

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Thompson, Melburn J. Senator _____

Represented Decatur County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 30 Oct 1860 Clinton County, Ohio at
Marionville, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place
Did not marry

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Director of Banks of West Part Iowa 1900-1914; Le
ased and operated Steers and Thompson Hardware and Lumber 1893-1902

B. Civic responsibilities Highway Pythian; Member of Amvocs
1899-1899

C. Profession Farmer; real estate; grain and lumber business
Railroad agent; hardware business; teacher; barber

4. Church membership Christian

5. Sessions served 35th, 36th General Assemblies 1913, 1915

6. Public Offices

A. Local He held the office of township clerk, town clerk,
town commissioner and mayor over a period of 12 consecutive
years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 23 Sept 1937 Leon, Iowa, buried Greenbay Cemetery, Greenbay, Iowa,
Clarke County, Iowa

8. Children No children

9. Names of parents William J. and Emily Jane (Stephenson) Thompson

10. Education He was educated in the common schools
at Hennepin, Illinois

11. Degrees He attended Hedding College in Abingdon, Illinois

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- In 1850 he moved with his family to Decatur County, Iowa
- He lived on the farm and engaged in railroad service as a
telegrapher and agent for 9 years.
- In 1892 the family moved to Van Wert, Iowa
- For 10 years he engaged in the grain and lumber business
and then to farming and real estate
- He moved with his family to Knox County, Illinois in 1869 at
Abingdon, Illinois.
- He taught school in Clarke County, Iowa for a few years.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

- | Source | Non Applicable | Applicable | Information obtained |
|---|----------------|------------|----------------------|
| - <u>History of Decatur County, Iowa and Its People 1915, Vol #1</u>
7.10-11 | | | |
| - <u>Iowa Official Register 1915-1916, p. 739</u> | | | |
| - <u>Picture of Personal History for the Historical Department of Iowa (located in the clipping file #2)</u> | | | |
| - <u>Iowa Gene Records - WPA - Clarke County Iowa</u> | | | |
| - <u>Findagrave.com (accessed 3 Jan 2010)</u> | | | |
| - <u>Portrait The original is located in the State of Iowa Historical Library 6006</u>
<u>Locust Des Moines Iowa</u> | | | |
| - <u>Obituary - The Osceola Sentinel, Osceola Iowa</u>
<u>Thurs Sept 30, 1937, p.1, col 7-8</u> | | | |
| - <u>Obituary - The Leon Journal Reporter, Leon Iowa</u>
<u>Iowa Sept 30, 1937, p.1, col. 8 at p.2, cl. 2</u> | | | |
| - <u>A Century of Memories of Van Wert Iowa 1880-1980, p.100, 82, 83,</u>
<u>106</u> | | | |



Neilson W. Thompson
of Van Wert



It is planned to completely line all available acreage in the six counties in the Chariton river basin within the next few years. The six counties in the Chariton river basin include Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas, Wayne, Decatur and Clarke.

M. F. Thompson Dies



M. F. Thompson, well known Van Wert resident, passed away Wednesday of last week at the Decatur county hospital. He represented Decatur county in the legislature two terms and had filled many other positions of trust. In his younger days he taught school, was station agent for the D. M. & K. C. at Van Wert, was in the hardware and lumber business and was interested in banking. An obituary appears on another page of today's edition.

Attended Rotary Meeting

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Price, Dr. J. W. Rowell and John Lundquist drove to Winterset last Thursday where the gentlemen attended a Rotary meeting.

Dr. Rowell was a speaker at the meeting, his subject being "Fellowship." The meeting was attended by a large number of Rotarians from various southern Iowa clubs.

Fred Anderson of Humeston Injured

driver of a LeRoy consolidated school bus, sustained severe head

DR. ERNEST SHAW ROTARY SPEAKER

Told of Trip to the Rotary International Convention at Nice

Dr. Ernest Shaw of Indianola, who represented several southern Iowa Rotary clubs, including Leola, at the Rotary International convention held in Nice, France, was a guest speaker at a special meeting held Monday evening at the Civic club rooms. The address followed an excellent dinner. The Rotary Anns were also present.

