a lawyer, many a professional man of every vocation, looked to him as the ideal of upright manhood and as one in whom they could confide and of whom they could ask advice. The young law student was his particular friend, and during his term of service as the head of the law department of the state university over a thousand students came in direct contact with him. By his personality, kindness and good fellowship he won friends who afterward took prominent places in public and private life.

In political life Mr. Ross was always a staunch republican, conscientiously firm in the belief of the principles ad- vocated by his party. Politics to Chan- cellor Ross was not a game or means for advancement; it was the exercise of the divine right of franchise. Pol- itics spelled patriotism in his vocabu- lary and were inseparable. A lover of his country, a patriot at heart, he was in politics to keep it pure.

Ever since he was a young man in

**NEW PICTURES**

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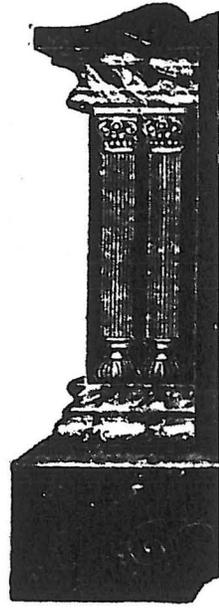
# Persuasive Value

No argument we might present to so examination and comparison of designs, quali be seen before one can appreciate the full n prices on our superb line of new holiday jewe policy—to give the most for the least, at all are now installed, and with immense new shi of all, whether they be large or small. CON

## Men's Watches



- Gents' 14k. gold filled, open face or hunt- ing case, 7 jewel, Elgin or Waltham movement, 20 years' guarantee..... **\$15.50**
- Gents' 14k. gold filled, open face or hunt- ing case, 15 jewel, Elgin or Waltham movement, 20 years' guarantee..... **\$18.50**
- Gents' 14k. gold filled, open face or hunt- ing case, 7 jewel, Elgin or Waltham movement, 25-years' guarantee..... **\$16.50**
- Gents' 14k. gold filled, open face or hunt- ing, case, 15 jewel, Elgin or Waltham movement.. **\$19.50**



**Eight**  
 A large and comp clocks, in porce all sizes and from .....  
**OUR "SPEC**

**Cut Glass**

The finest dis- play of cut glass west of the Mis- sissippi river.

The stock incl bottles, tumblers, vases, saucers, win celebrated makes Stott Bros., etc.

has been a faithful congregational church, in forty years' residence here he has been one of the First Congregational of this city. He has church boards and has member in the spiritual he business life of his life of the deceased was was in the true sense a literary man. His life his home, his church affairs was almost cent the last year or two in Bluffs club, of which he and president. He was member of the Pottawattamie, and the tributes yesterday by the association its individual members great respect and esteem was held. al life purity and nobilized. His life was a nd his influence for good is statewide in results. was ideal. Chancellor maintained a household as radiated an influence its effect. Being a in his home was a ary, and an atmosphere l refinement was always l part of his domestic

LEWIS W. ROSS.

Honored Career Taken His Own Record.

ross, who died yesterday s home in this city, was lineage, October 15, 1827, ownship, Butler county, dfather, Ezekiel Ross, and os Ross, were natives of New Jersey, and settled y, Ohio, in 1814. On May 1, Ross entered Farmers' Cincinnati, and continued a winter of 1850, when he and university at Oxford, aduated from that insti- 1852. During his college ed among his student aciver W. Nixon of the Chi-can, Murat Halsted, Dr. e of Omaha, and the ate jamin Harrison. After Mr. Ross read law at and was admitted to the mer of 1854. of August, 1856, he moved county, Ia. On January led in Council Bluffs, d since been his home ex- temporary absence ex- ten years while chan- department of the y at Iowa City. He was from this district in the eenth general assemblies e of his death was an hon-

ored member of the Iowa Pioneer Law-makers' Association.

was elected in 1864 a trustee of the State university and re-elected in 1863. In 1874 he was elected a regent of the university for six years. In 1880 he was made a resident professor of the law department of the university and in 1881 was promoted to the office of chancellor of the department. As trustee and regent he labored earnestly and was especially active and largely instrumental in organizing and establishing the law, medical and homeopathic medical departments. While in the law school he published in aid of his platform work, "An Outline of Common Law and Code Pleading," also, "An Outline of the Law of Real Property," and some fragmentary works. At the bar Chancellor Ross ranked high as an equity and real estate lawyer. Causes of this character had to him all the charms of a romance.

After leaving the university work, Chancellor Ross returned to Council Bluffs and resumed the practice of law, which he continued as senior member of the firm of Ross & Ross up to the time of his death, his son, Dillon Ross, being the junior member of the firm. For a great many years he had been master-in-chancery for the federal court in this city.

Mr. Ross was united in marriage at Lebanon, O., to Miss Zoe M. Brown. Five children were born to them—Charles, Hester, Edith, Anna and Dillon, all of whom are now living. Charles Ross is now a resident of Mobile, Ala., the others still being residents of this city.

BAR PAYS ITS RESPECT.

County Association Honors Chancellor Ross and Court Adjourns.

