

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Koontz, George H. Senator _____
Represented Johnson County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 20 Mar 1843 Northampton County, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place

Anna Jeffrey? 1869

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1884; president of the Citizens
Savings and Trust Company

B. Civic responsibilities Elks; Knights of Pythias;

C. Profession Attorney; Banker

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st General Assemblies 1909, 1912, 1914, 1916

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Iowa City for 6 terms; Iowa City treasurer; Justice
of the Peace; the Mayor of Iowa City School district; Johnson County clerk;
Johnson County auditor

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 30 June 1922 Iowa City, Iowa; Buried

8. Children George Wilson; Edith Maria

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education Educated in common schools and graduate
of the Iowa City, Iowa High School

11. Degrees Attended University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He came to Iowa City in 1855 with his parents at age 12
- He studied law while working in the political field in Iowa City
and Johnson County, Iowa

HON. GEORGE W. KOONTZ PIONEER LAW-MAKER FALLS ASLEEP TODAY

Hon. George W. Koontz, one of Iowa City's foremost citizens for more than a half-century, and a resident of the city almost three score years and ten, sleeps.

"Uncle George", as he was lovingly known to thousands of Johnson county people, and other citizens of Iowa, far and near, passed away at five minutes of noon today.

Over the city hall, at half mast, floats the Stars and Stripes he loved so well, telling the city that a beloved pioneer mayor and state law-maker is no more.

Mr. Koontz has been in frail health several years, and has been ailing, though not confined to the bed or house steadily, since November, 1921. He would have been an octogenarian had he lived until March 20, 1923.

He retained his mental faculties to the last, and was deeply interested in all the events of the community, the state, the nation, and the world, at large, until the very day that Death touched his brow, and bade him depart from the scenes of a long, busy, and useful life.

admitted to the bar. That year, too, he was sent to the legislature, and for years thereafter, as above indicated, he wore the mantle of a state law-maker, giving his home city, county, and state the benefit of an able mind, a sound heart, and a loyalty that were unsurpassed in the halls of the legislature.

It was because of these qualities, too, that Mr. Koontz, even while he was as staunch and true a democrat as ever drew breath in the commonwealth or the country, gained the respect and admiration of his associates in the halls of the general assembly, regardless of their party affiliations, and he retained these well-earned recognitions. Republicans, as well as democrats, were glad to do him honor, and throughout the countless battles, of words that waged on the floor of the house (where he was known for years as the democratic leader) the sting and poison of rancorous, vengeful resentment never entered the hearts of his political enemies. "Uncle George" was to them, as he was to the "folks at home," a man of love-worthy qualities of mind and heart, to know whom was to rejoice. As the poet has said: "None knew him but to love him; none named him but to praise."

To the University of Iowa he gave all the devotion of a steadfast, devoted son of an alma mater, although he was not really a graduate of the institution. Nowhere in all Iowa lives a man who has striven more earnestly, indefatigably and whole-heartedly to serve Iowa university. His voice was ever raised in its defense, and in eloquent and effective pleas for its support.

chairmanahin of the fish and game committee.

Mr. Koontz was allied with few fraternal organizations, but his brothers of the B. P. O. Elks and the Knights of Pythias knew him as one of the finest men that ever entered their respective lodges, and in each of these organizations, as throughout countless homes in the city, sorrow reigns today.

In the business world of Iowa City, he was a leader many years, long serving as president of the Citizens' Savings and Trust company.

Surviving are his widow and two children, George Wilson Koontz, formerly of S. U. I., now of Carbondale, Pa., his father's native state, where he is an able civil engineer with the Delaware and Hudson Railway company; and Edith Marie Koontz, at the family home, 831 East College street, Iowa City. She is an alumna of Iowa university, class of 1909, and is a gifted instructor in music in her home city. Until Mr. Wilson Koontz, to whom a message has been sent, can be heard from, funeral arrangements will not be effected.

