

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Valpey, Thomas Lindly Senator

Represented Linn County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 16 Dec 1872 Linn County Iowa at  
Sparks, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

① Ora M. Cass 16 June 1898

② Wilma Mack 25 Dec 1923 Mount Joy, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Has practiced medicine in Mount Vernon for 55 years

B. Civic responsibilities Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, I.O.O.F.

C. Profession Physician, farmer, real estate

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 40<sup>th</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assemblies 1923, 1925, 1927

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Mount Vernon 1914

B. State

C. National

7. Death 13 Feb 1951 Mount Vernon, Iowa; buried Mount Vernon Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Iowa

8. Children By 1<sup>st</sup> wife - Harry T., Richard B.; by 2<sup>nd</sup> wife - Elizabeth (Mrs. Wood);  
John D.; Thomas L. Jr.; Mary (Mrs. Smith); Robert; David

9. Names of parents David D. and Elizabeth E (Dill) Valpey

10. Education \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Degrees He attended the Iowa City Academy, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
and the University of Kentucky

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He was born on the Wolfe homestead farm in Lewis County in 1872.
- He practiced medicine with his father, Dr. John S. Wolfe, for many years.
- He comes from a pioneer family with his grandfather being one of the first settlers in the Mount Vernon area. The family farm was homesteaded in 1841 and at Dr. Wolfe's death, it was still in the family.
- He has brothers also engaged in real estate. They built several buildings in Mount Vernon. They also owned extensive real estate in Louisiana.
- His first wife, Ora, died on 1 Jan 1925 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



## Pioneer Resident Dies



This picture of Dr. T. L. Wolfe was taken in 1922 when he was a candidate for state representative from Linn county.

Thomas L. Wolfe, 79, son of Daniel D. and Elizabeth Wolfe, was born on the Wolfe Ivanhoe farm in 1872, the third of five children, one of whom died in infancy. He passed away at the family residence in Mount Vernon on Tuesday evening. He had been in failing health for some time, but had been confined to his bed only for the past week.

Dr. Wolfe was a pioneer physician in Mount Vernon, having spent over 55 years in the general practice of medicine here. He and his brother, the late John D. Wolfe, were associated together for many years in the general practice, the latter first starting practice early in the 1890's and Dr. Wolfe a short time later. Dr. Wolfe attended Iowa City Academy, the University of Iowa, and the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Wolfe comes from a pioneer Iowa family, his grandfather, John Wolfe, having been one of the first settlers in this vicinity. A part of the present Wolfe farm was homesteaded over 100 years ago, in 1841, and has been in the family ever since.

He and his brother also engaged extensively in real estate, built several of the present business buildings in Mount Vernon, including the buildings on Main street, across from the present Wolfe office, which they built in 1912. At one time, they owned extensive real estate in Louisiana.

Dr. Wolfe administered to the needs of the sick for many years, without regard to their means or ability to pay. In his early days, the horse and buggy or sleigh were the only means of transportation. He enjoyed his work, and enjoyed visiting and counseling with his many friends and acquaintances. In

recent years, he has been handicapped by an impaired vision.

Dr. Wolfe has held numerous offices and has been very active in the affairs of the community. He is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, organized prior to World War I, was mayor of Mount Vernon in 1914 at the time the Main street paving was laid, and also at the time the City Hall was contracted for and built.

He was active in local Republican politics and was a member of the General Assembly from Linn county during the 40th G.A. in 1923, the 40th Extra, 41st, 42nd and 42nd Extra, and was a candidate for speaker in the 42nd G.A. He was a charter member of the Rotary club and a member of Mount Vernon I.O.O.F. lodge.

He was preceded in death by his brother, John D. Wolfe, in 1921; his sister, Isa B. Sturges, in 1946; and his sister, Grace G. Wolfe, in 1950. He was first married to Ora Bair, who deceased in 1923. Two sons were born to this union, Dan T. Wolfe of Chicago and R. B. Wolfe of Mount Vernon. He was later married to Wilma Frank, who survives, together with Elizabeth Kroul, John D. Wolfe, Thomas L. Wolfe, jr., Mary Smith, Robert Wolfe and David Wolfe, all of Mount Vernon, except Robert, now in the naval service at Great Lakes, Ill.

In addition to the children, he is survived by six grandchildren, several cousins and more distant relatives, and numerous close friends and acquaintances.

Funeral services are being held at the Johnston-Morgan Funeral Home in Mount Vernon at 2 p.m. Thursday in charge of the Rev. Howard W. Palmer. Interment will be in the Mount Vernon cemetery. The six sons will act as pall bearers.

*The Mount Vernon Hawkeye Record, Mount Vernon, Iowa  
Thurs. Feb. 15, 1951, p. 1, col 4, 5*



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# Dr. Wolfe Dies At Mt. Vernon; Rites Thursday

Special to The Gazette.