The Pottawattamie Bar association met in the district court room yesterday morning and appointed committees relative to the death of their senior member, Chancellor Lewis M. Ross. President Finley Burke of the association called the members to order, and by motion the following committees were appointed:

Arrangements—W. S. Baird, John Organ, George S. Wright.

Resolutions—J. N. Baldwin, A. T. Flickinger, J. J. Stewart.

Flowers—W. W. Ware, A. S. Hazelton, C. G. Saunders.

An adjourned meeting was called in the afternoon, but owing to the fact that at that time the time for the funeral had not been set the committee on arrangements was unable to report. The committee, however, was given power to act for the association. The committee on resolutions will report at a future meeting, and upon motion of the association Judge Green will order that a copy of the resolutions be spread upon the records of the district court.

Court adjourned yesterday in respect to the memory of Chancellor Ross and will not convene again until next Friday.

With the death of Mr. Ross the city

is left without a representative of the old school of attorneys. All have passed away during the history of the Pottawattamie bar. With the death of Chancellor Ross yesterday fifty-one members of the profession have passed away. Those who have preceded him are: Orson Hyde, T. Burdock, J. Sloan, J. Smith Hooten, C. E. Stone, Frank Street, Caleb Baldwin, J. D. Test, A. C. Ford, Judge Ford, Samuel Ridd, Marshall Turley, A. J. Poppleton, Geo. P. Stiles, L. W. Babbitt, Joel Tuttle, Col. Kinsman, Mr. Humphreys, John Sherman, D. W. Price, John C. Turk, W. G. Crawford, R. L. Douglas, Samuel S. Clinton, Col. W. F. Sapp, Robert Percival, Jefferson P. Casady, Marshall Key, M. L. McPherson, Joseph Lyman, W. C. James, Horace Everett, Col. D. B. Dailey, D. C. Bloomer, James McCabe, George A. Holmes, A. M. Underhill, E. A. Babcock, P. D. Mickel, Mr. Davis, V. A. Gregg, Wm. Sears, D. B. Fisk, David M. West, John W. Baird, John Sedwich, Maj. W. W. Wood, W. S. Williams, E. R. Paige.

TRIBUTE FROM ATTORNEYS.

Chancellor Ross' Associates Laud His Beautiful Life.

The sudden death of Chancellor Ross brought forth eloquent eulogies yesterday, especially from his associates before the bar. From judge to bailiff the court officials felt the depression of sorrow at the announcement of his death. Among the brief tributes expressed yesterday were these:

Judge Walter I. Smith—I believe I knew Chancellor Ross as well as any man. He lived next door to my parents at the time I was born and I have lived within a block of his home all of my life. He was an ideal lawyer, a conscientious citizen and a man of unusually clean life and character. Chancellor Ross was a man of tireless industry, painstaking to a phenomenal degree. His death is an irreparable loss to the Pottawattamie bar.

Finley Burke, president of the Pottawattamie County Bar association—I recall Chancellor Ross in his prime. He was by all odds the leader of the bar. I was once a young practitioner and I cherished a warm friendship with him. I am now getting old, but that same friendship still continues.

William A. Mynster—Chancellor Ross was my senior in the county bar by only a few years, and since his death I am now the oldest member of the Pottawattamie bar. I can remember when I was a law student in Clinton & Baldwin's office and I used to go to Mr. Ross for help. He was always accommodating, helpful and willing and I have prized a friendship with him that has extended over a period of forty years. He was one of the best men I ever knew.

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HIS ARDEN

Secretary Kimba Club on C

The Council Bluffs posed of some o sional clerical and city, will feel the l as keenly as any o to his connection Kimball, the secre tion, in speaking o

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Miss Arkwright day, November 29 Mynster street.

### The Pioneer Law-

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### RESPECT.

#### Honors Chancellor Adjourns.

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points of legal problems and to him I always looked for help and kindly advice.

John Lindt—Chancellor Ross was one of the old fashioned practitioners. He was dignified, painstaking and thorough. He was an upright citizen, a noble lawyer and a man of unquestionable character.

I. N. Filckinger—Chancellor Ross was the leader of the bar in many ways. I knew him as a chancellor and later as a practitioner. He was the most industrious, most painstaking, most thorough lawyer I ever knew. He was the first to recognize a young attorney and was conscientious to perfection with his client. Chancellor Ross is the last of the old school and with his demise the county bar has no representative of that class of attorneys which have lent so much dignity to the profession.

Judge George Carson—I have known Chancellor Ross since 1868 and he has been since I have known him a model man in his ideals and actions. He was a studious, cultured and dignified gentleman. He was noted for his industry, sobriety and good judgment. His life was a pure and faultless one.

### HIS ARDENT CLUB WORK.

#### Secretary Kimball of Council Bluffs Club on Chancellor Ross.

The Council Bluffs club, which is composed of some of the leading professional clerical and business men of this city, will feel the loss of Chancellor Ross as keenly as any organization. In regard to his connection with the club, Clem F. Kimball, the secretary of the organization, in speaking of Mr. Ross, said:

"Chancellor Ross was a man of finest sentiments and loved the beauty of thought and expression as well as the logic and the antiquity of the law. It was due to his desire to associate his fellow citizens in literary work that resulted in the formation of the Council Bluffs club, which has had a very successful existence under his guidance as president. He came to my office one day and broached the subject of a general literary club, and his project was acted upon at once. Other similar organizations were studied carefully and those who were interested decided upon an organization. Chancellor Ross was fittingly selected as its first president, which place he has ever since filled.