Mr. Koontz's family life was ideal. For more than a half century, since 1869, he has walked hand-in-hand with the bride of his young manhood, formerly Miss Anna Fyffe. In 1919, this devoted couple celebrated their golden wedding, and upon them were showered the blessings of a host of loving friends, who today, uniting in sadness, as they then united in joy, will tender to the bereaved widow and children, the unbounded sympathy that flows from hearts filled with affection and regard.

LIVE WIRE KILLS MAN

Mr. Jack Picister, formerly of Iowa City, was killed at Deona, Iowa, yesterday, when he came in contact with a live wire.

He was manager of the telephone company there.

His widow, formerly Miss Maggie Beas of Iowa City, and one son, David, aged three, survive.

He was a brother-in-law of Mr.

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To the University of Iowa he gave all the devotion of a steadfast, devoted son of an alma mater, although he was not really a graduate of the institution. Nowhere in all Iowa lives a man who has striven more earnestly, indefatigably and wholeheartedly to serve Iowa university. His voice was ever raised in its defense, and in eloquent and effective pleas for its support. That the finances of the institution were what they were, in the earlier days, when it was no child's play to secure state funds from hard-handed men for "college boys and girls," against whom there was a certain prejudice, is due largely to the wonderful efforts of George W. Koontz.

Among his latest honors in the legislature were his largest. Speaker Cunningham, for example, in the 35th general assembly, named him on such committees as these: Judiciary, banks and banking, municipal corporations, suppression of intemperance and public libraries; he gave him the

regard widow and children, the unbounded sympathy that flows from hearts filled with affection and regard.

LIVE WIRE KILLS MAN
Mr. Jack Pfeister, formerly of Iowa City, was killed at Doona, Iowa, yesterday, when he came in contact with a live wire.

He was manager of the telephone company there.

His widow, formerly Miss Maggie Boag, of Iowa City, and one son, David, aged three, survive.

He was a brother-in-law of Mrs. Hayes Tunning, whose son is Mr. Carl Carpenter, of Iowa City.

The Tunings removed to Cedar Rapids not long ago, from Iowa City, and the remains of Mr. Pfeister will be taken there for interment.

HON. GEORGE W. KOONTZ

Mr. Koontz was mayor of Iowa City six terms, and was a member of the Iowa legislature about 15 years. Other offices in the gift of the people were his, in evidence of his standing in the community.

He was mayor from 1911 to 1916, inclusive, and was city treasurer three times, 1893, 1895 and 1907.

At the time of his death, he was serving at justice of the peace, a modest post he has filled year after year, since his retirement from the magistracy.

He was also treasurer of the Iowa City school district at the time of his death, and had so served more than three decades.

notable figures in Iowa's public

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of the people were his in evidence of his standing in the community.

He was mayor from 1911 to 1916, inclusive, and was city treasurer three times, 1893, 1895 and 1897.

At the time of his death, he was serving at justice of the peace, a modest post he has filled year after year, since his retirement from the mayoralty.

He was also treasurer of the Sumner city school district at the time of his death, and had so served more than three decades.

Mr. Koontz was one of the most notable figures in Iowa's public life, during his protracted service at Des Moines.

He then surpassed in point of service, the record of any other member of the lower house of the legislature.

He was first elected to fill out the unexpired term of Hon. Joe A. Edwards, an Iowa City attorney, who died in office, in 1898, and thereafter, each succeeding session of the Iowa house saw Mr. Koontz re-elected from the 27th general assembly, up to and including the 35th general assembly.

He came to Iowa City in 1855, a lad of 12, having been born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1843. He was educated in the common schools and the high school, of Iowa City, and after his graduation, early took an active interest in politics. He was a democrat, but was as broad-minded, as he was big-hearted, and there was no narrowness and pettiness about his nature—and hence no such smallness ever reflected itself in his political life or acts, either in Iowa City, Johnson county, or at the capital.

He was promptly honored by his fellow-citizens here, who recognized in him, one of the coming men of the city and state. In 1874, the elected him county clerk, and re-election was his reward for good service, in 1876 and 1878. Five years later, he was named county auditor, by the same constituency, and he was in that office four years, being reelected at the close of his first term.

In the meantime, he had been studying law, and in 1884, he was

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