

Final Review
- done both

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Aldrich, R. E. Lee Senator _____
Represented Wright County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 13 Jan 1867 Hickory Corners, Berry County, Michigan

2. Marriage (s) date place
Laurette Rowens 16 June 1894 Wright County Iowa

3. Significant events for example:
A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities I.O.O.F.

C. Profession Teacher; farmer

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 45th General Assembly 1933

6. Public Offices
A. Local School Board president many years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 22 Oct 1953 Belmont, Iowa; buried Graceland Cemetery, Rowena Iowa

8. Children Nathan; George (preceded his father in death); R. E. Lee, Jr. (Fred (preceded his father in death))

9. Names of parents Frederick D. and Mary (Anten) Aldrich

Aldrich, R.E. Lee

10. Education He was educated in the country schools of Iowa Township, Wright County, Iowa. He attended Clarion, Iowa High School for 2 years followed by Northern Iowa Normal School, Algona, Iowa one year.
11. Degrees He attended Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa for 2 years.

12. Other applicable information

Democrat

- In 1873 he went to Kansas with his parents where after 3 years they moved to Quasqueton, Iowa in Buchanan County.
- When he was 11 the family moved to Wright County, Iowa where they lived in Iowa Township for 2 years. In 1885 they moved near Belmond, Iowa until 1883 when they bought a farm in Iowa Township. He lived on this farm the rest 70 years of his life.
- He taught school for 27 winters and farmed in summers.
- His wife, Laurette, died 23 Apr 1932.
- He was the youngest child of 7 children.
- Their farm was known as "Willow Hill Farm".

Aldrich, R. E. Lee

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-			Obituary - The Belmond Independent, Belmond, Iowa, Thurs. Oct. 29, 1953, p. 1, col. 5, 7 and p. 5, col. 5
-			Iowa Official Register 1933-1934, p. 86
-			History of Wright County, Iowa 1915, p. 916-928
-			House Journal Memorials 1955, p. 1615

model radio. Larry amassed a total of 10,700 points on the basis of 100 for each renewal and 400 for each new subscription to account for nearly a quarter of the FFA's total. Joan did nearly as well, having a final score of 9,150 points.

82 Students Participated

Balance of the commission money not needed for purchase of the TV set was divided between the FFA and FFA in proportion to their respective point totals. The Future Homemakers earned \$148 and the Future Farmers \$142 out of the \$290 "kitty" that was left to be split between them. Forty three

Monday evening. The organization of a new engineering concern that will open its doors at Marshalltown on Monday of next week.

His partners will be Eldon M. Collins and Don Thompson. The firm name will be Collins, Thompson and Willis, Professional Engineers. Mr. Collins resigned his local position with Rowat Murray about two weeks ago and Mr. Thompson gave up his position as resident engineer for R.M. at Emmetsburg just last week.

According to Mr. Willis, the new engineering firm will specialize in civil, agricultural and municipal engineering and in land surveying.

Mr. Willis plans to move his wife and three children to Marshalltown as soon as he can obtain living accommodations.

HEALTH COUNCIL TO MEET

Wright County Health Council will hold its postponed quarterly meeting Tuesday evening, Nov. 3, at 8:00 o'clock in the supervisors room at the courthouse in Clarion. Dr. C. P. Hawkins will speak on "Atomic Medicine and Wright County." The public is invited.

From Congregational Christian churches in surrounding communities will be present for the significant occasion.

Rev. Lee Jacobs of Fort Dodge will deliver the sermon, while the charge to the church and to the pastor will be given by Mrs. Harold Lyon, moderator of the Webster City association.

An invitation is extended to the public to attend this special service.

Next Time, \$150

This week, once again, there were no claimants for the Chamber of Commerce Cash Gifts. Tuesday's 2:00 o'clock award of \$20 will be the same next week, but the 3:00 o'clock gift will go up to \$150. Only once or twice since Cash Gift Days were started in April has a larger sum accumulated, and interest in next week's drawing is expected to reach one of its highest peaks. This Tuesday's lucky (?) numbers were, in order, 3,241 and 1,901.