"His idea and purpose often expressed was the formation of a permanent organization for literary and scientific work and culture, which would attract and be promoted by the professional and business men of our city. It has already become permanent and gathered in some of our brightest citizens. His deep knowledge of general and constitutional history, and his fondness for it was a constant inspiration to the organization, and was a source of information and entertainment to the club. He took a deep interest in local history and moved the club to preserve items and papers of interest. At the last meeting his direct and plain, but forcible, exposition of the real evils of government, local and national, will never be forgotten by those who heard it. His work with the club will be greatly missed."

Miss Arkwright's china sale, Saturday, November 29, to December 6, 604 Mynster street.

THE UNITED STATES  
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

AND

PORTRAIT GALLERY

OF

EMINENT AND SELF-MADE MEN.

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IOWA VOLUME.

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

In politics, he is a firm republican.

Mr. Carter is gifted with a fine constitution, which alone could have borne him through the labor of this life. His mental and moral standing is sufficiently given in his record. Sound in judgment, thoroughly conscientious, broad in views as in culture, well informed on a great range of subjects, one who sounds the depth of everything he handles

and judges accordingly, affable in manner yet firm in purpose, he is one in which implicit confidence is placed by all who know him. Mr. Carter is a kind and indulgent parent, devoting his whole time to the education and interest of his children.

He married Miss Pricilla, daughter of Michel Daggy, on the 19th of October, 1854. By this union they have one child, a girl.

## HON. LEWIS W. ROSS,

### COUNCIL BLUFFS.

LEWIS WILLIAMS ROSS was born in Butler county, Ohio, on the 15th of October, 1827. His lineage is from the Scotch. The annals of the family show that his ancestors were Protestants, and were driven from Scotland into north Ireland, and thence to the New World. Daniel Ross, one of the colonists of New Jersey, was the first representative of the family in this country. The Rosses, from time immemorial, have followed agriculture, and it is believed that the subject of this sketch is the only one of the name who has made a departure from that pursuit and kindred vocations. His father, Amos Ross, and grandfather, Ezekiel Ross, were pioneers in Ohio, settling there in 1812, when the country was an unbroken wilderness. At the age of twenty Lewis W. left his father's farm, with such education as the log school-house of those days furnished, and studied at Farmers' College, near Cincinnati, for two years. He then entered Miami University, Oxford, and there graduated in 1852. At Farmers' College his studies were mainly under Dr. R. H. Bishop, a Scotchman of great learning and singular abilities as a teacher. At the university he had among his instructors James C. Moffett, now of Princeton College, and James Mathews, the father of Stanley Mathews, United States senator. Among his classmates we find the names of David Swing, now of Chicago, Benjamin Harrison, of Indianapolis, and Milton Saylor, of Cincinnati.

From college Mr. Ross passed into the law office of Scott and McFarland, Hamilton, Ohio, and there remained two years, gaining admission to the bar in 1854. In 1856 he visited Cass county, Iowa, partly on business and partly home-hunting. Being pleased with the Nishnabotna country, and being assured that the Mississippi and Missouri River railroad would soon be constructed to the Missouri river,

he settled in Lewis, then the county seat, intending to follow his profession after the manner of pioneer lawyers; but he was soon crazed by the mania for speculation then prevailing throughout the west, and made such investments of his limited means as to require his undivided attention for the next two years, resulting at the end of that time in a total loss of capital and labor. His experiences in this respect are like those of many early settlers in Iowa. He is not the only lawyer who has tried to gain wealth by buying and running a saw-mill.

In 1858 Mr. Ross opened a law office in Lewis, and soon found full, but not very lucrative, employment in settling up the mistakes and failures of the hard times of 1857-58. In 1861 he removed to Council Bluffs, where he has since quietly but persistently followed his profession.

In the autumn of 1863 he was the nominee of the republican party for the state senate in a district then considered close, and was elected by a majority of several hundred votes. His record as a legislator is without spot or blemish. He was a member of the judiciary committee at the sessions of 1864 and 1866, and chairman of the committee on public lands at the latter session. Perhaps he did more to shape legislation, and to prevent the enactment of unwise laws, than in the origination of subjects of legislation. Of conservative mind and painstaking habits, he was regarded as a safe leader. In 1864 Mr. Ross was elected by the legislature a trustee of the State University of Iowa for a term of four years; was reelected in 1868, and served until the reorganization of the university, and the creation of a board of regents. Without any solicitation on his part, he was elected regent in the session of 1874 for a term of six years, and now holds that office. As trustee and regent, he has done much in developing and enlarg-

ing the work of that institution. The establishment of the departments of law and of medicine has been the especial subject of his labors. Here, as in the legislature, his faculty as an organizer has shown itself. The idea being furnished, he has found the ways and means for its practical operation. Politically, Mr. Ross has always been a republican.