Dr. Shaw spoke at length upon the experiences of himself and Mrs. Shaw on their trip over, their impressions of the different parts of Europe visited and the proceedings of the convention held at Nice. His description of their stops at Madeira, Algiers, Naples, and other places enroute were indeed interesting. He mentioned the receptions tendered the Rotarians at various places and their final arrival at the convention city. After the convention, Dr. and Mrs. Shaw went on to Vienna, Berlin, Prague and other cities, spending considerable time at the most interesting places. Dr. Shaw had taken many feet of motion pictures along the entire route traversed and these pictures were shown as the closing feature of his address. The pictures were clear and distinct many being in natural colors. Arab quarters, palaces, ruins, beautiful garden street scenes in the various countries visited were shown.

At the conclusion of his very fine talk many remained to talk informally with Dr. and Mrs. Shaw concerning their trip. It was a most delightful evening. Dr. and Mrs. Shaw returned to their home in Indianola that night.

New Lunch and Sweet Shop Opens Saturday

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Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

r. Jones and Mr. O'Brian
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Museum

useum Director



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Indian dolls may be
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m 8:00 a. m. until 5:00
y day. Admission free.

prehend the robbers and Sheriff
McQuern went to Perry at once
but the suspects could not be lo-
cated.

The car had been driven with-
out oil and the engine so badly
damaged it could not be driven
home.

oned. He was found not guilty of
the charge. In the trial this
week, all testimony regarding the
murder was barred from the court
records.

The Shanes were cleared of
blame Monday when the attorney
for the plaintiff moved dismissal
of the charges against them.

M. F. Thompson, Prominent Van Wert Man Died Last Week; Was Banker, Legislator

M. F. Thompson, well known
Van Wert resident, died last Wed-
nesday at the Decatur county hos-
pital. He represented Decatur
county two terms in the Iowa Leg-
islature and held many other po-
sitions of trust in and about Van
Wert. In his younger days he
taught school in Green Bay town-
ship, was station agent; engaged
in the hardware and lumber busi-
ness and was interested in bank-
ing.

Funeral services were held Fri-
day afternoon at Van Wert.

The subject of this short sketch,
Melburn F. Thompson, was the
son of M. J. and Emily Thomp-
son, and was born October 31,
1860, at Martinsville, Ohio, and
departed this life at the Decatur
county hospital September 22,
1937, being at the time of his
death almost seventy-seven years
of age. He moved with his par-
ents to Abingdon, Illinois, while
still young, and when about twen-
ty years of age to Green Bay,
Clarke county, Iowa. As a young
man he taught school in Clarke
county for a few years, after
which he came to Van Wert, Iowa
where he served as station agent
for the Des Moines and K. C.
Railroad, relinquishing this posi-
tion only to engage in the lumber

and hardware business in partner-
ship with Mr. Steer. After dis-
posing of this business, he became
vitaly connected with the finan-
cial interests of the town through
the Van Wert Bank, where he
served as one of the officers
through the years. During his ac-
tive life he served his county as
state Representative for two
terms, and only declined the nom-
ination for a third term because
of conscientious convictions. He
was a good neighbor, a kind and
helpful friend, and a conscient-
ious servant of the people.

He leaves to mourn his passing,
one brother Oscar L. Thompson of
Denver, Colorado, one sister Nora,
now Mrs. James Blair of Kings-
port, Tenn., also three nephews,
and four nieces, two grand neph-
ews and five grand nieces.

In the passing of Mr. Thompson
the town of Van Wert loses a
good citizen, the community a
faithful and loyal friend.