BELMOND VICINITY

BACK FROM WEST

Mr. Martha Nordchow arrived here Sunday evening from a five month visit with Meredith Nordchow at San Francisco and the Merle Nordchow family at Downey, Calif.

Death Concludes Career of Prominent Farmer-Teacher

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Rowan Congregational church for R. E. Lee Aldrich, highly respected pioneer resident of this vicinity who passed away on Wednesday of last week at the age of 86. The rites were conducted by Rev. Harold Sanders. A brief service at the home preceded the church funeral.

Burial was in Graceland cemetery, west of Rowan. Pallbearers were R. E. Lee Aldrich, Jr., Nathan Aldrich, Fred Aldrich, Jerry Aldrich, William Aldrich and L. C. Aldrich. Boone Funeral Home was in charge.

Born in Michigan

R. E. Lee Aldrich was born June 13, 1867, at Hickory Corners, Berry county, Mich. He was the son of Fredrick and Mary Aulen Aldrich, natives of New York. In 1873 he went with his family, by covered wagon to the state of Kansas. After three years they moved back to Quasqueton, Buchanan county, Ia., where they lived for two years.

As a boy of 11, he came to Wright county in 1878 with his parents and resided on a farm in Section 20, Iowa township, for two years. In 1880 his parents moved to a farm a short distance southeast of Belmont, remaining there until

1883. At that time the family bought a farm in Section 19, Iowa



R. E. LEE ALDRICH
Pictured as Legislator, 1933

township, where Mr. Aldrich made his home for the last 70 years of his life.

Mr. Aldrich received his education in the country schools of Iowa township until he was 16 years of age. He attended Clarion high school for two years, after which he attend Northern Iowa Normal college at Algona for a year and Highland Park college, Des Moines, for two years.

Following his school days, Mr. Aldrich taught school for 27 years in the winter and was a successful stock-raiser and farmer in the summer. During his long teaching career he never once made an application to a school board for a school. He taught the Rowan town school in 1889 and 1890.

Served in Legislature

Mr. Aldrich was elected as state representative from the 75th District in 1932 and served as a member of the 45th Iowa General Assembly, regular and extra sessions, in 1933-34.

On June 16, 1894, he was married in Belmont to Laurette Rowen, daughter of Joseph and Georgia Rowen and granddaughter of Robert Rowen, founder of the

(Continued on Page 7)

**ON ATTENDS
AT STANHOPE**

ook part in the
a delegation of
school PTA mem-
ed a district con-
ature Homemakers
was held last Sat-
pe.
n. president of the
hapter gave a talk
ation. Educational
Cultural organiza-
and Gloria Rabe
the speakers, hav-
her topic
I Carolyn Claskick
leader. The group
each of "Under-
" "this" as its
discussed
IV. "Ambassador,"
local PTA advisor.
for a discussion

s from eight other
in Belmont's dis-
s. Elder, Forest
s. Kishler, Hamp-
gan.

. Gail Chayer and
nday with Mr. and
ng and family and
t Fort Dodge.

Hanson and Helen
ne Berbow of Mason
visiting in the Han-
at to Clarion Satur-
funeral services for
Arndorfer, which
d at the St. John's

● ALDRICH—

(Continued from Page 1)

town of Rowan. Four sons were born to them: Nathan, George, R. E. Lee, Jr., and Fred. Mrs. Aldrich and two of his sons, George and Fred, preceded him in death.

Mr. Aldrich is survived by the other two sons, Nathan of Percival, Ia., and R. E. Lee, Jr., who resides on the home farm. He also leaves eight grandchildren—William, Jean (Mrs. Harry) Hinckley, Danny, Joan and R. E. Lee III, all of Belmont; Thomas of San Diego, Calif.; Jerry of Ames and Jack of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. In addition he is survived by many nieces, nephews and friends who mourn his death.