Religiously, he comes of Presbyterian stock, but since settling in Iowa has been in connection with the Congregational church.

Domestically, he is the husband of one wife, Zoe M. Brown, taken on the 12th of July, 1855, at Lebanon, Ohio. Is the father of five children, and is happy in the society of this wife and these children.

## SAMUEL A. JAMES,

*SIGOURNEY.*

SAMUEL ADAMS JAMES, capitalist, was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, on the 27th of December, 1823, his parents being Thomas James and Barbara *nee* Britts. His father was of mixed Scotch and Welsh lineage, while his mother was of pure German stock. The former had a very limited common-school education, but was nevertheless a man of great shrewdness and considerable general information, while the latter never attended school so much as a single day. Although English was sometimes spoken in her father's family, yet the German was that most commonly used. By the time she was grown, however, she could read quite fluently in both English and German. Among the earliest youthful recollections of our subject is that of hearing his mother reading alternately from her English and German bibles. She was a pious and exemplary woman, a member of the Christian church, and left the impress of her pure and practical character upon her son. The father inclined to the Baptist faith, but never united with any church.

In the year 1829 the family removed from Virginia to the State of Indiana, and settled in Hendricks county, in which and the adjoining county of Montgomery Samuel A. obtained a common-school education. His school opportunities, however, did not commence until after he had attained his eighth year, at which period he was able to both read and write. At this period books were not as easily obtained as now; especially was this the case in the wilds of Indiana; but he possessed a peculiar fondness for study, that would, doubtless, under more favorable auspices have carried him to distinction in the world of letters. His early library was composed of the Bible, Weem's "Life of Washington and Marion," and "Peter Parley's" young reader. The first and only newspaper taken by the family for many years was Joseph C. Neal's "Saturday

Gazette," published at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, embracing the time of his charcoal sketches, from the perusal of which Samuel derived much profit and general information.

As soon as he was old enough he had recourse to the usual expedient of aspiring youths, school teaching. In 1840 he taught the Byrd School in Montgomery county, Indiana, many of his former schoolmates being now his pupils, the school term at that period consisting of the three winter months. This he continued three terms, being at the same time an industrious and diligent student himself.

In the spring of 1842 he resolved to pitch his tent still farther west, and turning his back upon the scenes of his boyhood, he started alone and on foot, with a pair of leather saddle-bags straddled over his shoulders, and crossed the states of Indiana and Illinois into the then territory of Iowa, and to the town of Washington, which he reached on the 25th of March, 1842. The troubles of the Black-hawk war were now over, and everything being settled upon a sure foundation, Iowa was considered the most promising state of the Union, a promise which has been amply fulfilled in the case of our subject.

In the fall of the same year he taught one term of school in Washington; but in the year following (1843) he removed to Keokuk county, and made a claim about four miles north of Sigourney. In the autumn of the year, however, he returned to Washington and spent the following winter in the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in Sigourney soon after.

As yet the territory now forming Keokuk county was still a part of Washington, and in March, 1844, Mr. James was appointed clerk of the district court, with a special commission to organize the county of Keokuk, and accordingly, equipped with the same old

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# THE BENCH AND BAR

OF

# IOWA

*Illustrated with Steel and Copper Engravings*

5476

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1901

tion at Iowa City and the latter at Columbia University, N. Y. It is quite remarkable that all the members of his family, consisting of a wife and three children, are graduates of Cornell College.

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CHARLES E. RANSIER,  
*INDEPENDENCE.*

Charles E. Ransier is a native of Madison county, N. Y., and was born April 4, 1854. He came with his parents to Independence early in life, and there obtained his schooling, commencing the study of law with James Jamison, on his twentieth birthday. It is quite a remarkable fact that he has since occupied the same rooms wherein he began his professional studies.

Admitted to practice on the 6th of May, 1876, Mr. Ransier continued alone until 1895, when he formed a partnership with C. L. Everett, under the firm name of Ransier & Everett, which still exists. That he has met with marked success is evident from the fact that he has been repeatedly honored by his local constituents. In 1878-81 he served as city attorney of Independence and in 1892-98 as county attorney of Buchanan county. In 1900 he served as district delegate to the Republican National convention at Philadelphia.

One of the prominent judges says the following of our subject: "Charles E. Ransier is one of the leading lawyers in his county as well as in the tenth judicial district of Iowa. He is a man of eminent ability, as a lawyer and stands high in his profession both as a lawyer and a man. An excellent man and lawyer."

