

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Benson,  
Charles Augustus - Represented Clayton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 22 Apr 1828 in Highland Township, Clayton County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President of the Federal Land Bank of that Union Iowa, secretary of Clayton County Farmers Association and of the Clayton County Fair; part manager of Highland Township Farmers Settlement Co. & paper

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Eastern Star;

C. Profession Farmer; breeder of fine Southern cattle

4. Church membership Lutheran, later Church of Christ

5. Sessions served 41<sup>st</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931

6. Public Offices

A. Local Clayton County clerk of court;

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

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

7. Death 6 Mar 1980 Elkader, Iowa; buried

8. Children \_\_\_\_\_

9. Names of parents August and Sara Elizabeth (Jacoby) Benson

10. Education Educated in the country schools of Clayton  
County, Iowa until 1902

11. Degrees Attended Capital City Commercial College in Des Moines,  
Iowa for one year; attended Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa  
graduating in 1914

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He lived his whole life on the family farm along with his  
brothers Oscar and Adolph. They all farmed in partnership.
- In 1918 he helped form the Clayton County Farm Bureau
- During World War II he was a member of the Clayton County  
Appeal and Draft Board

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>Obituary</u>			<u>The Clayton County Register, Elkader, Iowa, Feb. Mar. 12, 1980, p. 2A, col. 5</u>
- <u>People of Iowa</u>			<u>1931, Vol. V, p. 384-385</u>
- <u>Iowa Press Association of This State in Iowa</u>			<u>1940, p. 289</u>
- <u>Iowa Official Register 1931-1932</u>			<u>p. 228</u>



# Obituaries

## CHARLES A. BENSON

Charles A. Benson, son of August and Sara Elizabeth Jacoby Benson, was born April 22, 1888, on a farm in Highland Township, Clayton County, Iowa. He passed away at Central Community Hospital, Elkader, Iowa, on March 6, 1980, having reached the age of 92.

He lived his entire life on the family farm and together with his brothers, Oscar and Adolph, farmed in partnership. Besides farming, he was active in many community and state affairs. In 1918 he helped form the Clayton County Farm Bureau and was a charter member of same.

In association with the Elkader Lodge No. 72 A.F. and A.M. he became a 32nd degree Mason, a past worthy patron of Charity Chapter Order of the Eastern Star and was awarded the Grand Cross of colors for his work with Rainbow Girls. In addition, Mr. Benson became a member of the Iowa Consistory Scottish Rite of Free Masonry and El Kahir Temple of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In early 1906 he began a life devoted to politics as Clayton County Clerk of Court. In 1926 he was elected to the Iowa State Senate, serving two consecutive terms. Mr. Benson continued an active interest in politics throughout his life.

During World War II he was a member of the Clayton County Appeal and Draft boards and in the 1950s was a member of the Federal Land Bank of West Union, Iowa, serving as president of the board for a period of time.

Mr. Benson was baptized in the Marion Lutheran Church at Gunder, Iowa; confirmed at the Highland Lutheran Church where he taught Sunday School for many years and held various offices. Later in life he became a member of the Peace United Church of Christ in Elkader, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Mrs. Hilma Erickson in 1930; a brother Adolph L. Benson, January 4, 1959, and Oscar A. Benson, December 14, 1963.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Jerda Cheeseman; three nephews, Robert, Dale and Byron Cheeseman; two nieces, Iowa Erickson Larson and LaVon Erickson Ivens, and 14 grandnephews and nieces.

Funeral services and burial were conducted by the Rev. Duane Berg at the Highland Lutheran Church on March 8, 1980.

Rev. Berg was the soloist, accompanied by Mrs. Neal Krieg.

The pallbearers were: Robert Cheeseman, Glen Larson, Dale Cheeseman, Donald Larson, Gordon Ivens and Leonard Moore.

ALVIN LAMKER

Agnes (Farley) Henkes, was born Septen 21, 1896 in Wagner Township, Clayton Co. Iowa. She died February 29, 1980, at the Samaritan Center, Postville, at the age of 83 years.

She was graduated from Monona High School and attended college at Fayette and Moines. She taught at the Eno, Gooding Farmersburg schools. On May 21, 1918 she united in marriage to Edward A. Looney; this union five sons were born. They farm Grand Meadow Township until they move Postville in 1949.

