

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Samuels, Benjamin Mayberry Senator _____

Represented Dubuque County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 21 Dec 1823 Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia

2. Marriage (s) date place

Olis Ann Mason 12 Nov 1852 Dubuque, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1844; he lectured with Brown as speaker and made appearances to large audiences.

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 5th General Assembly 1854

6. Public Offices

A. Local Member of Dubuque Common Council; nominated by his party for U.S. Congress in 1860

B. State _____

C. National In 1860 selected as one of the delegates to the Democratic convention in Charleston and elected by Stephen Douglas

7. Death 16 Aug 1863 Dubuque, Iowa; buried Linwood Cemetery Dubuque, Iowa

8. Children Mary M.; Martha; Benjamin M. Jr.; Allison (male);

9. Names of parents Joseph Hope and Catherine Pennypacker Mayberry (Samuels)

10. Education _____

11. Degrees

Graduate of Lexington College in Virginia with honors

12. Other applicable information

Democrat

- After graduating from Lexington College he began studying law with Judge Samuels in Woodstock, Virginia, his father.
- He emigrated to Iowa in fall 1847 and began practicing law in Dubuque, Iowa. He soon gained a positive reputation and soon practiced business affairs. He became a criminal lawyer.
- He became very popular and in 1887 he was unanimously nominated for Governor of the State of Iowa by the Democratic Convention, but was unsuccessful, however he became known as a most eloquent speaker.
- 18 months before his death he became ill with consumption (tuberculosis) and died at age 40.
- He was considered a great orator and a great jurist.

ral attendance is earnestly request-
MRS. D. S. CUMMINGS, Pres.

ast and neatest conundrums
lest of the vowels?" The answer
th' idet of blues; e is in well, and
pt. tory."

-"Just before the Battle,
ie of a new song and chorus just
oot. It will commend itself to all
the army. For sale by Gilbert &
est.

mandery No. 3 K. T., will
lave this (Tuesday) evening at 8
C.
T. F. GILLIAM, Rec.

BAR.—About five o'clock
the ferry boat ran aground on the
front of the landing, and remained
clock yesterday morning. Captain
had a long, hot, hard night of it.

D RACE COURSE.—Hereafter
sh to try the speed of their horses,
sure drive, on the Fair Ground Race
se entrance at any hour of the day.
or at the gate, who will open it
ay apply.

MY.—We were pleased. yes-
o receive a call from Mr. Randolph
boy in our city, but now one of the
raphic Army correspondents of the
e beat the New York Herald has in-
hanged much since "the days of auld

S FOR SOLDIERS.—The la-
Aid Society in this city, are hard at
paring and canning blackberries to be
No. ritals for the use of sick and
Scores of bushels will probably be
up here. It is a good work. The
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r.—Last evening, a lad about
named Frank Hoag, son of Charles
plaza outside the second story of the
rner of Iowa and Sixteenth streets,
on the payment and breaking both
of the whists. The father of the boy
the affliction comes with severe weight

od is being brought down the
quantities that the price has fallen
from \$6.75 to \$5.25 per cord. Farm

Separating ourselves far and wide through
Station, we will long bear with us bright memories of
those few white days. A TEACHER.

DEATH OF BEN M. SAMUELS.—The death
of this prominent citizen occurred at two o'clock on the
morning of Sunday, the 16th inst.

Ben M. Samuels was born in Parkersburg, Wood Coun-
ty, Virginia, on the 21st of December, 1823. He en-
tered Lexington College in the same State, from
which he graduated with the honors of his class in three
years thereafter. He immediately commenced the study
of law with Judge Samuels, in Woodstock, and was ad-
mitted to practice at the bar in 1844. He emigrated to
Iowa in the fall of 1847, and commenced the practice of
his profession in Dubuque. He soon gained a reputa-
tion for ability and eloquence, and his practice became
very extensive. He became noted as an advocate, and
the defence in the most important criminal trials in the
county was entrusted to him. In 1855 he entered the
political arena, having for years been a Democrat, and
was elected member of the Legislature. About this time
he also served as a member of the Common Council of
this city. He soon became a prominent leader of the
Democratic party in Iowa. His brilliant oratory, his
noble looking person, and his genial social manners,
won for him a popularity that has been enjoyed by but
a few of his party in this State, and in 1867 he was unani-
mously nominated for Governor of the State by a Demo-
cratic Convention.

The year before, the Republican party had triumphed
in the state with over seven thousand majority; conse-
quently his prospects of success were discouraging. But
his sanguine mind thought his election possible, and he
entered the campaign with a brave front. His form was
tall, his person well shaped, and his appearance on the
platform imposing. He possessed a splendid voice for
either forensic debate or political speaking. He had a
remarkable command of language. His manner was de-
liberate at first, but as he warmed with his subject, he
became impassioned, his gestures vehement, yet always
graceful, every word came out clear and full, (he never
paused for one,) and he delighted in beautiful similes and
illustrations. Of course, with all these qualifications, his
name went before him, and wherever he was announced
to address the people, crowds flocked to hear him. His
election to the gubernatorial seat was a moral impossi-
bility, yet he secured many votes which would have
been given to his opponent had he not run, and he came
nearer being elected than any other man in his party to
a State office since the Republicans came into power. He
at that time probably gained the reputation of being the
most eloquent stump speaker in the State.

A United States Senator was to be chosen at the
following session of the Legislature, and Mr. Samuels
received the vote of his party in the Legislature for the
office.