---

LEWIS WILLIAMS ROSS,

*COUNCIL BLUFFS.*

*(An Autobiography.)*

I was born in Butler county, Ohio, October 15, 1827. My parents, Amos Ross and Lydia Williams, and my paternal grandparents, Ezekiel Ross and Ruth Maxwell, all natives of New Jersey, emigrated to Ohio in 1813, purchased a tract of virgin forest land and established homes thereon. My father was a thrifty farmer and Christian citizen. My mother was an exceptional housekeeper, a cheerful hostess, and a devoted wife and mother. They had seven children born to them, of

which I was the sixth. It was their desire to give one of their children a liberal education. This benefit would have come to me, but for the death of an older brother, and the presence of a mortgage on the farm. I had some love for books and a retentive memory, but the mortgage had to be lifted. I could not be spared from the farm work. Accordingly, I took my place on the farm and remained there until my twentieth year, and so became inured to all kinds of farm labor and trained in farm economics. During these years my educational opportunities were limited to the three-month winter terms in the log school house of the period. When the last of the mortgage debt was paid, and the farm released, my parents encouraged me to take a course in some college, and, after some consideration, I enrolled as a student in Farmer's College, located near Cincinnati. This was on May 1, 1848. After attending for four consecutive terms, I changed to Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, and graduated from that institution in June, 1852. I covered six years' work in four and a half years. It was a mistake; I should have taken six years' time. It pays, in the race of life, to lay good foundations. I am grateful, however, for my opportunities, both of instruction and association. I remember, with deep interest, my teachers and associates in both institutions. In Farmer's College I sat under the venerable Robert H. Bishop, D. D., ex-president of Miami University, then an octogenarian, but well preserved in body and mind. On the same benches and under the same instructor, were boys now known as O. W. Nixon, of the Inter Ocean; William C. Gray, of the Interior; Murat Halstead, journalist; ex-President Benjamin Harrison, and others. In Miami University, I had the benefit of an able corps of teachers, including James C. Moffitt, D. D., afterwards professor of church history in Princeton College, and had as class and college mates boys since known as Prof. David Swing and Gen. A. C. McClurg, of Chicago; James H. Brooks, D. D., of St. Louis; Hon. George Crane, of Dubuque, and Hon. James W. McDill, of Creston, Iowa; ex-President Harrison, and many others. Yes, I am profoundly grateful for college associations and college ideals.

In the summer of 1852 I entered the law office of Scott & McFarland, in Hamilton, Ohio, as a student, and was admitted to the bar in the summer of 1854. Here it is my pleasure to record my estimate of the professional and personal worth of my law instructors. Josiah

Scott was a member of the old school of lawyers. He was liberally educated and well versed in both common law and equity, and a rare combination of a court and jury lawyer. The Ohio code of civil procedure had then come into effect, yet under his direction I made a special study of common law pleading and procedure. Though I had no occasion to sue or defend at common law, I am quite sure that the study of that system helped me to understand the code system, and to become a self-reliant code pleader. Noah C. McFarland, the junior partner, was a man of his times. He had excellent common sense, which he seldom failed to exercise. Scott was, for twelve years, a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio, and McFarland served a term as commissioner of the general land office under Secretary Kirkwood.

In the autumn of 1856 I located at Lewis, in Cass county, Iowa, and engaged in a business as a side venture, extending over two years of time and ending in failure. I manufactured cottonwood lumber, for which there were no purchasers, for the reason that the people, with few exceptions, were also insolvent. I discovered the actual situation in time to exchange my assets for my liabilities. By this exchange, I passed from insolvency to penniless independence, and I have always regarded the incident as the wisest transaction of my life.

On January 3, 1861, I moved from Lewis to Council Bluffs, and always since that time have been in practice at that place, except during seven years' absence while in the service of the State University at Iowa City. I have had a respectable and appreciative clientage. I have had charge of some good cases and have had fair success. I own my simple home, law library and office building, and am in fairly good standing in the business community.

In the fall of 1863, I was elected as State Senator, on the Republican ticket, and served through the sessions of 1864 and 1866. I was accorded places on the judiciary, public lands, and university committees, and so had good opportunities to become acquainted with practical legislation. I was elected by the Legislature of 1864 to the office of university trustee, and re-elected in 1868. In the year 1874 I was elected to the office of regent of the university, and served until June, 1880. It was my privilege, as trustee, to assist in the organization of the law department, in 1865, and, as regent, to assist in the organization of the medical department in 1870, and of the homeo-

pathic medical department in 1877. In 1880 I was elected to and accepted the chair of resident professor of law, and in the year 1881 was advanced to the office of chancellor of the department, as successor to W. G. Hammond. I continued in that position until June, 1887. It is not for me to put a value upon my services rendered the university, as trustee, regent and instructor. I need only say that I did what I could, and that I have but little to regret in all my public action. My work must commend itself or pass into oblivion. It is proper that I here acknowledge the satisfaction derived from meeting with so many public men of Iowa, from 1864 to 1887, upon a common plane, including governors, educators, legislators and men of affairs.

Upon leaving the university, I was favored with an appointment as one of the standing masters of the United States Court for the Southern District of Iowa. For this I was indebted to Hon. J. M. Love, for the suggestion, and to Justice Brewer for his approval. The duties of this office have been light, and the perquisites inconsiderable.

On July 12, 1856, I was married to Miss Zoe M. Brown, at Lebanon, Ohio. Five children are the fruit of this marriage. Wife and children are still in life and health. Few families have remained unbroken for so many years. The breach, however, may not be long delayed. Some day crape will hang at my door.

---

COL. JAMES K. P. THOMPSON,

ROCK RAPIDS.