She was preceded in death by her husband Edward E. Looney, and a sister Gilbert (Christine) Meyer.

She is survived by four sons: Raymond Ambrose, both of Postville; Kenneth, Hampton; and James H., Prairie du Rocher, Wis.; sixteen grandchildren; fourteen grandchildren; a brother Farley McMonona; and two sisters, Mrs. Ed (Elo) Koether and Mrs. Florence Klein, both of McGregor.

She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary Farm Bureau and Grand Meadow Grange Club. She also did volunteer work at Allamakee County Care Facility.

## Seek advocacy trainers for aging

Area I Agency on Aging is seeking people who are interested in becoming trained in the skills needed for advocacy for older people. These people should in turn be willing to train other advocates.

Anyone who is interested in this program should contact the Area I Agency on Aging, 52101 River Street, Decorah, IA 52101. Telephone (319) 352-2941 by March 28.

## Hospital Auxiliary Board meeting March 11

The March meeting of the Central Community Hospital Auxiliary executive board will be Wednesday morning, March 19, in the hospital dining room at 9 a.m.

Included in the business will be a report by the gift shop chairman, the by-laws committee membership drive and plans made for the quarterly meeting in April. Also the rummage sale and bake sale to be held April 17-18.

## Honor Reimer for outstanding performance

Delbert R. Reimer, son of Mrs. Iola R. Elkader, was awarded a \$150 scholarship. The Minnesota Line Superintendent's Office awarded Reimer a Powerline Electrician course at Jackson, Minn.



19  
FWI and Auxiliary meeting  
Friday, March 19, at a 12:30  
at State Bank community

For more items for the local or  
call 245-2648 or 245-1311.

## Local Notes

Ball, Elkader  
McCormick, Elkader  
mann, Luana  
r, Elkader  
an Wilker, Elkader  
Dunn, Elkader  
Carnes, Elkader  
rson, Elkader

resisak, Elkader  
enberg, Elkader  
nnel, Elkader  
; Elkader  
mann, Luana  
nlon, Elkader  
Carnes, Elkader

son, Elkader

ries Benson by family and  
ance.

Maria Fohlhafer  
Geneva Higgins  
Grace Burrack  
Ann Wright  
Lynn  
Greta Freitag

Margaret-Lucille (Mrs C O Marsh); Beatrice K (Mrs E Meyer), Grace M (Mrs Claude Callaghan), Burnette Anna; 1917- farmer, Clayton Co; 1937- secy-treas Garnavillo Co-op Creamery Assn, 1920-37 pres; past Jr Eagle dist sch bd; twp committeeman AAA, past Clayton Co chmn, past twp chmn; treas Garnavillo Comm Co; Clayton Co, Iowa St & Natl Farm Burs; St Paul's Luth Ch, trustee; hobby: travel; res Route 1, Garnavillo.

**BECKER, ALBERT C:** Insurance Agent; b Millville twp, Clayton Co, Mar 16, 1900; s of Christian Becker-Louise Weideman; ed Guttenberg HS 1919; m Dorothy Thurow Apr 20, 1928 West Union; s Alan; d Jean Marie; 1919-25 bkpr, Guttenberg State Bank; 1925-30 asst cash, 1930-31 cash; 1931- agt, New York Life Ins Co, Guttenberg; 1928- secy Guttenberg bd of edn; Nylic; Century League; Comm Club; United Luth Ch; hobby: gardening; off & res Guttenberg.

**BEERMAN, HENRY LOUIS:** Furniture Dealer & Mortician; b Guttenberg, Iowa July 12, 1883; s of William Beerman-Christine Geuder; ed Guttenberg HS 1900; Hohenschuh-Carpenter Sch of Embalming 1905; m Amanda Ortman June 30, 1910 Guttenberg; d Violet Anna (Mrs C L Uttenhove), Betty Jane; 1904-33 ptr of brother William J in furn store & funeral home, Guttenberg, 1933- after brother's death owner & opr furn & funeral business, Guttenberg; past city clk; 1932- mbr bd of edn, Guttenberg; Natl, Iowa St & NE Div of Iowa St Funeral Dirs Assns; Comm Club; Rotary, past pres; Luth Ch, past trustee, pres bd; hobby: fishing; off & res Guttenberg.