The funeral services were held
Friday at 2 p. m., September 24,
at the Tuttle Funeral Home in
Van Wert, Iowa. The funeral
message was brought by A. E.
Price, a friend of long standing,
after which the body was tenderly
laid to rest in the family burying
lot in the Green Bay cemetery,
Clarke county.

on Sunday. We begin our "Five Year Program" this week in co-operation with the churches of our brotherhood throughout the country. Attendance records will be kept and results sent for publication. Membership attendance is especially urged at the opening of the campaign. We are anxious that every class in the school should have full attendance each Sunday and that many others may be interested also. Let us all work together in this and not merely however for numbers, but that we may have part in accomplishing the purpose of the program: "To Strengthen the Church, to Advance the Kingdom of God."

School at 9:45. Morning worship 10:00. The Young People Christian Movement at 6:30. Evening service at 7:30. Please note the change in time for the evening service.

The young people's musical program will be given at the opening of the evening service followed by the sermon.

The monthly luncheon of the ladies council will be held on Tuesday with Mrs. Brewer.

The board will meet in monthly session at the church on Tuesday evening.

Bible study and prayer service on Wednesday at 7:00.

Choir rehearsal at the home of Mrs. Ella Kelp on Friday at 7:30.

Albert V. Hart, pastor.

LEON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A friendly church in a friendly town."

The Sunday school membership will meet at the church at 9:45 a. m. in preparation for special rally day program. Everyone in the school is urged to be present in order to be in perfect readiness for the assigned part you have in the service to follow. All boys

The Leon Journal-Reporter

Reporter Established 1854
Journal Established 1863

Published every Thursday by the Leon Journal-Reporter Co., (Inc.), 904 North Main Street, and entered at the post-office, Leon, Iowa, as second-class mail matter.



SUBSCRIPTION

The year \$2.00
Six months 1.00
Three months50
Ads and foreign countries 3.50
Advertising rates made known on application.

Funeral services were held at Allerton Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 2 p. m., the Stewart Funeral Home of Leon in charge, with Rev. Gruber officiating. Interment was in the Garden Grove cemetery on Wednesday, Sept. 29, due to the late arrival of her brother-in-law, Lou Curry of Tillford, South Dakota.

Obituary

The subject of this short sketch, Melburn F. Thompson, was the son of M. J. and Emily Thompson and was born Oct. 31, 1860, at Martinsville, Ohio, and departed this life at the Decatur County Hospital, Sept. 27, 1937, being at the time of his death almost 77 years of age.

He moved with his parents to Abingden, Ill., while still quite young and when about twenty years of age to Green Bay, Clarke county, Iowa.

As a young man he taught school in Clarke county for a few years, after which he came to Van Wert, where he served as station agent for the Des Moines and Kansas City railroad, relinquishing his position only to engage in the lumber and hardware business in partnership with Mr. Steer.

He became vitally connected with the financial interests of the town through the Van Wert bank, where he served as one of the officers through the years, during his active life he served his county as state representative for two terms and only declining the nomination for a third term because of conscientious convictions. He was a good neighbor, a kind and helpful friend, and a conscientious servant of the people.

He leaves to mourn his passing one brother, Oscar L. Thompson of Denver, Colorado, one sister, Nora, now Mrs. James Blair of Kingsport, Tenn., also three nephews, four nieces, two grand-nephews, and five grand-nieces. In the passing of Mr. Thompson, the town of Van Wert loses a good citizen, the community a faithful and loyal friend.

Funeral services were held on Friday at 2 p. m. at the Tuttle Funeral Home in Van Wert. The funeral service was brought by A. E. Price, friend of long standing, after which the body was tenderly laid to rest in the family burying lot in the Green Bay cemetery in Clarke county.

Obituary

James Henry Johnston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Johnston, was born in Monroe county, Ohio, on October 22, 1844, and passed away at the home of his son George in

northwest made it more bearable. Mr. Nichols has purchased a new two-row corn husker to gather his bumper corn crop this fall.

Gail Schultdt was helping some on the work of reroofing the barn on Arbor farm last week.

Mrs. John Hoffman is still in the hospital at Rochester, Minn., but she is better and is expected home soon. We are glad to be able to make this report.

