

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Olson, Olof Senator _____

Represented Lyon County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 4 Oct 1855 Sandnessfjord, Norway

2. Marriage (s) date place

Belle Hild 5 Oct 1882 Lewiston, Minnesota

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Never director of the Farmers Elevator in Rock Rapids 1910

B. Civic responsibilities Mason;

C. Profession Maritime Business; former

4. Church membership Lutheran

5. Sessions served 34th Iowa Assembly 1911

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Rock Rapids - 2 terms; school board member 2 terms;
Lyon County Treasurer 4 years

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 10 Jan 1930, Union, South Dakota; buried Riverside Cemetery, Rock Rapids, Iowa

8. Children William H.; George; Maude (Mrs. H. E. Scott)

9. Names of parents Nans P. and Etina Rogstad (Abelstad) Olson

10. Education

Educated in schools of his native home
in Norway.

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

Seamster

- At the age of 12 he shipped as cabin boy on his father's boat. The next 17 years were spent on the water obtaining the rank of Captain of his own ship. He circumnavigated the globe three times with each trip taking 2 years.
- Military service - Was between Peru and Chile (while he was on the water) joined the Peruvian Navy serving with distinction.
- He came to America settling at Levee, Iowa in 1878.
- After marriage, they moved to Rock Rapids where he was in the general merchandise business with his brother-in-law E. S. Held. They were in business many years.
- When he retired he spent his time looking after his land interests as a stockholder in the Security National Bank at Huron, South Dakota.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>Iowa Official Register</u> 1911-1912, p 626			
- <u>Obituary</u> - <u>The Rock Rapids Reporter</u> , Rock Rapids, Iowa, Thurs. Jan 14, 1924, p. 1, col. 6			
- <u>Outline of Personal History for the Historical Department</u> folder (originals in boxed in the library clipping folder)			
- <u>ancestry.com</u> (accessed 9 Jan 2011)			
<u>Portrait</u> - The original photo is located in the archives at the State of Iowa Historical Library, 1008 Locust, Des Moines, Iowa			



RAPIDS REPORTER

ROCK RAPIDS, IOWA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1924

NUMBER 3

GRONWEG FAMILY, PAUPERS, DEPORTED

Lester Residents Returned to Holland Thursday by Immigration Officials—Were Alien Citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Dirk Groneweg, and their three children, until recently residents of Lester, have the distinction of being the first Lyon county people ever to be deported, they having been transported to Ellis Island, from whence they will take ship for their former home in Holland. Mr. and Mrs. Groneweg and their family, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff N. C. Rogers, left Lester last Thursday for Omaha, where they were taken in charge by the divisional immigration inspector, A. H. Haynes who made arrangements to have them taken to New York City, and then to Ellis Island, where they will take ship for their old home at Amsterdam.

Groneweg, and family, at that time consisting of a wife and two children, came to this country in May, 1910, and made their home for a time at Hills, where Groneweg's brother-in-law, John Verhey, lived. Later they moved to Rock Rapids, where the deported man went to work in the Rock Rapids bakery, he being a baker by trade. The family's next move was to Doon, and later to Lester, which was their place of abode until last week.

In the spring of 1923 Groneweg was stricken with tuberculosis, and upon application to the Red Cross, received aid and support for his family. In September he was sent to Oakdale, where he responded rapidly to the treatments given, and was permitted to return to his family shortly before Christmas in 1923. In the meantime, the family were cared for by the the family were cared for by the county.

In view of the fact that the family would in all probabilities be a public charge for all time, the department of immigration was notified of the matter at the time Groneweg was taken to Oakdale. As the law provides that any foreigner, who is a public charge may be deported, action was at once taken, which resulted in the family being started for their former home last week. It is said that both Mr. and Mrs. Groneweg have relatives in the old country, who will be able to support them, and give them all care needed, provided the former should have a relapse.

It is understood that several undesirable residents of the county, who have no papers, and who have never made any effort to get them will be taken care of in the same manner.