In 1860 Mr. Samuels was selected as one of the dele-
gates to the Charleston Convention, and was, we be-
lieve, Chairman of the Non-Intervention State Historical Society
ment in the convention ran high. Eloquent speeches
were made, but none were more eloquent than the one

Sugar—We did not hear of
last reported were at 10 1/2 for l
fat old crop. By auction 20 brl
Molasses—A lot of about 120 l
The list sales reported, of wh
given, were at 46c per gal on.

Flour—The market is very d
is a great deal off-ring, but ther
ees have still further declined.
ing the retail demand at \$7 75c
@\$10 for good to choice extra.
brist were sold in numerous ver
for good up-rtine, and \$8 55c
extra, including Plant's.

Feed—Holders were asking
little corn and oats there was o
ng, but they subsequently sol
the particulars. The small st
tailing at \$2 25 per bushel
per 100 lb of bran and \$30 per

By-f Cattle—We quote West
-c; Texas cattle, first qualifi
second and third quality at 16

Eggs—Per lb gross, 13c @ 16c,
Sheep—Choice at \$8 @ \$10 pe
Veal Cattle at \$20 @ \$30 per

New York
By Tele

FLOUR—Dull and heavy.
er, \$4 65a4 90 extra State, \$5 1
WHEAT—Dull; 90a1 10 Sp
kes Club
CORN—67 1/2a80.
OATS—Drooping; 58a61c.
PORK—Steady.
WHISKY—steady; 45 1/2.
LARD—shade firmer; 9 5/8a1
STOCKS—Higher.
GOLD—25 1/2c.

MUS
PRINCE & CO'S
IMPROVED N
Warranted for
The oldest establishment
employing 200 men and finishin
Manufactory, cor. of Ma
BUFFAL
WHOLESALE
87 Fulton street
48 Lake street
WHOLESALE
Henry Teiman & Co
W. F. Osburn
Salmer & Weber
James Ballak
A. Couss
Ph. P. Werlein
A. & S. Northmeier
Persons unacquainted with
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being brought down the
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longer, one will be able to pur-
ars per cord.

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ter, they will not lack for it ur-
ps of wheat are remarkably large.
are receiving stocks large enough
in Iowa. We notice that Becker
e pest, and brought with him a
with cloths, vestings, and cloth-
of the goods which we saw were
r to this city.

OSTITIES.—We take great
to our readers the arrival o-
rated Oriental Agent. We have
this gentleman through our ex-
comes to our city for the purpose,
a valuable and rare collection of
d J. panese goods. We are invited
them on the day of exhibition.
opinion.

—On Sunday evening last
us had their fruit trees plundered,
ir trees broken down, while they
gentleman heard the thieves in
out with a revolver and tried to
tumbled and fell, and the thieves
died. He fled, but unfortunately
come altogether too aggravating
ger. Fruit owners have got their
ag, we shall have to chronicle the
thieves. If any of these accus-
be made to surr the extreme
ey will be shown them.

election to the gubernatorial seat was a moral impossi-
bility, yet he secured many votes which would have
been given to his opponent had he not run, and he came
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gates to the Charleston Convention, and was, we be-
lieve, Chairman of the Iowa delegation. The excite-
ment in the convention ran high. Eloquent speeches
were made, but none were more eloquent than the one
he made when he introduced the only pacifying resolu-
tion which received any attention in the body. He at-
tracted the attention of the delegates, and the New
England men invited him to go with them and address
their constituents. He did so and spoke in Fannell
Hall and in Portland to immense audiences. Here he
reached his culminating point. From those days may
be dated the commencement of his wane. He attended
the Baltimore Convention, stood by Douglas there, and
stood by him throughout the campaign of 1860.

In 1860 also he received the nomination of his party
for Congress. Of course he knew defeat was inevitable
under the circumstances, and he did not make any great
efforts to avert it.

Time passed on until some eighteen months ago, when
his health began to decline. Consumption, the destroyer
of his family, seized him, and ultimately carried him to
his grave. Yesterday afternoon he was buried. A large
concourse of people assembled inside and in front of his
residence on Iowa street, and listened with great interest
to the remarks which Rev. Geo. W. Brindle, his spiritual
adviser during his approach to the tomb, had to make
concerning him. A long train of friends followed him
with the solemn music of a band, to his resting place.

He had his faults. He also had a great heart. He was
magnanimous to every body but himself. He did not
agree with the Union men on the war question. But he
also had a thorough contempt for northern-born people
who did not sympathize with the Federal Govern-
ment. He once told the writer that if Virginia had only
remained in the Union—"would to God that she had,"
he said—"he would have advocated the cause with his
whole soul; but as it is," said he, "I despise the North-
ern men who wish the South success. I find that
they are either political demagogues or labor aristoc-
rats and tyrants."

But Gen. S. Samuels sleeps in his grave. There let his
body rest—may his country virtues carry his soul to
heaven.

Manufactory, cor. of Maryll
BUFFALO, I

WHOLESALE

57 Fulton street
48 Lake street
Henry Tolman & Co
W. F. Osburn
Palmer & Weber
James Ballak
A. Couse
Ph. P. Werlein
A. & S. Nordheimer

Persons acquainted with the
tory will bear in mind that we ar
ing manufacturers, not only in th
the world. We commenced the
deons in the fall of the year
some have finished and sold.
These instruments are now in us
States and Canada, but also in
South America and the West Ind
Quarters we have the most flatter
high estimation in which they ar

*At all Industrial Exhi
invariably been awarded th
whenever exhibited in comy*

We shall take pleasure in forv
own expense) our illustrated Ca
instrument we manufacture is fu
trated by elegant engravings.