James K. P. Thompson, lawyer and banker, was born in Carey, Ohio, August 21, 1845, receiving his education in the district schools and at the McGregor (Iowa) high school. He left school to join the Union service as musician of Company D, Twenty-first Iowa volunteer infantry, continuing thus for three years. He participated in seven hard-fought battles and numerous skirmishes; was severely wounded at Vicksburg, where he was under fire for forty-seven days and nights. He took part in the assaults on that stronghold both on the 19th and 22d of May, 1863, and was assigned to specially hazardous duty at Blakely, Ala. Col. Thompson comes of fighting stock; his grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier; his father a lieutenant in the War of 1812; had five brothers in the Civil War—1861-1865—and a nephew—Lieut.

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THE  
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VOLUME I.

HON. CHESTER C. COLE, HISTORIAN  
HON. E. C. EBERSOLE, EDITOR

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Wright was elected to the state senate from his district, and was especially successful and efficient in general legislation and in securing much for his locality. He was a man of high character and was prominent in many of the leading public enterprises and in financial matters, and during his residence there occupied a large place in the public interest and esteem. He died December 13, 1906.

Lewis W. Ross was a native of Ohio, where he received a thorough literary and scientific education and graduated at Miami University, in 1852, after which he studied law in Hamilton, Ohio, for two years and was admitted to the bar in 1854. In 1856 he removed to Iowa and located first at Lewis, in Cass county, where he practiced for some years, till 1861, when he removed to Council Bluffs, and there with quietness, and yet with persistency and industry, he continued the practice of the law, attaining a gratifying measure of success therein. In 1863 he was elected to the state senate from his district, and he made a good and satisfactory record as a legislator. In 1880 he became a professor of law in the State University and the following year was elected chancellor of the law department, which he continued to fill for several years, and he gave strength and character, as well as recognized great usefulness, to the law department. He was the author of "An Outline of Common Law and Code Pleading" and also "An Outline of the Law of Real Property." Chancellor Ross was a conscientious, earnest Christian man of high character and broad influence. He died November 22, 1902.

Wm. H. Stivers was a native of New York, where he received only a limited education. When a mere boy he went with his father to Ohio, where he learned the blacksmith's trade with his father, who was an excellent blacksmith and of whom the son seemed very proud, as well as of his business. The family moved to Iowa and settled in Jones county in 1850, where they continued the

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

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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.

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"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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He was born in Huron County, Ohio, in 1835. He was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in London, Ohio, where he remained until 1860, when he removed to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he entered upon the practice of his profession and continued it with success until his removal to Council Bluffs, in 1868. Here he became one of the political editors of "The Dubuque Daily Times," keeping up his practice at the same time. I have referred to his participation in politics and to his nomination for Congress in 1870. In the fall of 1875 he was the Democratic candidate for State Senator, but failed at an election. His opponent was George F. Wright. In 1872 he was a delegate to the Baltimore National Convention, which resulted in the nomination of Horace Greeley for President. In 1876 he was a delegate at large to the St. Louis Convention, which nominated Mr. Tilden for President. Later in life he devoted himself to farming and stock raising, in which he took great interest.

*Lewis W. Ross*, I was acquainted with through the course of many years, and, by the way, it should be remembered that in these recollections I am, for the most part, writing of those only with whom I was more or less personally acquainted. We were fellow members of the State Senate in 1866—the Eleventh General Assembly. We had five conspicuously tall Senators in that body, of whom he was one. He was, I should say, upwards of six feet in height, and of a commanding and noble appearance. He was one of the strongest men of that Senate. He was highly educated, a graduate of Miami University. As a lawyer he was deeply learned. He exercised great influence in shaping the important legislation of that session, and was regarded as authority upon legal questions. In his life and character he was an exemplar. His majestic person, his high and massive forehead, his mild and beneficent face were in perfect harmony with his nature. He served in the Senate of the Tenth as well as that of the Eleventh General Assemblies, and left a lasting impress upon some of the legislation of that period.

He was born in Butler County, Ohio, in 1827, and came to Iowa in 1856, first settling in Cass County, and removing to Council Bluffs in 1861. He was elected State Senator in 1863. His district embraced the counties of Freemont, Mills, Cass, and Pottawattamie. In 1864 he was elected a Trustee of the State University, and re-elected to that position in 1868. In 1874 he was made a member of the Board of Regents of the State University, and served in that capacity for six years. In 1881 he was appointed Chancellor of the Law Department of the State University. In all of these positions he displayed extraordinary ability and fitness.

He was not only a profound and successful lawyer, but a legal writer of ability. He was the author of "An Outline of Common Law and Code Pleading," and "An Outline of the Law of Real Property." He took a deep interest in all matters pertaining to the history of the State. Iowa has produced but few more

useful men that Lewis W. Ross. He died at his home in Council Bluffs in 1902.

*Joseph R. Reed* might well be accredited to Dallas County, where he commenced his professional career, but as the greater part of his active civil life was spent while he was a resident of Council Bluffs, I have concluded to place him there. His career was a highly honorable, smooth and useful one. He was a native of Ashland County, Ohio, where he was born in 1835. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar and came to Iowa in 1857, locating at Adel, in Dallas County, where he entered upon the practice, and continued in it until he entered the service early in the Civil War. He recruited in Dallas County some of the men that constituted a part of what is known as "Dodge Battery," which became the Second Battery of light artillery, and in which he served with conspicuous valor until the end of the war.