Dan McCarty Ill.

D. W. McCarty is very ill at his home in Sioux Falls, and fears are entertained for his recovery. His serious illness dates back six months, causing a disorder that has bothered him years. Dan lived in Rock Rapids and Lyon county for over a quarter of a century and is known by a very large number of our citizens who have always admired and respected him for his many qualities. His friends trust that he will recover from his malady.

ASK THAT MULCT TAX BE REMITTED

VanGoor, Convicted Lester Bootlegger, Wants Tax Assessed by Board Taken Off His Property.

Thursday afternoon, February 14, was the date fixed by the county board of supervisors, in session here Monday day of this week, as the day on which they would hear the arguments as to the reasons why they should remit or lessen the mulct tax of \$800, which was levied against the property belonging to one Arthur VanGoor, more familiarly known as the "Holshevic," at Lester. VanGoor's place, a soft drink parlor, so-called, was raided October 23, 1923, and a quantity of hooch was found. Shortly thereafter, the tax was levied against the property.

VanGoor is now serving time at Sibley, upon failure to pay the fine levied against him by the local court. Through his attorneys, Dwinell & Melzer, of Sibley, he claims that he had no knowledge of the presence of the liquor in his place of business. He says that it must have been left there by men who formerly conducted the place, one "Fat" Arends, from whom he bought the business in the spring of 1923, and who conducted it for him until September of that year. He admits knowledge of the fact that Arends was peddling booze, while in his employ, but claims that he assured him that everything would be all right, and that he need have no fear of becoming involved. It is his contention that the real culprit is "Fat" and that he should be the one to get the blame.

The board at this time also made negotiations with G. M. Bechtel & Co., of Davenport, to take over a block of road certificates, valued at \$25,000, in anticipation of income from primary road funds in 1925. The money secured from these certificates will be used in primary road work that will be used in primary road work that will be done this year. They will pay 5 per cent interest on the \$25,000 thus secured.

The value of the various pieces of county property were fixed as follows: county farm, \$24,900; court house and lot owned by the county, located in Smith's addition, \$900; jail lots, \$2,200; stone house, corner of 1st and 2nd, \$20,000; right-of-ways to be used as roads, \$1,500.

Brockway's Buy Store Room.

A business transaction was closed this week, whereby the J. A. Brockway company became the owner of the building now occupied by the Flindt & Miller Co's store, on Main street. Possession will be given on February 1. It is understood, at which time the stock in the clothing store will be moved to Sheldon. The room will then be remodeled for the use of the J. A. Brockway company. Fred W. Miller, who has been in charge of the Flindt & Miller store here for the past year, will remain in Rock Rapids, taking the position with the Brockway company which will be vacated by Harold Turner, on February 1, when he goes to Sioux City to accept a position with the Pelletier company, of that place.

MAKES BIG SHIPMENT OF SHEEP.

Twenty-five Cars in Special Train on Omaha Last Night.

Twenty-five cars of sheep from the Harry Randolph farm made up a special train that was taken out of Rock Rapids last evening by the Omaha. There were close to 2,800 animals in the shipment, and they were as classy a lot of lambs as have gone out from this point in some time. The Omaha company sent Travelling Freight Agent Sullivan and the assistant division superintendent here to assist in the loading and to see that everything was started off right and Mr. Randolph was promised a record run to Chicago, which was expected to be reached in ample time for tomorrow's market. Mr. Randolph was accompanied by R. F. Oakes to help look after the shipment.

Mr. Randolph still has something like 1,500 head of sheep, 200 head of cattle and several hundred head of hogs on the farm for future shipment.

RECORDS SHOW 1923 WAS AN OFF YEAR

Weather Bureau Statistics Show that Everything Went by Contraries.—January Making Up for It.

Variety has always been the spice of life—now it can be applied to the weather, for 1923, according to all authorities and records, acted contrary to all rules and regulations. Records kept here by Government Weather Observer Medberry, and at the office of G. K. Greening, at Sioux City, show that 1923 acted up something terrible.

