

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Kenneth Williams Senator _____

Represented Hancock County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 8 Nov 1873 Bloomington, Maryland

2. Marriage (s) date place
① Lulu Dodd 1903

② Mabel Richter 1937

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He practiced medicine in Hancock County, Iowa almost 50 years before retiring about 10 years before his death

B. Civic responsibilities IOO.F.; Mason

C. Profession Physician; farming interests

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 47th, 48th General Assemblies 1937, 1939

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Randolph, Iowa; member of Randolph School Board; Director of the Randolph State Bank

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 29 Oct 1960, Hamburg, Iowa; buried Randolph Cemetery, Randolph, Iowa

8. Children William Hawley

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education _____

11. Degrees *Graduate of the Omaha Medical College, Omaha, Nebraska*

12. Other applicable information *Republican* _____

- *He was staff consultant at the Kimbrough, Iowa Hospital*
 - *His parents moved with him to Hayes Center, Nebraska in 1878*
 - *His first wife, Lulu, died in 1934*
- _____

Thumping

By John Field

When you read this, there will be at 21 shopping days left until Christmas. Sunday night, just 25 shopping days before Christmas, the thermometer on our back porch soared to 67 degrees.

Weathermen hopefully predict a mild winter, and certainly no one can complain about the weather these past three months. It has been a pleasant 90 days in a happy, sun drenched land, despite what critics might cry to the contrary.

One of the quirks of any political campaign is how quickly the pre-election crisis fades away once the results are known. "Gross national product," and "historic rate of growth," and "America's prestige abroad" have not been seen in print now for many days, and probably will not be heard from again until 1964.

Americans tend to get a little bit worked up about their country during a presidential election year, and a good thing it is for all of us. The partisan backer of a candidate is readily understood. He cares. The person who shrugs his shoulders, ducks his head, and straddles the middle with a toe hopefully nudged into both camps is the ruination of America.

Hamburg had best look to its laurels next summer. The new Sidney swimming pool is just about completed, and from all reports it will give our local pool all the competition necessary.

Some doom and gloom merchants claim small town and rural Iowa is dying. The truth is, these people are so busy seeking out the bad they have no time for the good.

The chiefest cry is that the small "family" farms are disappearing. These same people who demand progress in every other line of thought and enterprise want the farms and farmers to return to the horse and buggy days of drudgery. There just

Sale is Thursday

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Watson will have a GOD'S ACRE SALE on Thursday, Dec. 1 at the old school grounds, commencing at 1 p.m.

All goods donated to this cause will be appreciated. Please contact one of the following Deacons: Luther Hudson, Ray Bolin or Billy Hays.

The ladies will serve dinner at 12:00 noon. There will also be a bazaar.

Dr. Wm. Kerr, Randolph, dies Tues., at 87

Funeral services will be held at Randolph at 10:00 Friday morning for Dr. William Kerr. The pioneer physician practiced medicine for almost half a century in Fremont County before retiring about ten years ago. He was 87.

Dr. Kerr had been in good health until a fall a week ago. He died Tuesday afternoon at Community Hospital.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Dr. W.H. Kerr of Hamburg; two grandchildren, Mrs. Kathy Sjulín of Oklahoma City, and Miss KOLEEN Kerr, Lincoln, Nebr. and three great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Loren D. Schroeder of the Randolph Presbyterian Church will be in charge of last rites, with burial in the Randolph cemetery.

Long active in county affairs, Dr. Kerr was state representative in 1927, was staff consultant at Hamburg Hospital, was mayor of Randolph and a member of the school board, was a director of the Randolph State Bank, and had farming interests.

He had held many offices in both IOOF and the Masonic order.

Hospital kitchen being redecorated

The kitchen at the Hamburg Community hospital is undergoing a major redecoration, says Mrs. Josephine Sherman,

Hamburg Republican established

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V.F.W. auction Sat., items still needed

The Hamburg V.F.W. has announced they will hold an auction at their building Saturday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. The Auxiliary will serve sandwiches and coffee at this time also.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward purchase of new flags for the post.

Presbyterian holiday sale Sat., Dec. 10

Members of the local Presbyterian Church will have a Food-A-Rama Sat., Dec. 10, in the Stoner building on Main St. They will have for sale holiday foods and gifts. A buffet luncheon will be served.

The doors open at 10 a.m. and the public is invited.