**R. COURSON NAMED MEMBER
OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

R. W. Courson has been appointed to the nominating committee which is to submit proposed candidates to hold the following offices in the Winnebago Council of the Boy Scouts of America during the coming year: (1) council members-at-large; (2) executive board members; (3) council president, vice presidents, commissioner and treasurer; (4) and representatives on the national council.

This committee, which also includes Elmer Bisbey of Clarion, will turn in its recommendations for action at the annual council meeting to be held at the VFW hall at Mason City on Nov. 19.

Thursday, October 29, 1953

BELMONT INDEPENDENT

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
Notice of the Appointment of
Administrator
STATE OF IOWA,
Wright County, ss.**

No. 6155

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified as Administrator of the estate of John Watermiller deceased, late of Wright County. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment; and those having claims against the same will present them, duly authenticated, to the undersigned for allowance, and file in the office of the Clerk of the District Court.

V. E. Harris,
Administrator
Roy A. Henderson
Attorney

Dated October 26th, 1953
Bessie Johnson,
Clerk District Court
312

I wish to thank all who remembered me with cards and visits while I was in the hospital. Special thanks to the blood donors, doctors and hospital staff for everything.
Julius Wagoner. 311

DANCE

ERNE LENZ AND
DEEP RIVER COW
FRIDAY, OCTOBER
Masquerade Dance, De
Costume Prize

SATURDAY, OCTOBER
Dance to Ernie and I
from 10 'til 2

MALEK'S ACCORDION
BAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER
Latimer Firemen Dance
our last dance of the
at the

**BALLROOM
LAKEVIEW**

**FULL FASHION, FIRST
QUALITY NYLONS FREE
GIVEN FOR ONLY \$35.00 WORTH OF BY-LO STAMPED**

REGISTER RECEIPTS

PORK	SLICED	BEEF
ROAST	BACON	ROAST
Lb. 35c	Lb. 39c	Lb. 3

Peaches .3 / 79c M. Whip, qt.



General
1
5
11

HISTORY
OF
WRIGHT COUNTY
IOWA

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

HON. B. P. BIRDSALL
Editor

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

ILLUSTRATED

1915
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

20500a

publication. Mr. Hinman is a prominent farmer living in this township. Carrie Hinman was born on August 23, 1878, being a native of this township. Her mother died when she was only nine months of age. Mr. and Mrs. Schleiffarth are the parents of four children living and one deceased. They are Arthur R., born on May 30, 1899; Alva H., May 26, 1902; Madge C., November 5, 1904; Charles Paul, May 24, 1907, the death of the latter occurring when he was two and one-half years old; and Walter A., August 26, 1909.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this article is interested in politics, but has held no offices. He is a Republican, and he and family are members of the Congregational church to whose work they are devoted.

Mr. Schleiffarth has fulfilled the traditions of his family, for he has improved every foot of ground which he has owned, and has by strict adherence to business, enhanced his life, at the same time making life happier and better for others.

R. E. LEE ALDRICH.

R. E. Lee Aldrich, farmer, teacher, public official and man of affairs in Wright county, was born in Barry county, Michigan, on June 13, 1869, the son of Frederick and Mary (Auten) Aldrich, natives of Ontario and Tompkins counties, New York, respectively. Frederick Aldrich was the son of Frederick and Lucy (Knickerbocker) Aldrich and the grandson of Horonimus Knickerbocker, who was the founder of the town of Schenectady, New York. The Aldrich family is of Puritan stock; the Knickerbocker family is of the old Dutch colony, of New York.