All melodeons of our manufa
or dealers in any part of the U
are warranted to be perfect in e
any repairs be necessary before
years from date of sale, we ha
willing to make the same free
injury is not caused by accident.

Agents for the sale of our Mel
all the principal towns of the U
Address either

GEO. A. PRINCE & CO.
GEO. A. PRINCE & CO.,
GEO. A. PRINCE & CO.,
Or either of the above wholes
FOR SALE BY

B. M. HA
DUBUQUE,

7 5.20, '68

PIANO FOR SALE.

We have in store one fine Ro
equal to any in the city, and will
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FRUIT JARS

Reid's Self
STONES PATENT COV

A large supply, just received
BOWEN

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ful defense by artful traitors in office under the treacherous and imbecile Buchanan. What a record!

MANY CANDIDATES, BUT NO ELECTION.
—How many Democratic candidates for Governor of Iowa have been slain outright since the scepter of dominion departed from that sweet-scented organization in 1854? The first Martyr on record was our fellow-citizen, Curtis Bates, Esq., who went down horse and rider after a plunging assault made by Governor Grimes and his Anti-Nebraska legion. In 1857 the lamented Ben. M. Samuels, late F. F. V., was thrown overboard in the political tournament by Judge R. P. Lowe, of Keokuk. In 1859, Brigadier General Augustus Caesar Dodge, the Trans-Alpine Gaul, was unhorsed by the superior skill and gallantry of Samuel J. Kirkwood. In 1861, Wm. H. Merritt, Ben M. Samuels, and the Lord knows how many others, were knocked into an everlasting smash by Kirkwood, Grimes & Co. In 1863, the Copperheads under Fisher or any other man, will require a certificate after election to show that they ever had a candidate for Governor since the commencement of the present century! Poor Cops! Wo pity 'em—*too do!*—*State Register.*

THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY.—President Lincoln has not drawn his salary for the past year from the Treasury. When reminded by friends that by putting the same upon interest he would receive an income of at least \$1,200, he replied that he thought the United States needed the use of the money quite as much as any person, and he would let it remain.—*Washington Telegram.*

INFLUENTIAL SOUTHERN CITIZENS TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.—It is a good sign for the Union cause that several of the most wealthy and influential citizens of Norfolk and vicinity have lately taken the oath of allegiance to our Government, and are serving on juries, &c. Other citizens of like character will take the same course.—*Cor. N. Y. Herald.*

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lina to make immediate overtures for peace.

EIGHTH CAVALRY FULL.—The Davenport *News* says that it learns from the Adjutant General's office that fourteen companies have reported for this regiment.

BEN M. SAMUELS, a prominent Democratic politician of this State, died at Dubuque last Sunday. He was a native of Virginia, and was about 40 years old at the time of his death. At different times he was respectively a candidate for Governor, U. S. Senator and Congress, but on account of the minority of his party in the State failed of election in each case. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Charleston Convention. From a lengthy obituary which appeared in the *Times*, we make the following extract:

"He had his faults. He also had a great heart. He was magnanimous to everybody but himself. He did not agree with the Union men on the war question. But he also had a thorough contempt for northern-born people who did not sympathize with the Federal Government. He once told the writer that if Virginia had only remained in the Union — 'would to God that she had,' he said — 'he would have advocated the cause with his whole soul; but as it is,' said he 'I despise the Northern men who wish the South success. I find that they are either political demagogues or inborn aristocrats and tyrants.'"

A conscript, just from Wilmington, N. O., reports that, within the past few days, seventeen large steamers have arrived at that port, having run the blockade, loaded with stores for the rebel army, among which are 96,000 English rifles, 16,000 army blankets, 181,000 ready-made uniforms, 23,000 cases of ready-made army shoes, 11 locomotives, 6 rifled cannon of heavy calibre, 5 cargoes (?) of railroad iron, and skillful men accompany them.

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~~Dr.~~ Dr. Degand, a French physician prescribes ice in cases of diphtheria and all kindred attacks. He has, the papers say, used it for twelve years with invariable success. It is administered in small pieces melted in the mouth until the patient is relieved. We wonder if it be true?

DEATH OF BEN M. SAMUELS.—The last Dubuque papers inform us of the death of Ben M. Samuels. He was born in Parkersburg, Virginia, in December, 1823, removed to Iowa in 1847, and has since been a prominent and very popular man in this State, having represented Dubuque county in the Legislature, been a candidate for Governor and for Congress. Mr. Samuels was a congenial, companionable man and a fine speaker.

~~The~~ The company for the Eighth Iowa Cavalry recruiting in Louisa County by Messrs. Isett and Robinson is about full. The major part of the company will start for Davenport to-day.

~~The~~ The Methodist Camp Meeting commences at the old campground about three miles north of Mt. Pleasant, on to-day, Thursday, August 20. We are told that a boarding tent will be kept for the benefit of those who may not wish to tent.

~~It~~ It is reported that Gen. Rosecrans is moving forward, and that something will be "heard to fall" in his vicinity very soon. News from him is now "contraband."—
Enough said.