MT. VERNON—Dr. Thomas L. Wolfe, 78, pioneer Mt. Vernon physician and civic leader, died Tuesday night after a week's illness.

Born at Ivanhoe in 1872, Dr. Wolfe practiced medicine in Mt. Vernon for more than 50 years. He was a former state representative and former mayor of Mt. Vernon.

He attended the universities of Iowa and Kentucky. Following his graduation from medical school he began practice in Mt. Vernon.

He served as state representative from Linn county in the 40th, 40th extra, 41st, 42nd and 42nd extra sessions of the Iowa legislature.

Dr. Wolfe was mayor of Mt. Vernon in 1914. It was during his term as mayor that the first streets were paved.

In partnership with his brother, John, who preceded him in death, Dr. Wolfe built most of the business buildings on Mt. Vernon's main street.

During World war I, Dr. Wolfe was president of the Chamber of Commerce. He was a charter member of the Rotary club and a member of the Odd Fellows lodge.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are six sons: Dan, Chicago; Richard and John, Mt. Vernon; Robert in the navy at Great Lakes, Ill., and David, Davenport; two daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Kroul and Mrs. Mary Smith of Mt. Vernon and six grandchildren.

Services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Johnston-Morgan funeral home, where friends may call. Burial will be at Mt. Vernon.

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A Centennial History

of

Mount Vernon

Iowa

1847-1947

Published by  
The Centennial Committee  
1948

That old Military Road running from Iowa City to Dubuque through Ivanhoe had its origin when W. W. Chapman, Territorial Delegate to Washington, D.C., secured in 1840 the passage of a bill providing \$20,000 for its construction. Along the road, running through the present site of Mount Vernon, villages and towns were founded, of which few now remain. In the early days Anamosa and Fairview were prominent hostels; and travellers along the road gazed with delight at the unending prairies, agreeing with Asa Whitney, a northern Iowa pioneer, who declared in 1846: "This is the finest country on the globe, capable of sustaining three times the population of any other place. Nowhere is the atmosphere so pure, the surface so gently undulating, or the soils so rich, with not one acre of bad land."

Soon four-horse stage-coaches of the Western Stage Company traveled the road, and in the forties they carried members of the legislature to the Capitol building in Iowa City. No doubt Governor Ansel Brigg's couriers could have been seen dashing by at top speed on horseback. Home-steaders on foot and horseback and in white-topped immigrant wagons traveled on their way to stake out homesteads. Occasionally a troop of U.S. Dragoons formed a colorful cavalcade in contrast to some lonely circuit-rider with saddlebags making his way prayerfully to his scattered appointments.

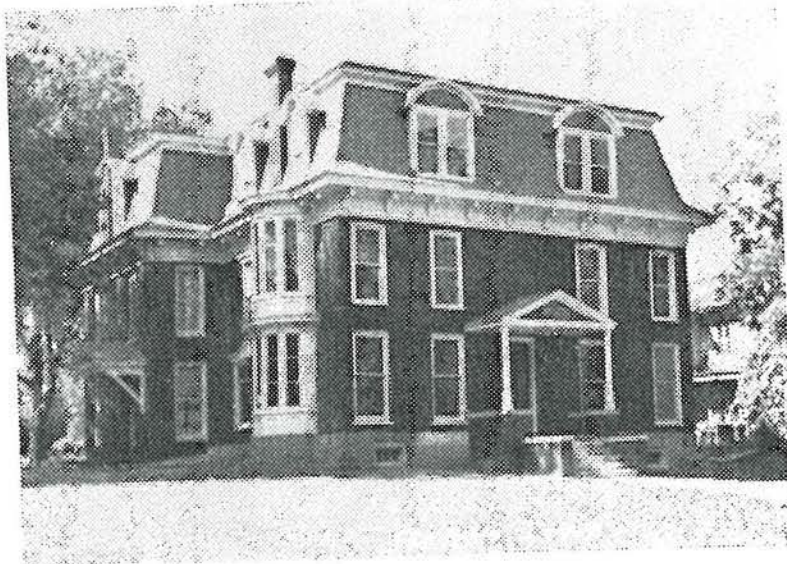
It seemed as though the leading city in these parts would be located on that Military Road. Naturally it ought to be laid out in the fertile land of the river bottom where, at the same time, river traffic would greatly increase trade and commerce. Steamboats came up the river in early days and flatboats were launched with loads of grain and furs destined for St. Louis in Missouri.