**BENSON, CHARLES AUGUST:** Farmer & Stockman; b Clayton Co, Iowa Apr 22, 1888; s of August Benson-Sarah Elizabeth Lyceff; ed Highland twp; Iowa St Coll; 1914; farmer & stockraiser, specializes in purebred Shorthorn cattle; 1924-33 Iowa St sen, 1934 org legislation to promote Iowa pavement; 1939 introduced bill creating state tax commission; 1929 introduced bill creating present Bovine T B Law, chmn of com on Agr; chmn of Com on Highways 1931; past mbr & dir Amer Legislative Assn; past mgr Highland twp Farmers Tele Co; Amer Farm Bur; Iowa St Farm Bur; Clayton Co Farm Bur, orgr & first mbr, first secy 1917-24, past acting agt; 1919-22 mgr Elkader Co-op Commission Co; AF&AM 72; Luth Ch, second chmn of Deacons; Rep, past mbr of Speakers Bur, mbr state central com; hobbies: shorthorn cattle, politics; res Elkader.

**BERG, ARTHUR HENRY:** Merchant; b Read twp, Clayton Co, Iowa June 26, 1886; s of Henry Carl Berg-Minnie M Garms; ed Read twp; Elkader HS 1902; m Amelia Marie Overbeck June 5, 1923 Luana; prior to 1908 with father on farm & in gen store, Clayton Center; 1908-18 farmer, Clayton Co; 1918-21 with uncle Martin Steen in impl business, Hopkinton; 1921-owner & mgr impl & hdw business, Luana; 1932- opr electrical appliances business, Luana; past mbr city coun 4 years; 1934-assessor, Luana; 1923- secy Luana consolidated sch dist; Iowa Impl Dirs Assn; Comm Club, past secy; Luth Ch, 1932-secy bd; Dem, 1934- pct committeeman of Dem Central Com; hobby: travel; grandfather came from Germany to Guttenberg 1840, worked in lead mines at 25c a week; wife's father C H Overbeck came from Germany to Guttenberg 1859, hauled rock for the Sears Church, wife's mother's name was Caroline Bierbaum; off & res Luana.

**BEYER, ARTHUR EDWIN:** Physician & Surgeon; b Clayton Co, Iowa Mar 10, 1873; s of Jabez D Beyer-Marie MacCrum; ed Edgewood HS 1888; Upper Iowa U, 1895; Northwestern U, PhD 1896; U of Ill, MD

1901; m Jessie Morse June 2, 1902 Elkader; m Frances Andregg May 18, 1915 Dubuque; d Jeraldene L (Mrs J F Kerr Jr), Adele F; 1901- prac med, Guttenberg; past mbr bd of edn 20 years, pres 18 years; 1916- orgr & pres Guttenberg Cemetery Assn; dir Enderes Mfg Co, past chmn of bd; Clayton Co Med Soc, past pres 2 terms; Iowa St Med Soc; AMA; Comm Club, past dir; Rotary, ch mbr & past pres; AF&AM 147; Scot Rite; El Kahir Shrine; Meth Ch, trustee; hobbies: fishing, big game hunting in Canada & Wyoming, maintaining stable of horses; off & res Guttenberg.

**BICKEL, LEROY PHILLIP:** Grocer; b Giard, Iowa Aug 19, 1886; s of John Daniel Bickel-Mary Anna Hanson; ed McGregor HS 1905; m Dora Elwell June 30, 1915 McGregor; s Herbert Elwell, John Phillip; d Mary Elizabeth; 1905-07 with father in J D Bickel Produce Co, mgr branch La Crosse Wis; 1907- mgr groc store, McGregor, 1912 meat market & groc store combined which was 1st meat & groc store in NE Iowa; 1922-23 dir First Natl Bank; 1934-37 dir First State Savings Bank, 1937-pres; 1922- secy McGregor Heights Assn; mbr McGregor Park Commission; McGregor Service Club; McGregor Golf Club; AF&AM 135; Meth Ch; off Bickels Grocery & Meat Market; res McGregor.