Deere Day Sat.

Athen Implement Co. has announced their annual Deere Day in Hamburg for Saturday, Dec. 3. Free shows will be at the Colonial Theatre at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at the store at noon. Every farm family is invited to attend.

Grandparents Galore!

Little Miss Julie Ann McAlexander, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy McAlexander, boasts the rarity of having seven sets of grandparents. They are Mr. and Mrs. Cecil McAlexander, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Collier of Thurman, Mr. and Mrs. Lee McAlexander of

October 9, 1843. Her mother, Lucia, was born January 27, 1802 and died February 9, 1848. Truman and Lucia were married May 21, 1827.

Franklin was the oldest of nine children. His sisters and brothers were Augustus Kephart born May 5, 1857; Harvey Kephart born March 11, 1859; Laura Kephart born February 10, 1861; Throna Kephart born May 25, 1863; Alvila Kephart born July 31, 1866; Ransom Kephart born June 27, 1868; Harry Kephart born October 18, 1872 and Ward Kephart born May 6, 1876.

Franklin often told how he met his first wife. He was riding a horse to Texas and rode up behind a covered wagon. Sitting in the back, framed by the canvas, was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He rode up to the front of the wagon and saw a woman driving the horses. A young boy was sitting beside her. He asked the driver if he could ride on to Texas with them and protect them from the Indians. The woman said she would be pleased to have his company. The beautiful woman was Angeline Barnes, the driver, who was very plain, was Angeline's cousin, Sarah Florence Campbell Costella and the boy was James Irvin Lowe, Sarah's son.

Angeline Barnes was born February 8, 1855. She married Franklin Kephart in 1875 in Texas. To this union two children were born. William Barnes Kephart (Will) was born in Pilot Point, Texas on May 5, 1880. Charley Henry Kephart was born April 28, 1883. Angela was very sick when Charley was born. She knew she was going to die. She asked Franklin to marry her cousin, Sarah Florence Campbell, so Sarah could take care of Will and Charley. Angeline died in May 1883 at the age of twenty eight.

Franklin said he worshipped Angeline instead of God and that is why she was taken from him. Soon after her death he became very active in the church and became a minister. Religion was an important part of his life until he died. Shortly after Angeline's death Franklin married Sarah.

Sarah Florence Campbell, daughter of James Campbell and Jerisha Keck, was born July 25, 1856. Sarah's father, James, was born October 15, 1808 and died August 29, 1877. Her mother, Jerisha, was born June 14, 1827 and died in 1881. Sarah's son, James Irvin Lowe, was born August 29, 1874. He died December 31, 1942. Sarah had a brother named Joe Campbell.

Franklin and Sarah came to Fremont County Iowa in a covered wagon in 1886. They settled near Randolph and took up farming. Franklin was active in the carpenter trade in Texas. He used his carpenter experience to assist in the erection of Mount Zion Church near Randolph. He was the first minister at Mt. Zion and he also preached at different churches throughout the community.

Franklin and Sarah had five children. W. B. Claude Kephart was born November 30, 1886 and died October 1, 1975. Clyde Frank Kephart was born November 13, 1888. He died in a house fire in Bartlett, Iowa on December 23, 1968. Laura Jenny Kephart was born January 12, 1891 and died April 25, 1972. Samuel Guy Kephart was born November 3, 1893, and Gertie Bell Kephart was born April 2, 1896. All five children were born in Fremont County.

In 1928 Franklin and Sarah left Fremont County and moved to Wyoming. They homesteaded near Gillette. Sarah died May 4, 1937 and was buried near Gillette. After her death, Franklin moved to Fort Calhoun, Nebraska and lived with his son Claude. It was there that he met and married Martha (Bridges) (Shepperson) Hunt. They were married in 1940 when Franklin was 85 years old. In 1943 Franklin and Martha moved to Langdon, Missouri where they lived until their death. Franklin died at the home of his son, Will Kephart, near Langdon, Missouri on January 3, 1950. He was buried near Gillette, Wyoming. Martha died September 28, 1952. She is buried in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. Martha's daughter Sarah (Sally) Bridges was married to Will Kephart's son, Cecil.

Franklin's great grandson, Marion E. Kephart, son of Ernest and Ida (Davis) Kephart, was born December 12, 1925. Marion and Betty (Brazil) Kephart moved to Fremont County with their three children, Jacki, Dixie, and Tommy in the early 60's. They lived east of Thurman, Iowa.