After his return from the army, and in the fall of 1865, he was elected to the State Senate from the Twenty-First District, composed of the counties of Dallas, Madison, Adair, and Guthrie. We were fellow members of the Eleventh General Assembly. Our seats were near each other. We had frequent consultations and became intimately acquainted. He was a quiet, but effective, member of that body. Not long after the close of his senatorial service, he removed to Council Bluffs. He subsequently became Judge of the District Court of that district, later a Judge and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and later still, Chief Justice of the Court of Private Land Claims, to which he was appointed by President Harrison. In this capacity he served with signal ability for a number of years, and I believe as long as that court existed. To accept this latter position, he resigned that of Judge of the State Supreme Court, and the vacancy thus occasioned was filled by the appointment of Judge Josiah Given, of Des Moines. As will be seen, a good portion of his active life was devoted to the discharge of public duties. He was a well-rounded man, and honored every position in which he was placed. While he was on the district bench, I tried an important case before him. It was the State versus James Tuttle, who was indicted with Joseph Wolf for murder. Wolf was the son of a client of mine, John S. Wolf, one of the great railroad constructors of that time, and was at the time of the murder constructing a branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company to Shenandoah, in Mills County. The work was impeded by the frequent visitations of the men engaged in it, to a saloon opened on the line, and young Wolf and Tuttle, who were brothers-in-law, went out for the purpose of suppressing the saloon which supplied the men with liquor; and in the course of this mission a quarrel ensued, in which one of the habitues of the saloon was killed. Tuttle and Wolf were jointly indicted. A separate trial was ordered, and Tuttle, who had fired the fatal shot, was first tried. Major Albert R. Anderson, the District Attorney, conducted the prosecution. The case was tried at Glenwood, in Mills County, Judge

# Family Group Record

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## Husband's Name

[Lewis Williams ROSS](#) (AFN:1WW2-ZJ8)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 15 Oct 1827    **Place:** Hanover Twp., Butler, Oh.  
**Died:** 22 Nov 1902    **Place:** Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Ia.  
**Married:** 7 Jul 1855    **Place:** Lebanon, Warren, Oh.

**Father:** [Amos ROSS](#) (AFN:1HPS-919)

[Family](#)

**Mother:** [Lydia WILLIAMS](#) (AFN:1WW2-ZB1)

## Wife's Name

[Zoe Melissa BROWN](#) (AFN:1WW3-0JD)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 25 Jan 1835    **Place:** Martinsburg, Knox. Oh.  
**Died:** 19 Feb 1914    **Place:**  
**Married:** 7 Jul 1855    **Place:** Lebanon, Warren, Oh.

**Father:**

**Mother:**

## Children

### 1. Sex Name

**M** [Charles Maxwell ROSS](#) (AFN:1WW3-0KL)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 30 Jun 1856    **Place:** Hamilton, Butler, Oh.

### 2. Sex Name

**F** [Edith Williams ROSS](#) (AFN:1WW3-0M1)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 29 Sep 1860    **Place:** Lewis, Cass, Ia.

### 3. Sex Name

**F** [Rachel Hester ROSS](#) (AFN:1WW3-0LS)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 17 Nov 1858    **Place:** Lewis, Cass, Ia.

### 4. Sex Name

**F** [Anna Zoe ROSS](#) (AFN:1WW3-0N7)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 27 Nov 1863    **Place:** Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Ia.