**BISHOP, MAX BOYES:** Postmaster; b Clermont, Iowa July 31, 1885; s of Hiram Clay Bishop-Emma Kern; ed Elkader HS 1903; Drake U 1908; m Bessie Humphrey Oct 24, 1911 Fayette; d Jeanne H, Elizabeth Ruth; 1908-14 clk of dist court, 13th Judicial Dist, Elkader; 1914 owner Cho Teau Acantha newspaper, Cho Teau Mont, 1915-19 editor & publisher; 1919- owner & opr Clayton Co Abstract Co; 1934- P M, Elkader; past mbr Elkader city coun; Elkader Fair Assn, past secy; Iowa Ch Natl Assn of P M's; Comm Club; Elkader Golf Club; AF&AM 72; RAM; KT; Scot Rite; El Kahir Shrine; Congl Ch, past chmn bd of trustees; Dem, past chmn Clayton Co Dem central com; hobbies: fishing, horses; off & res Elkader.

**BIXBY, RANSOM JAMES:** Retired; b Clayton Co, Iowa Mar 29, 1854; s of Rev Newell Willard Bixby-Ruby Knapp; ed Lodomillo twp; Wilton Coll, Wilton Junction 1877; m Flora R Blanchard May 22, 1879 Edgewood (dec Oct 1, 1930); s Ralph L, Sylvan N; d Ruby L (Mrs F I Smith), Angeline F (Mrs W F Bellamy); 1871-77 sch tchr, Delaware, Clayton & Cedar Cos also National, Inland & Lamont; 1877-79 prin of schs, Edgewood; 1879-1884 in gen mdse & drug business, Edgewood; 1884-98 opr drug store; 1898-1909 farmer, Delaware & Clayton Cos; 1909- ins & real est agt, Edgewood; Iowa St Rep in 30th, 31st & 32nd Gen Assembly; 1922- J P; past mayor, Edgewood; past mbr city coun; 1909-19 pres Edgewood State Bank; past mbr sch bd, 1st pres Edgewood indep sch bd; founder of Bixby Park, dedicated Aug 1896, state park since 1928; Comm Club, past mbr; MWA; KP; OES 434, past patron; White Shrine; AF&AM 606; KT; RAM; El Kahir Shrine; Rep, chmn 25 years Delaware Co Rep Central Com; hobbies: flowers, roses, gladiolus, & iris; off & res Edgewood.

**BLIZZARD, LOGAN:** Retired; b Palo Alto twp, Jasper Co, Iowa Sept 8, 1879; s of Robert Blizzard-Dina Clark; ed Newton HS 1898; m Maude Kennedy Dec 25, 1911 Chicago Ill (dec Feb 24, 1934); 1898-1903 rural sch tchr, Newberg & Reasnor, Jasper Co; 1903-18 traveled every state in US for John W Masury Paint & Varnish Co of New York City N Y, hdqrs Chicago Ill; 1918-32 secy Marquette Stone Co, mfrs of crushed rock & agr lime, McGregor; 1932-35 trustee for First Natl Bank & McGregor State Bank; 1935-38 mbr Iowa St Conservation Commission, McGregor; 1938-

ret, McGregor; past mbr city coun; past mbr park bd; mbr lib bd, donated present bldg to lib; Interstate Fed S & L Assn, pres; NE Iowa Natl Park Assn, mbr since 1925; Amer Inst of Nature Studies, mbr since 1918; McGregor Service Club, past pres; past dir McGregor ARC; past coun mbr McGregor BSA; McGregor Golf Club; BPOE, Newton; KP, Newton, past chancellor comm; United Presby Ch; hobbies: gardening, roses; res McGregor.

**BOLLMAN, DONALD J:** Secretary Co-Operative Creamery Co; b Allamakee Co, Iowa Apr 9, 1907; s of Ira S Bollman-Edna May Perkins; ed Luana HS; 1931-34 painter, emp by Louis Shultz, Luana; 1934-36 opr Shell Filling Station, Luana; 1936-39 yardman, Luana Lbr Co; 1939- secy Farmers Co-op Creamery Co, Luana; secy Luana vol fire dept; secy-treas Luana Dance Club; Comm Club; hobbies: baseball, sports, hunting, fishing; off & res Luana.