Jackie (Kephart) Price was born August 16, 1953 in Fairfax, Missouri. Jackie and her son, Neil Price, born October 22, 1968 live in California.

Dixie Bell (Kephart) (Gonzollos) Torrez was born May 9, 1955 in Farifax, Missouri. Dixie and her daughter, Linda Gonzollos, born May 5, 1977, live in California.

Loran Thomas Kephart (Tommy), born February 13, 1959 also lives in California.

Submitted by Marion Kephart

WILLIAM AND EULA (ROSSEAN) KERR

William Hawley Kerr was born in Randolph, Iowa, August 26, 1905 to Dr. and Mrs. William Kerr. He grew up in Randolph, graduated from Randolph High School, the University of Nebraska and Creighton School of Medicine. Dr. Kerr entered private medical practice in 1932 in Hamburg, and practiced there until his death in 1961. His private career was interrupted during World War II when he was called to duty as a doctor in the Pacific Theatre. He was discharged at the end of the war as a major. He was active in many organizations in Hamburg, was a member of the Omaha Tangier Shrine and the Burlington Railroad doctor. He was active in many medical societies and was Hamburg City health officer for many years. He was interested in farming, hunting, and traveling. Dr. Kerr was well loved in the community and was doctor, friend and confidant to many. As a small town doctor he was held in high esteem by area doctors and at Mayo's Clinic in Minn. He was never too busy or too tired to respond to a call for help in the day or night. He married Eula Rossean, August 29, 1934. Eula was the daughter of John and Ioda Rossean. She was born in Hamburg, Iowa, on May 10, 1906. She graduated from the University of Nebraska, and was a member of Tri Delta Sorority. After marrying Dr. Kerr she became active in many organizations in Hamburg. Eula was a woman of character with many interests and talents. She was a great believer in family heritage and stressed high values and moral standards. Eula died Dec. 23, 1984. Dr. Kerr and Eula had two daughters - Kathy Sjulin (Mrs. Charles D.) of Crossville, TN and Kolleen Steadman (Mrs. Milton A.) of Tampa, FL.

Submitted by Kolleen Kerr Steadman



Eula and William Hawley Kerr, M.D.

WILLIAM AND MABEL (FICHTER) KERR

William Kerr was born in Bloomington, Maryland in November 1873. He was the first child of his Scottish parents to be born in America. His parents moved to Hayes Center, Nebraska in 1878. William disliked the early life on the dry plains, the sod house and the herding of cattle.



William and Mabel Kerr

After years of hard work and study he entered and graduated from Omaha Medical College. In 1903 he married Lulu Dodd, the daughter of a prominent family in Fremont County. They had one son, William Hawley Kerr. Dr. Kerr spent many hours caring for the sick as times were hard in that day and age and it was a difficult life for a country doctor. Lulu was active in community affairs and often went on calls with Dr. Kerr. Lulu was an active member of Eastern Star and at the time her death in 1934 she was superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School. She was a beautiful woman and had a beautiful singing voice. In 1937, Dr. Kerr married Miss Mabel Fichter, a well loved former teacher in the Randolph Public School who was very active in the Randolph Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School and played the piano for many years.

Dr. Kerr was vitally interested in the welfare of the town and served on the Board of Education, the Town Council and was Mayor for a number of years. He was Director of the Randolph State Bank and in 1937 was elected to the House of Representatives in the Iowa State Congress at Des Moines, Iowa, serving two terms. In 1946 he retired from active practice of medicine, and his community and southwest Iowa honored him on Dr. Kerr's Day. His life was fulfilled in service to others and a showplace of good works.

Submitted by Kollen Kerr Steadman

EDWIN AND DORTHA (CHAMBERS) KESTERSON

Dortha Lavern (Chambers) Kesterson, born May 1, 1915 on the family farm southwest of Bartlett to Oliver Charles Chambers and Grace Lavina (Oberst) Chambers. She attended Pleasant Valley rural school the last semester of 1919-20 term at age four, then entered Bartlett Consolidated school the fall of 1920, graduating May 12, 1932. She was active in glee club, orchestra, and basketball. She attended Peru State Teachers College and earned a degree in Rural Education. She married Edwin Guy Kesterson (born