Mrs. John Myers of Williamsburg and Mrs. S. E. Garber of Cedar Rapids came last Friday for a visit with friends and relatives in this county. They will return to their homes during the present week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brechtel of Lena, Ill., cousins of Mrs. Nichols, were visiting at the Nichols home last Thursday.

Dinner guests at the Walter Garber home last Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Garber of Crown and Mrs. John Myers of Williamsburg.

John Hunt of Ackley, had been down to Kansas City last week for a truck load of Angora goats and on his return trip with his goats, he called at the Nichols home for a short visit. He is Mrs. Nichols' cousin.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Nichols and Mrs. Dorothy Garber and four children Warren, Jo Ann, John and Lucious were calling at the Arbor farm last Sunday evening.

Mrs. Gilham Gardner who was formerly a resident of Fairview, but the last few years of Woodburn, passed away early Monday morning. The funeral is set for Wednesday afternoon at the Fairview church. Mrs. Gardner was born in the Fairview neighborhood and the most of her life was spent in that vicinity. She lived an exemplary life and this community is grieved at her passing, and we extend our sincere sympathy to the family in their sad loss.

WOODLAND

Sept. 27. - Mrs. Harley Petty and daughter Maxine and son Gary and Mrs. Joe Nulph called at the Stanley Moore home near Lineville Thursday evening.

Mrs. Stanley Moore returned to her home after visiting several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Petty.

Mrs. Belle Johnston and Elmer Johnston attended the funeral of their uncle, Henry Johnston on Thursday. Henry Johnston was an old time resident of this community.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Umphress and son Darrell visited Sunday at the Carl Smith home. Mrs. Umphress and Mrs. Smith and children Helen and Lester spent most of

HISTORY
OF
DECATUR COUNTY
IOWA

AND ITS PEOPLE

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1915

A. Otis White, who is engaged in the undertaking business in Lamoni. Arthur H. is married and has one child. He is now operating the home farm near Lamoni.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Smith has given stalwart support to the republican party and has served as a member of the board of supervisors, while for the past thirty years he has acted as school treasurer—a fact indicative of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. In matters of religion he and his family affiliate with the Methodist church, and fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Lamoni. The position he has attained and the success he has won is the outcome of energy and perseverance intelligently applied in his early manhood. To few is accorded the privilege of traveling the journey of life together for a period of more than fifty years as Mr. Smith and his estimable wife have done and to few is accorded the high regard and esteem that this venerable couple enjoy from all with whom they are brought in contact.

HON. MELBERN F. THOMPSON. \

Hon. Melbern F. Thompson, of Van Wert, is representing his district in the state legislature and is proving farsighted and courageous in his loyalty to the best interests of the people. A native of Clinton county, Ohio, he was born in October, 1860, a son of W. J. and E. J. (Stephenson) Thompson, who removed to Decatur county, Iowa, in 1880. The father continued to follow agricultural pursuits until his demise, which occurred at Van Wert in 1905, when he was seventy-two years of age. He served in a number of township offices and was an active member of the Christian church. His wife, a native of Ohio, is still living and resides with the subject of this review.

Melbern F. Thompson entered Hedding College in Illinois after completing his public-school education and there prepared more fully for meeting the responsibilities of later life. He continued to reside upon the farm with his parents until he was eighteen years of age and then engaged in railroad service as telegraph operator and agent for nine years. He accompanied his parents to Iowa in 1880 and in 1892 took up his residence at Van Wert, Decatur county, where he has since resided. For ten years he engaged in the grain and lumber business but for the last eight years he has given his attention to farm-

ing and to dealing in real estate. All of his business ventures have proved successful and he has gained more than a competence. In 1912 he was chosen as state representative on the democratic ticket and is still serving in that capacity, his record being one of which he has every reason to be proud. He has also held other offices, as he was for eight years township clerk and has also served as town clerk, as councilman and as mayor. He is the acknowledged leader of the democratic party in his part of the state and his advice carries weight in party councils. He adheres to the Christian church, in whose teachings are found the guiding principles of his life, and his genuine worth of character has won him the respect of those who are associated with him.