**BORMAN, AUGUST HENRY:** Attorney; b Elkader, Iowa July 8, 1877; s of August Borman-Wilhelmina Kottman; ed Elkader HS 1895; U of Iowa, LLB 1900; m Amanda Duwe Feb 10, 1904 Guttenberg; s Roland August; d Maxine Louise (Mrs William S Mauer); 1900-03 prac law, Elkader, 1903-Guttenberg; past Clayton Co atty; past city atty; past mayor; past pres bd of edn, Guttenberg indep sch dist; past mbr city coun; past pres Guttenberg State Bank; past twp clk; pres Guttenberg Canning Co; Comm Club; MWA; AF&AM 147, past master; St Paul Luth Ch, pres bd & choir dir; Dem; hobby: flowers; off & res Guttenberg.

**BOYLE, PATRICK JAMES:** Clergyman; b Dougherty, Iowa Sept 2, 1886; s of Neal Boyle-Marjorie Campbell; ed Rockwell City HS 1905; Loras Coll, Dubuque 1913; St Paul Minn Seminary, 1917; ordained 1917; 1917-19 asst pastor, Lawler, 1919-21 Cedar Rapids, 1921 Waukon, 1921-23 St Raphael's Cathedral, Dubuque; 1924 asst pastor, Marshalltown; 1925-33 pastor Sacred Heart Ch, Grundy Center; 1933- pastor, Strawberry Point; C of C, Grundy Center, past mbr; Manchester Golf Club; KC; hobby: golf; off & res Strawberry Point.

**BRANDT, GEROLD EDWARD:** Veterinarian; b Garnavillo, Iowa Oct 9, 1915; s of Elmer Henry Brandt-Laura Kregel; ed Garnavillo HS 1933; Iowa St Coll, DVM 1940; Phi Zeta; Gamma Sigma Delta; Phi Kappa Phi; m Helen Frances Heath June 17, 1940. Massena; 1940- veterinarian, Garnavillo; Iowa St & Amer Veterinary Med Assns; hobbies: sports, hunting & fishing; off & res Garnavillo.

**BRAUGHT, FREDERICK ELMER:** Physician & Surgeon; b Aledo, Ill Feb 2, 1868; s of George Washington Braught-Frances Douglas; ed Battle Creek Mich HS 1888; Battle Creek Coll 1890; U of Mich 1892; Rush Med Coll, Chicago, MD 1894; Northwestern Coll of Dental Surg, MDS 1895; Chicago Post Grad Sch, 1895; grad work Orifical Surgery, Des Moines 1924; m Mina Agnes Owen Sept 12, 1893 Battle Creek Mich; s Frederick Allen; d Marjory Agnes (dec 1905), foster d Dorothy Frances (Mrs LeRoy Johnson); 1894 interne Battle Creek Sanitarium, Battle Creek Mich; 1895 ship surg on Pitcairn, Seven Day Adventist Mission Ship, traveled through South Sea; 1895-1903 prac med, Samoa Islands; 1903-04 prac med, Omaha Neb; 1905-06 research work 6 countries of Central Amer; 1906-11 med & surg supt, Kansas Sanitarium, Wichita Kas; 1911-18 prac med, Coleridge Neb; 1919-25 eye, ear, nose & throat specialist, Fremont Neb, nurses training instr, Fremont Hosp; 1925- prac med, Elkader; 1909-16 orgr ptr of Frank Middaugh, Gold Dredging Co Nome Alaska; 1898 published treatise in Amer Med Journal on Elephantiasis; during World War enl Jan 1918 Camp Omaha, SC, sent to Arcadia Cal June, surg div in Sept, 1 month

Jane, born April 28, 1930. Mr. and Mrs. Smith's second child is Miss Claudene D., born March 5, 1915, member of the class of 1932 at the Cherokee High School. The youngest of the family is Charles H. D. Smith, born December 9, 1917, a pupil in grade school.

RAY SPERBECK, editor, owner and publisher of the *Swea City Herald* in Kossuth County, is a native of Iowa, learned the printer's trade when he was a boy, and printing and newspaper work have constituted the chief means by which he has fitted himself into the niche of useful occupation in the world.