Frederick Aldrich, father of the subject of this sketch, was a farmer and extensive hop-grower of Michigan, a business which he followed until 1873, when, with his family, he moved to the state of Kansas, where he lived for two years and then went to Buchanan county, Iowa. After three years residence in Buchanan county, Frederick Aldrich came to Wright county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 19, Iowa township, on which he spent the remainder of his life. Frederick Aldrich was a man who took an important part in the public life and in matters of general welfare, while a resident of the state of Michigan he was a delegate to the national convention, at Jackson, Michigan, which organized the Republican party, where he was known as "Old Greenbacker." Later,

as a citizen of Wright county, the elder Aldrich was an important element in the development of the county from prairie land with its numerous herds of cattle, to a community of prosperous farmers and progressive citizens. Frederick and Mary Aldrich were the parents of seven children, of whom R. E. Lee is the youngest.

R. E. Lee Aldrich received his education in the country schools of his native county until he was seventeen years of age, after which he attended the Clarion high school for two years, then became a student of the Northern Iowa Normal College, at that time located at Algona, Iowa, for one year, and then for two years he studied at Highland Park College, at Des Moines, Iowa. Following his school days Mr. Aldrich taught school during the years 1886-87 at the Bingham school, east of the town of Rowan, and for practically all of the school years since that time he has been a school teacher in the winter and a farmer in the summer. R. E. Lee Aldrich has acquired five hundred and sixty acres of land in sections 17, 18, 19 and 20, of Iowa township, where he engaged in general agricultural pursuits and in stock raising. The farm of Mr. Aldrich is registered and known as "Willow Hill Farm."

On June 16, 1894, R. E. Lee Aldrich was married, in Wright county, to Etta Rowen, who was born in Clarion, Iowa, on August 1, 1875, the daughter of Joseph H. and Georgia (Stearns) Rowen, well-known people in the public and official life of the community. R. E. Lee and Etta Aldrich are the parents of the following children: Nathan, who was born on January 31, 1896; George Dewey, April 23, 1898; R. E. Lee, Jr., March 27, 1900; and Fred, February 28, 1901, who died on October 6, 1904. R. E. Lee Aldrich and his family are interested in and are supporters of the Congregational church.

In the public and official life of the township and county, R. E. Lee Aldrich has taken an important part; in addition to being nominated for several prominent offices, he has served as president of the school board for many years. Mr. Aldrich is known throughout the county for his interest in the boys and girls of the county and their education. In politics Mr. Aldrich is a Democrat. The fraternal interest of R. E. Lee Aldrich is centered in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge, of Belmond, an organization in which he is a leading member.

During the past several years the great interest of R. E. Lee Aldrich and his family, is in the care of and the attention to the wife and mother, who since the year 1898, has been an invalid. The kindness of the nature

of R. E. Lee Aldrich, not only in his home, but among all, has won for him a host of friends and admiring fellow citizens. He is one of the honored and appreciated citizens of Wright county.

BENJAMIN P. BIRDSALL.

Benjamin P. Birdsall, of Clarion, was born on October 26, 1858, at Weyauwega, Waupaca county, Wisconsin, the son of Benjamin and Anna H. Birdsall. His parents were born in New York, the father in Columbia county and the mother in Cattaraugus county.

Benjamin Birdsall was a pioneer in Wisconsin, settling at and founding the town of Weyauwega, in the year 1846. After engaging for twenty-five years in the lumber business in Wisconsin, he moved, with his family of nine children, to Iowa, and in the spring of 1871 purchased and settled upon the Purcell farm at Big Wall lake, in Wright county. At that date, and for ten years afterward, Wright county was without a railroad, and he and his family experienced the hardships of pioneer life upon the western prairies. His home was the half-way house on the line of travel between the Boone and Iowa rivers, and became a refuge in times of storm and distress.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the common school at Alden, Iowa, and later attended the State University at Iowa City. The habits of industry which have characterized his life he now attributes to his early life upon the farm, where, amid the fragrance of the clover blossom and the sweat of labor, their foundation was laid. After reading law in the office of Hon. C. M. Nagle at Alden for two years, Mr. Birdsall was admitted to the bar in March, 1878, and practiced at Alden until 1884, when he removed to Clarion. In the "Bench and Bar of Wright County" will be found a history of his judicial and political services.