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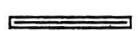
Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

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

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He was for a time prosecuting attorney, and was generally active in civil affairs. He diverged into railroad enterprises and spent a good deal of his time in Washington pressing his projects before Congress. During the war he was engaged with the Sanitary and Christian Commission, and subsequently spent a good deal of his time at the national capitol. He was quite successful in his enterprises, but other men reaped most of the profits of his labor, and his latter days were not passed under affluent circumstances. William Graham says that John Deery always claimed that Thomas was the original of Colonel Mulberry Sellers in Mark Twain's "Gilded Age."

I may here remark that in the decade of 1850 to 1860 a number of young, talented and ambitious lawyers came to Dubuque, some of whom remained but a short time, and afterward became distinguished elsewhere. Among them Mr. Graham mentions Wheeler H. Peckham, who became a prominent New York lawyer and was nominated by President Cleveland as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, but the Senate, which was largely Republican, refused to confirm the appointment. (His brother, Rufus Peckham, was subsequently more successful.) Another was George Shiras, who, after a year in Dubuque, returned to Pittsburg and finally became one of the Judges of the United States Supreme Court. Another was William Windham, Secretary of the United States Treasury. Another was Judge Tripp, Judge of the Supreme Court of Dakota. Another was Joseph A. Chapline, who came from Virginia and for a time was a member of the firm of Barker, Barney, Chapline & Dillon, the head being Judge Winslow T. Barker. Chapline was a presidential elector on the Republican ticket in 1860, and after the State of West Virginia was organized returned there and became one of its Supreme Judges. Another was John T. Lovell, who practiced in Dubuque for some years, but after the outbreak of the Civil War returned to Virginia, where, after serving in the Confederate army, he devoted himself to newspaper work, served in the Senate of Virginia, and at the time of his death was one of the influential politicians of his native State. Another was Judge Henry T. Seamans, who studied law in the office of William Graham at Bellevue in Jackson County, and subsequently was United States Circuit Judge of the Seventh Circuit.

Benjamin M. Samuels, Platt Smith, Frederick E. Bissell.

It may be properly said and without overpraising, that these three men possessed extraordinary ability, and natural talents of the first order. *Ben M. Samuels*, as he was familiarly called, was not only a great lawyer, but a great orator. I heard him make a speech in the old courthouse at Ottumwa in 1857, when he and Ralph P. Lowe were the candidates of their respective parties for Governor. I have heard many fine orators, but I never listened to such powerful eloquence as I heard from Samuels on that occasion. In person he was an Adonis, tall, commanding, handsome. Next to Edward Johnstone, of Lee County, he was the most kingly man

in the State. His speech on the occasion referred to was replete with splendid and stirring outbursts of eloquence. On the way down from the courthouse after the close of the speech I walked along with Charles Lawrence, a prominent merchant of Ottumwa at that time, and a staunch Republican. He said to me in substantially these words:

King Agrippa said to Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian;" so I can say of Samuels, that he almost persuaded me to be a Democrat, and if I had been called upon to vote under the spell of his eloquence, I fear I should have cast it in his favor for Governor.

I remember distinctly the dramatic closing of that speech:

On this platform of principles we firmly stand. Let us press forward to victory. If we fail, let us go down with our drums beating and our flags flying.

He seemed like some great commander standing aloft on the deck cheering his men to the combat.

He was then thirty-four years of age. He was naturally convivial and, notwithstanding his majestic bearing, his kindly manner put everybody at ease. He was a delegate to the Baltimore Presidential Convention in 1860. I happened to be going east and was on the same train with him. In consequence of a wreck the train was obliged to halt for some hours between stations. Many of the passengers got off and seated themselves on an embankment, engaging in conversation to pass the time away. It so happened that I was seated next to him. I was then a young lawyer of no particular importance, but we engaged in conversation. Learning that I was from Iowa and had heard him at Ottumwa, he became so kindly in his whole bearing as to put me entirely at my ease and convince me beyond question that he was a noble and kindly gentleman.

In collecting data for this work I interviewed many years ago a number of people who had been personally acquainted with Samuels, among others Judge Austin Adams, of Dubuque, then one of the Judges of the State Supreme Court. On the 6th of November, 1882, Judge Adams and myself traveled together from Chicago to Des Moines, and in the course of our conversation he gave me his views and estimate of Mr. Samuels, of which I made notes in my memoranda book that now lies before me. He told me that Samuels was not only a man of surpassing eloquence—full of stirring "bursts"—but a great lawyer as well. Using his own language:

He could argue to the court a legal question with more convincing force and clearness than any man I ever heard. He had a fine legal mind and was naturally a great lawyer and thinker as well as orator.

Judge Adams also said that after his old partner, Joel Blatchley, had removed to California he wrote to him that there were a good number of able lawyers and strong men in San Francisco, but none that he had yet heard could equal Samuels in the force and clearness with which he would argue a legal question. From this

it will be seen that Samuels was not only a great advocate, but a great jurist as well, and such was the united testimony of his compeers.