John Wolfe saw the possibilities at Ivanhoe and settled in 1839 on the north side of the river, building a hotel and starting a ferry. He was the first justice of the peace in the county. After his death in 1854 his sons Dan D. and S. W. continued to operate the ferry until a bridge was built in 1870. Part of this bridge was washed away in the floods of 1876, and the ferry had to be re-opened for a year. It is interesting to view the original log cabin of the Wolfe family a short distance south of the present Ivanhoe bridge. This cabin was built in 1840, an addition with siding was made about ten years later, and the adjacent farmhouse was built in 1860. In partnership with his sons, Richard B. and Dan T., Dr. Thomas Wolfe owns a large tract of land including the homestead which bears a 100-year-farm plaque.

It was on that old ferry at Ivanhoe in the fifties that Jacob Slosser, grandfather of Raymond Mallie, was transporting a load of oxen when they were frightened by the swirling waters and broke loose, plunging into the river. Jacob, however, kept them company and ultimately landed them at Stony Point.



## The C. W. Neff Funeral Home



The location was originally owned by Elder Bowman who sold it to Thomas Clark. The home was erected by the Clarks who sold it a number of years later to Doctors George W. and Kate Mason Hogle for a home and hospital.



Part of the front part of this house is believed to have been built by John Wolfe, grandfather of Dr. T. L. Wolfe and G. G. Wolfe, when he operated the ferry at Ivanhoe before the bridge was built. In the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Laing, and daughters Lillian and Jean, and son Darrell and R. B. Wolfe, great grandson of John Wolfe.

## Biographical Index—Early Iowa Physicians

This is a photocopy of the biographical index file from the State Medical Library of Iowa regarding early Iowa physicians. The index cards include references to biographies, Iowa medical histories, and Iowa medical journals that contain obituaries and biographical information on Iowa physicians. The information was collected over a number of years and information may be limited or more detailed depending on the prominence of the physician.

Thornell - Yule

State  
Historical  
Society  
Of Iowa

Iowa - Doctors

Wolfe, Joseph H. <sup>Herbert</sup> (1883-1954) Iowa City.

J. Iowa St.M.Soc. 44:406, Aug. 1954 Obit.  
JAMA Aug. 7, 1954, 1364

Iowa-Doctors

(1885-1954)

Wolfe, Otis Rudolph ( - Marshalltown, Marshall Co

Who's Important in Med. (LE) I.R.Biog., 1945.

Iowa Press Ass. Who's Who in Iowa (LE) 40,829

Died Sept. 11, 1954. Clipping in reprints  
Had 3 sons who were M.D.s

Dr. Otis D.

Dr. Russell M.

Dr. Henry L.

Obit. J. Iowa St.M.Soc. 44:496, Oct. 1954

JAMA Dec. 4, 1954, 1344 Obit.

J. Internat. Coll. Surg. 23:737, June 1955, Por  
(OVER)

Iowa - Doctors

Wolfe, Thomas Lindly (1870-1951) Mount Vernon,

J.A.M.A. May 26, 1951, 390 Obit.



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### You searched for **Thomas L. Wolfe** in **Iowa**

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#### 1900 United States Federal Census

Name: **Thomas L Wolfe**

Home in 1900: Franklin, Linn, Iowa

Age: 30

Birth Date: Dec 1869

Birthplace: Iowa

Race: White

Ethnicity: American

Gender: Male

Relationship to Head of House: Head

Father's Birthplace: Ohio

Mother's Birthplace: Ohio

Spouse's Name: Ona M

Marriage year: 1894

Marital Status: Married

Years Married: 6

- [View original image](#)
- [View blurred image](#)

Residence : MT. Vernon Town, Linn, Iowa

Occupation: [View on Image](#)

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Thomas L Wolfe</a>	30
	<a href="#">Ona M Wolfe</a>	28





You searched for **Thomas L. Wolfe** in **Iowa**

### Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name:	<b>Thomas L Wolfe</b>
Birth Year:	<b>abt 1872</b>
Birth Place:	<b>Linn CO, Iowa</b>
Gender:	<b>Male</b>
Race:	<b>White</b>
Marital Status:	<b>Married</b>
Census Date:	<b>1 Jan 1925</b>
Residence State:	<b>Iowa</b>
Residence County:	<b>Linn</b>
Locality:	<b>Mount Vernon</b>
Relation to Head:	<b>Head</b>
Mother:	<b>Elizabeth Dill</b>
Mother's Birthplace:	<b>Goesbury, Ill</b>
Father:	<b>Daniel Wolfe</b>
Father's Birthplace:	<b>Ohio</b>
Marriage Place:	<b>Linn CO, Iowa</b>
Spouse Name:	<b>Wilma Wolfe</b>
Roll:	<b>IA1925_1816</b>
Line:	<b>1</b>
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>
Household Members:	
Name	Age
Thomas L Wolfe	<b>53</b>
Wilma Wolfe	<b>29</b>
Doul T Wolfe	<b>21</b>
Richard Wolfe	<b>18</b>

#### Source Information:

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

#### Description:

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