### 5. Sex Name

**M** [Dillon Lewis ROSS](#) (AFN:1WW3-0PF)

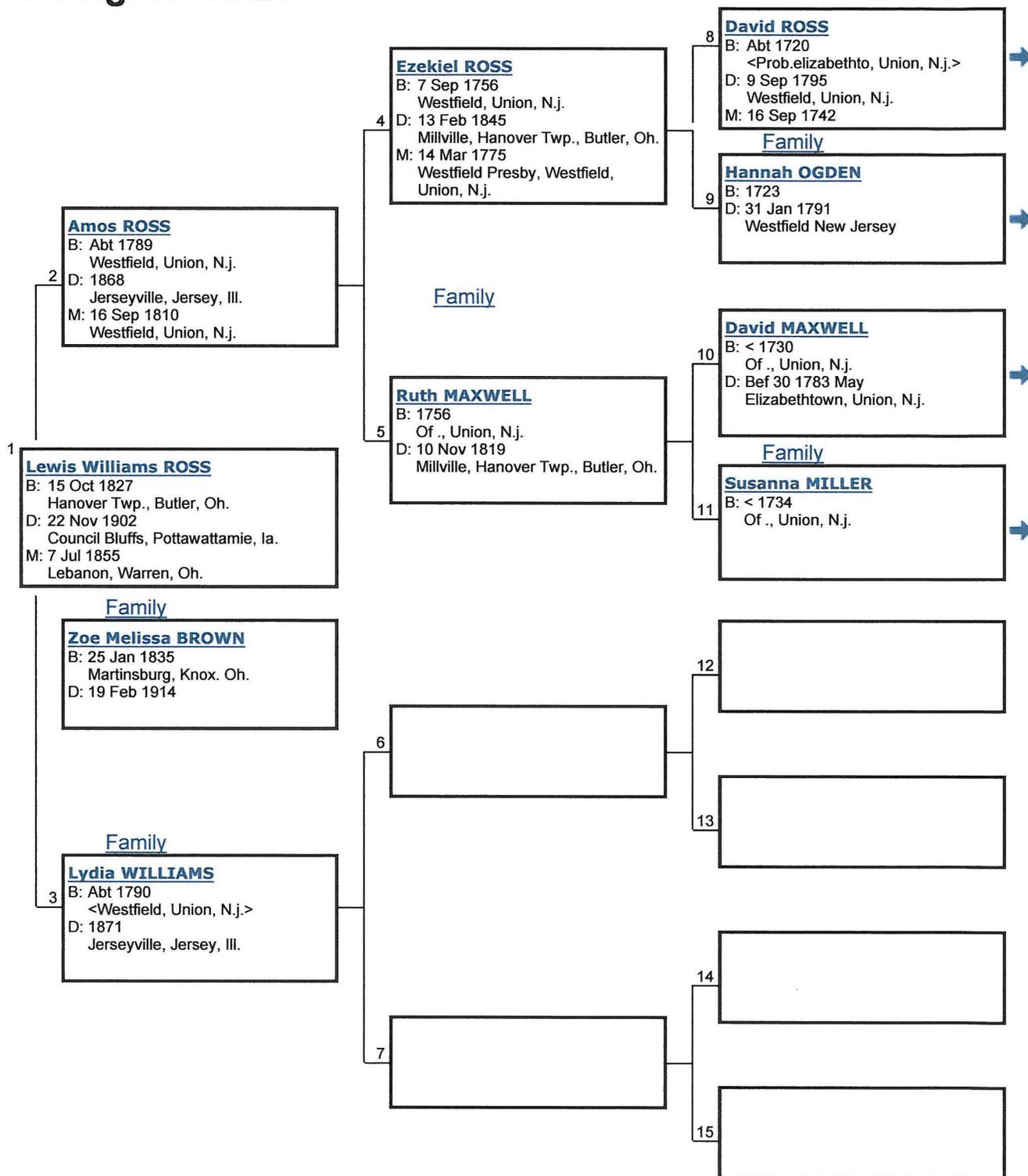
[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 1 Dec 1869    **Place:** Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie, Ia.

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# Pedigree Chart

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19



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You searched for **Lewis W. Ross** in **Iowa**

### Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name: **Lewis W Ross**  
 Birth Year: **abt 1828**  
 Birth Place: **Ohio**  
 Gender: **Male**  
 Race: **White**  
 Marital Status: **Married**  
 Census Date: **1885**  
 Residence State: **Iowa**  
 Residence County: **Johnson**  
 Locality: **Iowa City**  
 Roll: **IA1885\_211**  
 Line: **10**  
 Family Number: **83**  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household	Name	Age
Members:	<a href="#">Lewis W Ross</a>	57
	<a href="#">Zoe M Ross</a>	50
	<a href="#">Hattie R Ross</a>	25
	<a href="#">Edith W Ross</a>	24
	<a href="#">Anna Z Ross</a>	21
	<a href="#">Dillon L Ross</a>	15
	<a href="#">Bell Andrews</a>	22

**Source Information:**

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.  
 Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.

**Description:**

This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration. [Learn more...](#)

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Birth: Oct. 15, 1827  
Butler County  
Ohio, USA

Death: Nov. 2, 1902

Family links:

Parents:

Amos Ross (1788 - 1868)  
Lydia Williams Ross (1791 - \_\_\_\_)

Children:

Hester Ross Moon (1858 - 1946)\*  
Edith W. Ross (1860 - 1938)\*  
Anna Z. Ross (1863 - 1944)\*

Spouse:

Zoe M. Brown Ross (1835 - 1914)\*

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Burial:

[Walnut Hill Cemetery](#)  
Council Bluffs  
Pottawattamie County  
Iowa, USA  
Plot: section 1

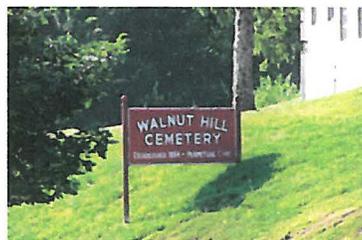
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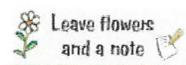


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# Lewis W. Ross

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**Zoe M. Brown Ross**

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Birth: Jan. 25, 1835  
Ohio, USA  
Death: Feb. 9, 1914

Family links:  
Children:  
Hester Ross Moon (1858 - 1946)\*  
Edith W. Ross (1860 - 1938)\*  
Anna Z. Ross (1863 - 1944)\*

Spouse:  
Lewis W. Ross (1827 - 1902)

[\\*Point here for explanation](#)

Burial:  
[Walnut Hill Cemetery](#)  
Council Bluffs  
Pottawattamie County  
Iowa, USA  
Plot: section 1

Created by: [Eric & Marcia](#)  
Record added: Jul 24, 2010  
Find A Grave Memorial# 55375729



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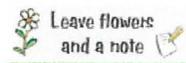


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