It is strange that of a man so greatly distinguished so little has been said, especially in regard to his early history, by Iowa biographers and historians. No mention is made of him in Tuttle's History of Iowa, 1876, nor in the United States Biographical Dictionary for Iowa, 1878, nor in Guc's History of Iowa, nor in any other publication I have been able to find, except the incidental mentions which will be hereafter referred to, in the April, 1885, number of the Iowa Historical Record, and in the April, 1867, number of the Old Annals of Iowa. I am able, however, to give the following outline derived through the medium of friends of the family. He was a native of Virginia, born at Parkersburg in 1823, making him at his decease within a fraction of forty years of age. He was educated at Lexington College, Virginia, studied law with his uncle, Judge Samuels, at Woodstock, and was admitted to the bar when but twenty-one years of age. In the fall of 1847 he removed to Iowa and opened a law office in Dubuque, in which state and county honors were generously bestowed. He was a member of the Legislature in 1854. In 1857 he was nominated by the Democratic State Convention for Governor and, although the State was largely Republican, the majority was reduced to three thousand. He was selected as a delegate to the National Convention in 1860 and distinguished himself by his eloquent advocacy of the Douglas cause. The same year he was unanimously nominated for Congress against his old law partner, General Vandever. He died August 6, 1863.

In conclusion, I desire to briefly refer to the political events and the personal mentions connected therewith before referred to. The first relates to his election to the House of the Fifth General Assembly, which met at Iowa City, December 4, 1854. A writer in the number of the Iowa Historical Record, before referred to, in giving a glimpse of its personnel of him, says:

Samuels, until then unknown outside of Dubuque, soon in flights of oratory, soared to distinction. He was of striking personal appearance, with a tall, athletic form, a smooth-shaven, oval face, and brown hair, and wore a swallow-tail blue coat, with brass buttons, and brown nether garments. His clear, deliberate form of speech delivered slowly, but without hesitation, and with an air of confidence and candor carried conviction even for a sophism. He was too well equipped as a speaker for anyone in the House to cope with on even ground.

The next political event to be mentioned—passing the gubernatorial contest of 1857 between him and Governor Lowe—is that between himself and William Vandever for Congress in 1860. Speaking of this contest a writer in the copy of the Old Annals before referred to says:

As an orator, in the accepted sense, Samuels had the decided advantage. In the ready "flow of language," in voice, gesture, in style, and the indefinable look, air and bearing which form that personal identity comprehended in the word "appearance," he had few equals on any forum in the nation. Ingenious in argument, he developed the strong points of his case with great skill. In rhetorical

arrangement and expression, there was remarkable finish to his sentences, giving even to his extemporaneous efforts the character of well matured and thoroughly digested speeches. And especially of that magnetism of manner which allures and fastens attention, elicits sympathy and carries a crowd, he was redundantly possessed. All in all, he was a tower of strength to the Democratic cause at that day.

The last important political event of his life was in being elected as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention of 1860. He warmly espoused the cause of Stephen A. Douglas. The extreme southern men were insistent in their demands that the platform should recognize the constitutional right of the slaveholder to take and settle with his slave in any territory of the United States. This demand the great mass of northern Democrats would not accede to, and Mr. Samuels knew it would be fatal to his party if acceded to. His splendid presence, powerful argumentation and masterful eloquence challenged the admiration of every member of the Convention and made him a national figure. But the southern delegates would not yield, and a portion of them withdrew from the Convention. The Convention itself adjourned from Charleston to meet in a few weeks at Baltimore. Here, what was intended to be a compromise platform was adopted under the lead of Mr. Samuels and Henry B. Payne of Ohio.* But it was not satisfactory to the southern wing; the dissatisfied delegates organized a separate Convention and nominated John C. Breckenridge, thus dividing the party and making the election of Mr. Lincoln a foregone conclusion. The result was deeply disheartening to Mr. Samuels, and when the flames of Civil War burst forth he sank into a despondency from which he never rallied, and in a little more than two years he was laid in his grave, when he had scarcely reached his prime.

Platt Smith developed through different stages, from a poor uneducated boy to one of the ablest lawyers of the Iowa bar. He was born in the State of New York in 1813. He was reared and worked on his father's farm. Until he was fourteen there was no school in the district. After the establishment of one, he attended enough to enable him to read. On leaving school he engaged on a small scale in merchandising, in which he failed during the financial panic of 1837. He then applied himself to learning the art of a millwright, paying his expenses with whatever else he found to do. At the age of twenty-six, in 1839, he emigrated to Jackson County, in the Territory of Iowa, where he resided for some years in the family of John E. Goodenow. While there a claim controversy arose between two settlers, and young Smith, who had come to be recognized as a man of parts, undertook to represent one of them in the trial before a Justice of the Peace. A jury was called in the case, and after the evidence was closed Smith made a speech and the jury returned a verdict in favor of the settler he represented. The skill he exhibited in both the trial and the argument gave him a sudden reputation for ability and he was persuaded to study law, which he commenced to do after obtaining some books

* Blaine's Twenty Years in Congress. Vol. I, 162.



Return to Benjamin M Samuels

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<p><small>Children (4)</small></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Mary M Samuels</td><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">B: 1853</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Bertha Samuels</td><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">B: 1855</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Benjamin, Jr Samuels</td><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">B: 1858</td></tr> <tr><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Allison Samuels</td><td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">B: 1860</td></tr> </table>	Mary M Samuels	B: 1853	Bertha Samuels	B: 1855	Benjamin, Jr Samuels	B: 1858	Allison Samuels	B: 1860	<div style="border: 2px solid yellow; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>Benjamin M Samuels</p> <p>B: December 21, 1823 in Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia</p> <p>D: August 16, 1863 in Dubuque, Iowa</p> </div> <p><small>Otis Anna Mason B:1835 in Maryland</small></p>	<p><small>Parents</small></p> <p>Joseph H Samuels <small>1785-1860</small></p> <p>Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry <small>1795-1859</small></p>
Mary M Samuels	B: 1853									
Bertha Samuels	B: 1855									
Benjamin, Jr Samuels	B: 1858									
Allison Samuels	B: 1860									

1860 United States Federal Census

Name: **Bern M Samuels**

Age in 1860: **31**

Birth Year: **abt 1829**

Birthplace: **Virginia**

Home in 1860: **Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa**

Gender: **Male**

Post Office: **Dubuque**

Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household	Name	Age
Members:	Bern M Samuels	31
	Otis A Samuels	25
	Mary M Samuels	7
	Bertha Samuels	5
	Ben Samuels	3
	Susan Kem	26
	Catharine Roach	17

Source Citation: Year: 1860; Census Place: *Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa*; Roll *M653_320*; Page: *149*; Image: *508*; Family History Library Film: *803320*.