Benjamin P. Birdsall has been married twice, his first wife, Bertha H. Schultz, of Alden, died in April, 1886, leaving him two children, Maurice F. and Lotta M. The former married Nelle M. Michelson, of Clarion, and now resides at Clarion and is engaged with his father in the practice of law. He is a graduate of the Clarion high school, and an alumnus of the law department of the State University of Iowa. His wife is the only daughter of M. A. and Fern Michelson, of Clarion, one of the best-known

R. E. LEE ALDRICH

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable R. E. Lee Aldrich, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

R. E. Lee Aldrich was born June 13, 1867, at Hickory Corners, Michigan. He passed away at Belmond, Iowa, October 21, 1953, at the age of 86. He was the son of Frederick and Mary Auten Aldrich, natives of New York. In 1873 he went, with his family, by covered wagon to the State of Kansas. After three years they moved back to Buchanan County, Iowa, where they lived for two years.

As a boy of 11, he came to Wright County with his parents and resided on a farm in Iowa township for two years. In 1880 his parents moved to a farm a short distance southwest of Belmond, where Mr. Aldrich made his home for the last 70 years of his life.

He received his education in the country schools of Iowa township until he was 16 years of age. He attended Clarion High School for two years, after which he attended Northern Iowa Normal College at Algona for a year and Highland Park College at Des Moines for two years.

Following his school days, Mr. Aldrich taught school.

He was elected State Representative from Wright County and served in the Forty-fifth and Forty-fifth Extra sessions of the Assembly.

On June 16, 1894, he was married in Belmond to Laurette Rowan, daughter of Joseph and Georgia Rowan and granddaughter of Robert Rowan, founder of the Town of Rowan. Four sons were born to them: Nathan, George, R. E. Lee, Jr., and Fred. Mrs. Aldrich and two of his sons, George and Fred, preceded him in death.

Mr. Aldrich is survived by the other two sons, Nathan of Percival, and R. E. Lee, Jr., who resides on the home farm. He also leaves eight grandchildren.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable R. E. Lee Aldrich, the state has lost an honored citizen and a faithful, useful public servant, and the House, by this resolution, would express its appreciation of his service, and tender its sympathy to the members of his family.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

CLARK H. MCNEAL,
W. E. DARRINGTON,
WENDELL PENDLETON,

Committee.



R. E. Lee Aldrich, Sr., First Democrat elected to the state legislature from the 75th district. Elected in 1932. Served two sessions 1933-34.

FOOD AND POPULATION CONFERENCE



Rowan area farmers attending the United Church of Christ's Food and Population Conference were Lee Aldrich, Jerry Boyington, Charles Holmes, Jack Burt, Mrs. Burt, and Mrs. Aldrich.

These Rowan farmers served as guides at the ISU Campus for 350 representatives from all over the world. 1974.



This is the Rowan committee that put together the scrapbook which won a \$200.00 Community Betterment Award for their home community. Left to right: Berniece Andrews, Pat Crafton, Edna Boyington, Marian Arends, Grace Sellers and Joan Utz. Chloe Smith, also on the committee, was absent. A Rowan community gathering was held Sunday evening for the program, the feature items being the presentation of three awards to the community. Presented to Lion Dennis Bailey was the Lion's Leadership Award as the sponsoring group of the community beautification. An award was presented to the Fire Dept. for their outstanding performance in the community and for the completion of a training program. The most notable award was the third place award from the State of Iowa for Community Betterment, and which included a prize of \$200.00. Announcements were made by Lynn Bailey and Mayor Ted Schaeffer. Grace Sellers and Chuck Keith also made reports, and the Girl Scouts, under the direction of Mrs. Jim Utz, presented a check from the paper drive to the community. [Dec. 8, 1974]



Rowan Lions' Club serving one of their famous annual Chicken Barbecue.