He was born at Milford, Dickinson County, Iowa, February 8, 1888. His parents, C. F. and Mahala (Jenkins) Sperbeck, are living retired at Spirit Lake. His father was born in Wisconsin and his mother in Dickinson County, Iowa. During his active career his father was a railroad engineer.

Ray Sperbeck attended school at Milford and learned the printer's trade at Estherville in Emmet County. It was in 1909 that he located at Swea City and bought the plant and equipment of the *Herald*, and has succeeded in a reasonable degree in making that paper an important institution in the life of the community.

Mr. Sperbeck married Miss Mamie Bruce, also a native of Iowa. They have one daughter, Jeanne. Mr. Sperbeck conducts a paper independent in politics. His personal thought and tendencies in political matters have socialistic leanings. He and his wife have been quite active in the educational interests of their home town.

REV. WILLIAM H. KENT is a notable representative of the modern minister of the Gospel. Liberally educated, broad-minded, tolerant, sympathetic, a scholar, an eloquent speaker, he is well qualified for leadership and has proved his effective power for work among men not merely as a minister but in his contacts man to man.

Mr. Kent in his career has been pastor of metropolitan churches, but for several years has been located at Nashua, Iowa, where he is pastor of the Congregational Church, and is also pastor of that famous institution known as the Little Brown Church in the Vale.

Mr. Kent was born near Freeport, Illinois, October 6, 1868, son of Daniel and Mary (Gable) Kent. His mother was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage. She died when her son William was an infant. Daniel Kent during his early life sailed on whaling vessels to all parts of the world. Later he settled down to farming. During the Civil war he was in the Army of the Potomac and after the war moved to Kansas, taking up Government land, and one of his sons is now a farmer in Phillips County, that state. From Kansas they moved to Nebraska, and it was in Nebraska that William H. Kent received his first school advantages.

In 1897 he was graduated A. B. from Redfield College. His college expenses were met by the exercise of his talents as a penman. He taught penmanship classes in the high school at Redfield and also had charge of the penmanship department and taught mathematics in the college. Other educational experience was acquired as a country school teacher. During his college days, looking to the future, he resolved to enter the ministry. In 1902 he was graduated Bachelor of Divinity from the Chicago Theological Seminary and in 1904 was ordained. His first pastorate was at Edelstein, Illinois. He was pastor of St. Paul's Church on the West Side of Chicago and later was member of the staff of the new First Congregational Church on the West Side, one of the very large religious institutions of that city. For six years he was a pastor at Milford and was then made assistant superintendent of the Iowa Conference, in charge of work in the eastern part of the state, with headquarters at Cedar Rapids. This office he held six years. From there he came to his present work at Nashua and the Little Brown Church in the Vale. During 1929 Mr. Kent was called upon to officiate at the marriage of 244 couples.

Young people and their interests and problems have always deeply interested him and much of his best work has been done among the young. Mr. Kent has some interesting literary gifts, and has been a writer of numerous stories, including a small volume of fiction entitled *Tacky Jim*.

He married Miss Bessie Murray, of Edelstein, Illinois. Six children were born to their union: William; Mary, a graduate of Coe College of Cedar Rapids; Kenneth, in the freshman class at Coe; Virginia, Ray and Kathryn, all at home at Nashua.

Mr. Kent is a member of the Scottish Rite Consistory of Masons at Sioux City, and he and his wife belong to the Eastern Star. He is a Republican, and at times has been called to the public platform to speak on current issues, and he delivered some addresses in behalf of the League of Nations and the World Court. His war service consisted not only of speaking, but in practical forms of aid to the Government. For a number of years he has been a poultry fancier and is regarded as an expert in the poultry business. During the war he conducted a number of poultry demonstrations for the Government in Dickinson and Paulding counties. At one time he conducted a hatchery, selling several thousand chicks each season.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS BENSON, who is serving as a member of the Iowa State Senate, in which he is serving his second term, has communal and material interests that make him intrinsically loyal and progressive in his official capacity, and his election to the Senate and his service therein are the more interesting to record by reason of the fact that his native county is included in his representative district and that in the county

he has long been a leading exponent of modern agricultural and live stock industry, his fine farm estate in Clayton County being situated seven miles northwest of Elkader, the county seat, and on rural mail route No. 3 from that city.