Source Information: Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description: This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Eighth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color, birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1860 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



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Johnson, Hughes, Willis, Byrd and Related Families

Entries: 45290 **Updated:** 2010-01-07 07:29:13 UTC (Thu) **Contact:** Sherry Johnson [sherryjohn7@yahoo.com](#)

This information is the work of many researchers and should be considered tentative until you've documented it to your own satisfaction.

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ID: I2799
Name: Benjamin Monroe SAMUELS
Surname: Samuels
Given Name: Benjamin Monroe
Sex: M
Birth: 20 Dec 1823 in Parkersburg, Wood Co., West Virginia
Death: 16 Aug 1863 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa
Burial: Linwood Cemetery, Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa
_UID: B198DEC15485494389B3D88B7270EF11CEC0
Change Date: 4 Jun 2006 at 14:35:41

Father: Joseph Hope SAMUELS b: 11 Jun 1785 in Pine Forge, Shenandoah Co., Virginia
Mother: Catherine Pennybacker MAYBERRY b: 19 Apr 1793 in Pine Forge Shenandoah Co. Virginia

Marriage 1 Otis Anna MASON b: 1835 in , , Maryland
Married: 18 Nov 1852 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa
Children

Mary M. SAMUELS b: 1853 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa
 Bertha SAMUELS b: 1855 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa
 Benjamin M. SAMUELS Jr. b: 1858 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa
 Allison SAMUELS b: 1861 in Iowa

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Mayberry Family

Entries: 1755 **Updated:** Sun Feb 29 02:37:01 2004 **Contact:** Frank Mayberry [Mayberry & Co., Inc.](#)
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ID: I1635
 Name: Benjamin Mayberry SAMUELS
 Sex: M
 Birth: 21 DEC 1823 in Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia
 Note:

Frank R. Mayberry's notes copied from emails received from Sherry Johnson see email address below.

Ben Mayberry Samuels Obituary

Posted by Sherry Johnson <sherrjo@tenet.edu> on Sun, 07 Feb 1999

Surname: SAMUELS, PENNYBACKER, BYRD, MAYBERRY

Death of Ben Mayberry Samuels--The death of this prominent citizen occurred at two o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 16th inst.

Ben Mayberry Samuels was born in Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia, on the 21st of December, 1823. He entered Lexington College in the same State, from which he graduated with the honors of his class in three years thereafter. He immediately commenced the study of law with Judge Samuels, in Woodstock, and was admitted to practice at the bar in 1844. He emigrated to Iowa in the fall of 1847, and commenced the practice of his profession in Dubuque. He soon gained a reputation for ability and eloquence, and his practice became very extensive. He became noted as an advocate, and the defense in the most important criminal trials in the county was entrusted to him. In 1855 he entered the political arena, having for years been a Democrat, and was elected member of the Legislature. About this time he also served as a member of the Common Council of this city. He soon became a prominent leader of the Democratic party in Iowa. His brilliant oratory, his noble looking person, and his genial social manners, won for him a popularity that has been enjoyed by but few of his party in this State, and in 1857 he was unanimously nominated for Governor of the State by a Democratic Convention.

The year before, the Republican party had triumphed in the State with over seven thousand majority; consequently his prospects of success were discouraging. But his sanguine mind thought his election possible, and he entered the campaign with a brave front. His form was tall, his person well shaped, and his appearance on the platform imposing. He possessed a splendid voice for either forensic debate or political speaking. He had a remarkable command of language. His manner was deliberate at first, but as he warmed with his subject, he became impassioned, his gestures vehement, yet always graceful, every word came out clear and full, (he never paused for one,) and he delighted in beautiful similes and illustrations. Of course, with all these qualifications, his name went before him, and wherever he was announced to address the people, crowds flocked to hear him. His election to the gubernatorial seat was a moral impossibility, yet he secured many votes which would have been given to his opponent had he not run, and he came nearer being elected than any other man in his party to a State office since the Republicans came into power. He at that time probably gained the reputation of being the most eloquent stump speaker in the State.

A United States Senator was to be chosen at the following session of the Legislature, and Mr. Samuels received the vote of his party in the Legislature for the office. In 1860 Mr. Samuels was selected as one of the delegates to the Charleston Convention, and was we believe, Chairman of the Iowa delegation. The excitement in the convention ran high. Eloquent speeches were made, but none were more eloquent than the one he made when he introduced the only pacifying resolution which received any attention in the body. He attracted [sp]the attention of the delegates, and the New England men invited him to go with them and address their constituents. He did so and spoke in Faneuil Hall and in Portland to immense audiences. Here he reached his culminating point. From those days may be dated the commencement of his wane. He attended the Baltimore Convention, stood by Douglas there, and stood by him throughout the campaign of 1860.