J. O. CHERRY.

J. O. Cherry, who for the past four years has lived retired at Le Roy, has resided in Decatur county since 1869, and for many years devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, August 19, 1841, of the marriage of Matthew and Mary (Offiter) Cherry, who removed to Ohio from the Keystone state in 1828. The father was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was there reared to manhood. His first wife, who was in her maidenhood a Miss Reed, passed away in that state, and his second wife, the mother of our subject, died in Muskingum county, Ohio, when about forty-five years of age. He was subsequently married a third time and had in all seven children, but only two are living, our subject and a brother. The father died in Muskingum county, Ohio, when seventy-seven years of age.

J. O. Cherry remained a resident of the Buckeye state until he was twenty-two years of age, and then removed to Jackson county, Iowa, where his father owned two hundred and forty acres of land. He remained there until his marriage, after which he took up his residence in Henry county, Iowa, where he resided a few years before removing to this county. In 1869 he became a resident of Decatur county, locating on section 4, Garden Grove township, where he still owns two hundred and forty acres of fine land. He also holds title to eighty acres in Clarke county and during his active life successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising, specializing in breeding shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He made all of the improvements upon his place and the farm is excellently developed

Outline of Personal History of

M. F. Thompson

Ref. D 6

RESIDENCE

Kindly furnish on this sheet the necessary data for a personal sketch and return at your early convenience. Every question is important.

The Historical Department of Iowa

DES MOINES, IOWA

EDGAR R. HARLAN, CURATOR

(This form is for use in collecting data on deceased as well as living persons. Appropriate alterations may be made in matter below.)

1. Name in full (all names) Melburn F. Thompson
2. Chief occupation or profession Farmer
3. Former occupation or profession Railroad Agt + Opv. Hardware + Lumber
4. Date and place of beginning each Van West Ia 1887 to 1893, Van West Ia 1893 to 1900
5. Present residence address Van West Iowa
6. Present business address Van West Iowa
7. Date of birth Oct 30th 1869
8. Place of birth Clinton County Ohio
9. If born abroad, where
10. Emigrated to America, when
11. First migrated to what state and county, whether born abroad or in America To Knox County Ills 1869
12. Emigrated the second time to what state or county Clarke County Iowa 1880
13. Further emigration, if any
14. Education. Give name and location of rural, high, business or technical school, college or university Rural School, Hermon Ills. Heading College, Abingdon Ills.
15. Date of graduation and degree if any Teacher in Rural School 1885 + 6

16. Place of death
17. Date of death
18. Place of burial
19. Name of father in full (all names) *William J Thompson*
20. Occupation of father
21. Full Maiden name of mother (all names) *Emily Jane Stephenson*
22. Residence when married
23. Military service, if any (exact dates)
24. Political offices, (from the smallest to the largest, with dates) *Clerk Long Creek Twp Decatur County Ia 1883 to 1897, Town Councilman Van Wert Iowa 1894 to 1900
County Representative Decatur Co Ia (6th Dist) Elected 1912*
25. Director or trustee of financial, religious and educational institutions *Bank of Van Wert Van Wert Iowa 1900 to 1914.*
26. Politics *Democrat*
27. Religious denomination if any
28. Religious preference if non-affiliated with a denomination *Christian*
29. Member of what societies or associations of learning
30. Member of what secret organizations, with honors or offices held, with dates *Knights of Pythias
Chancellor Commander 1895 to 1899*
31. Member of what clubs if any
32. Belonged to what firms (give names in full and dates if possible) *Steer & Thompson
Hardware & Lumber 1893 to 1902*
33. Officer or director in any corporation
34. Enclose business card if possible
35. Enclose photograph and autograph

36. *Author of books or pamphlets, with titles and publishers in full and dates of publication*.....