Senator Benson was born on the parental home farm near Elkader, Clayton County, April 22, 1888, and is a son of August Benson, who was born in Gothenberg, Sweden, and gained there his early education, he having acquired definite pioneer prestige in Clayton County, Iowa, where he achieved large and worthy success in farm enterprise and where his sterling character brought to him the fullest measure of popular confidence and good will.

Charles A. Benson was reared to the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the home farm, and in the meanwhile he profited by the advantages of the public schools of his native county, where he thus continued his studies until 1902. He thereafter was actively associated with the work and management of his father's farm until 1907, when he went to Des Moines and entered the Capital City Commercial College. In that institution he was a student one year, and he then returned to the home farm. In 1911 he became a student in Iowa State College, at Ames, in which he was graduated as a member of the class of 1914. After thus fortifying himself in scientific and practical knowledge that was certain to be of inestimable value to him in his further alliance with progressive farm industry he returned with his well earned diploma to the parental home. In the autumn of the same year he was appointed deputy district clerk of Clayton County, and of this office he continued the incumbent until March, 1917. In the meanwhile he had been associated with his father and brother in acquiring additional farm land in Clayton County, and after completing his service as deputy district clerk he resumed his active association with the management of the now large and valuable landed estate acquired by the family. He has proved much of a leader in the advancing of the standards of agricultural and live stock industry in his native state and has been specially influential as a breeder of fine Shorthorn cattle. He is secretary of the Clayton County Farmers Association and also of the County Fair Association, is president of the Clayton County Shorthorn Association and is a director of the Iowa Shorthorn Breeders Association. He has been active and influential in the councils of the Republican party in this part of the state and in 1924 he was elected to the State Senate, the popular estimate placed upon his service having been shown in his reelection in 1928. As a legislator he has made earnest and successful effort to promote the passage of laws and measures that shall advance the civic and material prosperity of his native state, and has done much for the benefit of his constituent district. Senator Benson is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are com-

municants of the Lutheran Church. Their attractive rural home is known for its generous hospitality and good cheer, and Mrs. Benson is its gracious and popular chatelaine.

**GUSTAV A. SUNSTRUM.** The late Gustav Sunstrum was for years one of the outstanding citizens of Oskaloosa, whose attention was not only given to his large mercantile interests, but also to other matters of great and general importance. His keenness of business perception and cooperation in public effort, his acceptance of his duties as they came, combined with his broad and abundant sympathies, brought him appreciation from a wide circle. Whatever he undertook was managed on sound business principles, was carefully calculated and worked out for better conditions where there was need of improvement. Clear-sighted, prompt in action, his careful thought was given to all subjects wherein the city's good was concerned, as well as that of his private affairs.

Gustav A. Sunstrum was born in Phillipstad, Sweden, March 7, 1868, and was graduated from his home schools July 16, 1882. In May, 1887, he came to the United States and located at Marshalltown, Iowa, and, after a couple of years of varied employment he took a clerkship with a clothing firm, and a little later came to Oskaloosa and spent four years in the employ of a clothing firm of this city. It was during this period that he married Miss Ida McCreery at Waukee, Iowa. She was born in Jefferson County, Iowa, a daughter of Landy and Parlee (Stubbs) McCreery. Mr. McCreery was born in Indiana, of Scotch parentage, and Mrs. McCreery was born in Tennessee, but was taken to Iowa at an early day by her parents.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sunstrum left Iowa, going to Missouri, thence to Marysville and Albia, Iowa, and then for five years they were at Aberdeen, South Dakota. Mr. Sunstrum there established himself in the clothing business, having decided upon devoting himself to the clothing industry. In 1914 they returned to Oskaloosa, and here he engaged in the clothing business, opening a fine establishment and conducting it until his death December 26, 1928. Always industrious and thrifty, a man with a real talent for business, he was accepted as public spirited, as well as substantial and successful.

Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sunstrum: John F. married Miss Nell Barnes, a member of an old Oskaloosa family. They live at Oskaloosa, and have two children, Billie B. and Gus Frederick, both at home. The second son, William A., is an efficient public accountant of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Sunstrum held membership in the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias. For a number of years he was interested in the Iowa Chain of Bakeries known as the "Bake Rite Company,"