In 1860 also he received the nomination of his party for Congress. Of course he knew defeat was inevitable under the circumstances, and he did not make any great efforts to avert it.

Time passed on until some eighteen months ago, when his health began to decline. Consumption, the destroyer of his family, seized him, and ultimately carried him to his grave. Yesterday afternoon he was buried. A large concourse of people assembled inside and in front of his residence on Iowa street, and listened with great interest to the remarks which Rev. Geo. W. Brindle, his spiritual adviser during his approach to the tomb, had to make concerning him. A long train of friends followed him with solemn music of a band, to his resting place.

He had his faults. He also had a great heart. He was magnanimous to every body but himself. He did not agree with the Union men on the war question. But he also had a thorough contempt for northern-born people who did not sympathize with the Federal Government. He once told the writer that if Virginia had only remained in the Union-- "would to God that she had," he said--"he would have advocated the cause with his whole soul; but as it is," said he, "I despise the Northern men who wish the South success. I find that they are either political demagogues or inborn aristocrats and tyrants."

But, Ben M. Samuels sleeps in his grave. There let his body rest--may his many virtues carry his soul to heaven.

Source: Dubuque Daily Times [Dubuque, Iowa], Tuesday morning, August 18, 1863, p. 1.

Note: Ben Mayberry Samuels was the son of Joseph H. Samuels, and Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry. Joseph Samuels a prominent lawyer of Shenandoah County and the grandson of Isaac Samuels, a magistrate of that same place. Joseph Samuels married Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry in Wood County, where Ben M. Samuels was born. The family returned to Samuels's native Shenandoah County by 1830, where Joseph H. Samuels practiced law with his brother. Ben read law in the office of his uncle Judge Green Berry Samuels at Woodstock before removing to Iowa.

Father: Joseph Hope SAMUELS b: 1786 in Greenhope, Virginia

Mother: Catherine Pennybacker MAYBERRY b: 9 APR 1794 in Belleville, Wood Co., Va

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Benjamin Monroe Samuels

Born: 20 Dec 1823
Parkersburg, Wood, West Virginia, USA
Died: 16 Aug 1863
Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA

[Joseph H Samuels](#)

[Catherine P Mayberry](#)

See Pedigree View

[Isaac Samuels](#)

[E Pennybacker](#)

[George Mayberry](#)

[R Pennybacker](#)

Alternates

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Family Groups

Spouse

[Otis Anna Mason](#)

Born: 1835 in [city], [county], Maryland, USA

Died:

Marriage: 18 Nov 1852 in Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA

[View Info](#)

Children

Sex **Birth**

Mary M Samuels	F	1853 in Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA
Bertha Samuels	F	1855 in Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA
Benjamin M Samuels	M	1858 in Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA
Allison Samuels	M	1861 in [city], [county], Iowa, USA

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Birth **20 Dec 1823** in Parkersburg, Wood, West Virginia, USA

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Death **16 Aug 1863** in Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA

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Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

Timeline (View details)

1823
20 Dec Birth Parkersburg, Wood, West Virginia, USA 2 source citations

1850
Age: 27 Residence District 7, Dubuque, Iowa 1 source citation

1852
18 Nov Marriage to Otis A Samuels Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA

1860
Age: 37 Residence Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa 1 source citation

1863
16 Aug Death Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa, USA

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

Add a comment

Family Members

Parents

Joseph H Samuels
1785 – 1860

Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry
1795 – 1859

Show siblings

Spouse & Children

Otis A Samuels
1835 –

Mary M Samuels
1853 –

Bertha Samuels
1855 –

Benjamin M Samuels
1858 – 1935

Allison M Samuels
1860 – 1935

Family group sheet

Historical Records

1850 United States Federal Census

1860 United States Federal Census

View source citations (3)

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Individual Record

FamilySearch™ Pedigree Resource File

Benjamin Mayberry Samuels Compact Disc #24 Pin #372409
Sex: M

Pedigr

Event(s)

Birth: 21 Dec 1823
Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia
Death: 18 Aug 1863
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa

Parents

Father: [Joseph Hope Samuels](#) Disc #24 Pin #372356
Mother: [Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry](#) Disc #24 Pin #372268

Notes and Sources

Notes: Available on CD-ROM Disc# 24
Sources: None

Submitter

Frank MAYBERRY
318 North 'G' Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma (OK), 74403-3469, United States of America

Submission Search: [1180818-0131101055351](#)

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[50+ years old](#)

Mayberry Family

Entries: 1755 **Updated:** Sun Feb 29 02:37:01 2004

Contact: Frank Mayberry

fmayberry4@cox.net

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- **ID:** I1635
- **Name:** Benjamin Mayberry SAMUELS
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** 21 DEC 1823 in Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia
- **Note:**

Frank R. Mayberry's notes copied from emails received from Sherry Johnson see email address below.

Ben Mayberry Samuels Obituary

Posted by Sherry Johnson <sherrjo@tenet.edu> on Sun, 07 Feb 1999

Surname: SAMUELS, PENNYBACKER, BYRD, MAYBERRY

Death of Ben Mayberry Samuels--The death of this prominent citizen occurred at two o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 16th inst.