37. *Miscellaneous*.....



FAMILY HISTORY

1. *To whom married*..... *Single*

2. *Date of marriage*.....

3. *Place of marriage*.....

4. *Date of his or her birth*.....

5. *Place of his or her birth*.....

6. *Religious denomination*.....

7. *Date of his or her death*.....

8. *Place of his or her death*.....

9. *Place of his or her burial*.....

10. *Father's full name*.....

11. *Born where and when*.....

12. *Occupation of his or her father*.....

13. *His or her mother's full name*.....

14. *Born when and where*.....

15. *Parents' residence at time of their marriage*.....

16. *Miscellaneous remarks on their family*.....

1. *To whom married second time*
2. *Date of marriage*
3. *Place of marriage*
4. *Date of his or her birth*
5. *Place of his or her birth*
6. *Religious denomination*
7. *Date of his or her death*
8. *Place of his or her death*
9. *Place of his or her burial*
10. *Father's full name*
11. *Born where and when*
12. *Occupation of his or her father*
13. *His or her mother's full name*
14. *Born when and where*
15. *Parent's residence at time of their marriage*
16. *Miscellaneous remarks on their family*

CHILDREN OF

AND

NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE	MARRIED TO WHOM	WHERE	DATE

CHILDREN OF

AND

NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE	MARRIED TO WHOM	WHERE	DATE

SIGNATURE

M. F. Thompson
Oct 20th 1914



You searched for **Melburn F. Thompson** in Iowa

1930 United States Federal Census

Name:	Melburn F Thompson	
Home in 1930:	Long Creek, Decatur, Iowa	
	View Map	
Age:	67	
Estimated birth year:	abt 1863	
Birthplace:	Iowa	
Relation to Head of House:	Head	
Race:	White	
Occupation:		
Education:		
Military service:	View image	
Rent/home value:		
Age at first marriage:		
Parents' birthplace:		
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Melburn F Thompson	67

Source Citation: Year: 1930; Census Place: Long Creek, Decatur, Iowa; Roll: 652; Page: 24; Enumeration District: 20; Image: 259-0.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626. 2,667 rolls.

Description:

Containing records for approximately 123 million Americans, the 1930 United States Federal Census is the largest census released to date and is the most recent census available for public access. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including: birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census. [Learn more...](#)

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WPA - Work Projects Administration 1930's Graves Registration Survey



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Family Tree History

Comprehensive Family Tree Search. Trace Your Family History Here.

Ancestry.com

Genealogy Death Records

Lookup Obituaries & Death Records On Anyone Free. Official Service

Death-Records.GovDeathRecords.com

Ads by Google

THOMPSON, Melburn F.

Born: AGE 76
Died: 22 SEP 1937
Cemetery: GREENBAY
Location: GREENBAY TWP.
County: CLARKE CO. - IOWA

Record Notes:

The information contained on this website was originally recorded by Iowa WPA (Works Progress Administration) workers during late 1930's. In 2006 it was transcribed into a searchable electronic format.

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Your Name: _____ (required)

Your Email: (required)

Notify me when others post to this record.

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Note: (required)

You have 400 characters remaining.

Password: (Required)

No "Post-em's" have been contributed for this record.

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FIND A GRAVE



Actions

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First Name:

Last Name:

State:

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- Death
- Cemetery
- Marriage
- Divorce

Create Your Family Tree »

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Melbern F Thompson

[\[Suggest a correction\]](#)

Birth: 1860
Death: 1937

Family links:

Burial:
[Green Bay Cemetery](#)
[Clarke County](#)
[Iowa, USA](#)

Created by: [FLH](#)
Record added: Nov 17, 2007
Find A Grave Memorial# 22950889



Added by: FLH



Cemetery Photo

Added by: becky

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Find Death Records!

Search 400,000,000 records instantly

First Name:

Last Name:

State:
 Nationwide

Select Record Type

- Public
- Birth
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Photo left for Melbern Thompson



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11/19/2007

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