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The year before, the Republican party had triumphed in the State with over seven thousand majority; consequently his prospects of success were discouraging. But his sanguine mind thought his election possible, and he entered the campaign with a brave front. His form was tall, his person well shaped, and his appearance on the platform imposing. He possessed a splendid voice for either forensic debate or political speaking. He had a remarkable command of language. His manner was deliberate at first, but as he warmed with his subject, he became impassioned, his gestures vehement, yet always graceful, every word came out clear and full, (he never paused for one,) and he delighted in beautiful similes and illustrations. Of course, with all these qualifications, his name went before him, and wherever he was announced to address the people, crowds flocked to hear him. His election to the gubernatorial seat was a moral impossibility, yet he secured many votes which would have been given to his opponent had he not run, and he came nearer being elected than any other man in his party to a State office since the Republicans came into power. He at that time probably gained the reputation of being the most eloquent stump speaker in the State.

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Source: Dubuque Daily Times [Dubuque, Iowa], Tuesday morning, August 18, 1863, p. 1.

Note: Ben Mayberry Samuels was the son of Joseph H. Samuels, and Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry. Joseph Samuels a prominent lawyer of Shenandoah County and the grandson of Isaac Samuels, a magistrate of that same place. Joseph Samuels married Catherine Pennybacker Mayberry in Wood County, where Ben M. Samuels was born. The family returned to Samuels's native Shenandoah County by 1830, where Joseph H. Samuels practiced law with his brother. Ben read law in the office of his uncle Judge Green Berry Samuels at Woodstock before removing to Iowa.

Father: [Joseph Hope SAMUELS](#) b: 1786 in Greenhope, Virginia

Mother: [Catherine Pennybacker MAYBERRY](#) b: 9 APR 1794 in Belleville, Wood Co., Va

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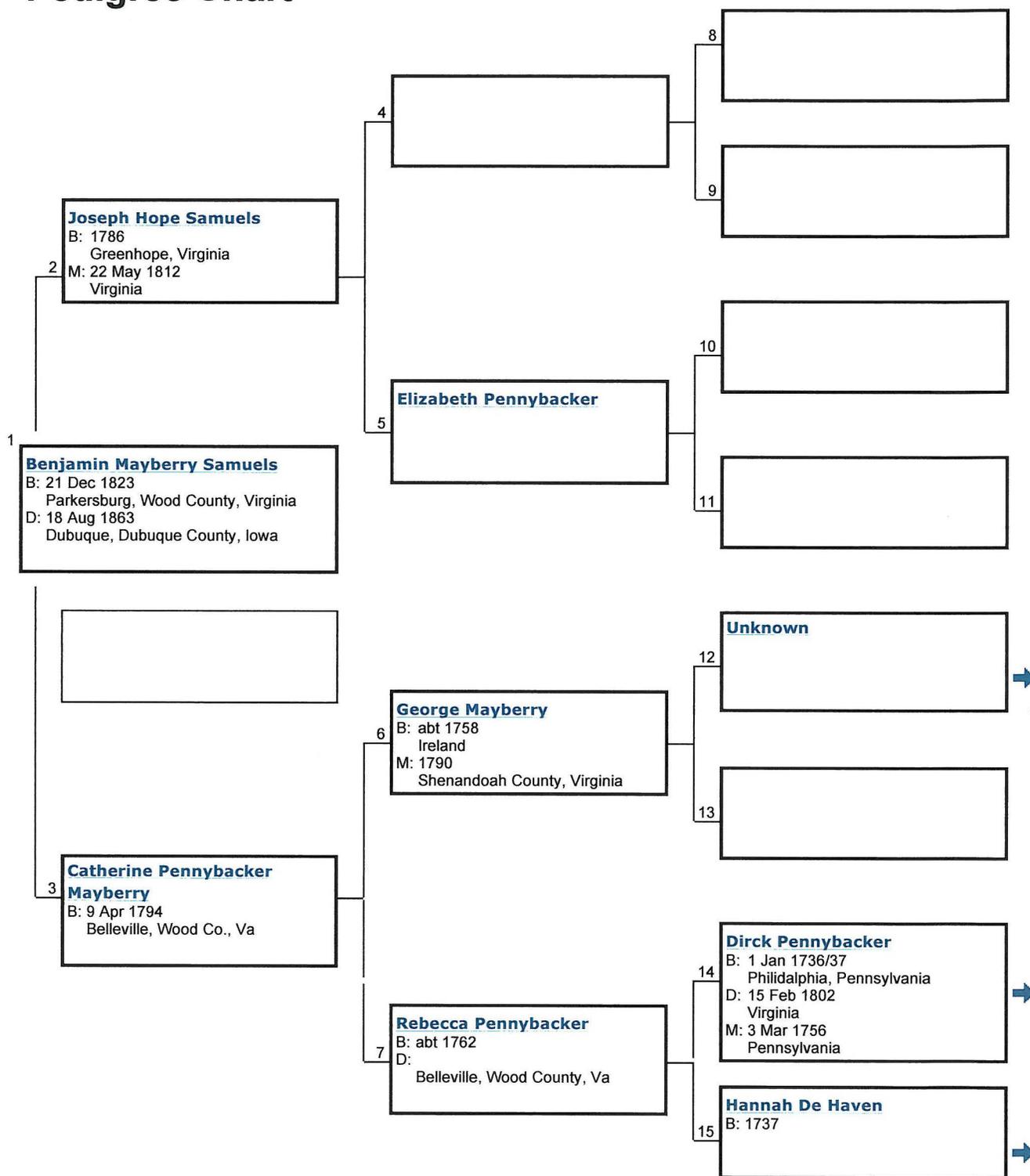
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