The cause of this phenomena, which it is said, will last for several years to come, is some sort of disturbance in the arctic regions. Just what this disturbance is, few seem to know, but all are agreed that it makes a difference. Authorities tell us that the polar regions are warmer now, and have been for the past year, than at any other period in the memory of man.

The start was last January, which was the warmest like month, with the exception of January 1919, in a period of 34 years. February had only .08 inches of precipitation, less than the amount in 33 years previous. March showed lower temperature, than any March in 8 years, and was accompanied by a snow storm and a low wind moving degrees temperature during the last week, a record, and the rainfall was much higher than the average. August temperatures were lower than for many years, and the rainfall greater. Rainfall was greater than usual all during the fall, and the temperatures were lower.

December, usually our first real winter month, was a fizzle, and showed wrong by its mild weather, and its lack of snow. For the first time in many years, Rock Rapids had a white-less Christmas.

Fortunately, however, January, staged a brilliant comeback, with a 32 below record, which will do much to convince the public that all's right with the world.

Still Walking and Talking.

Margaret Hanson, a lady of some 60 summers, was in Rock Rapids on last Saturday. She is the mother of a son, Michael, who her son is in one of the government hospitals. Her home is

PIONEER BUSINESS

MAN DIES AT HURON

Olaf Olson, Business Man, Treasurer, State Representative, Died at Huron, S. D., Thursday.

Olaf Olson, one of the best known of the early business men of Rock Rapids, died at his home in Huron, South Dakota, Thursday morning of last week, after an illness of several months. Cancer of the throat, aggravated by heart failure, was the immediate cause of his death. The remains were brought to Rock Rapids Saturday afternoon, and were interred in the family lot in Riverview cemetery besides those of Mrs. Olson, who passed away several years ago. The services were conducted by the Masonic lodge, of which Mr. Olson was a long time member, and an escort from Petros Commandery, Knight Templar, attended the casket on its last journey. In accordance with a request made by Mr. Olson years ago, P. G. Smith, acted as Master of the lodge and conducted the service.

Olaf Olson was born at Sanderford, Norway, October 4, 1855, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Olson. At the age of 12 he shipped as cabin boy on his father's boat. The next 17 years were spent on the water, for the most part, during which time he arose to the rank of captain, sailing his own ship. Three times he circumnavigated the globe, each trip requiring nearly 2 years time. At the outbreak of the war between Peru and Chile, Mr. Olson enlisted in the Peruvian navy, where he served throughout that struggle with distinction.

He came to America and settled at Laverne in 1878. There he married Belle Wold, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Wold, and shortly thereafter they removed to Rock Rapids, where Mr. Olson engaged in the general merchandise business as a member of the firm of Wold & Olson, his partner being his brother-in-law, S. S. Wold. They continued the business for many years until Mr. Olson was elected county treasurer, an office he held for four years. Later he represented Lyon county as a member of the state legislature. Several years ago Mr. Olson retired from active business and devoted his attention to looking after his land interests. A stockholder in the Security National bank at Huron, in which his son, W. H. Olson, and his son-in-law, H. G. Spratt, were active, but he disposed of his interests there a few years ago, although continuing to make Huron his home in the winter. His summers were spent at Spirit Lake, where he had a cottage, and where he devoted his spare time to fishing, being an enthusiast in that line of sport.

Mr. Olson was a man of high character and had many friends all over this section. He was every ready to assist in any movement for the public good. He was an active member of the Congregational church of this city during his residence here.

He is survived by two sons, William H., and George and a daughter, Mrs. Maude Spratt, all of Huron, a brother, George, of Medford, S. D., and a cousin, H. D. Richards, of Huron.

Entertains Officers and Employees.

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Miller were hosts

Outline of Personal History of

Olaf Olson

RESIDENCE

Rock Rapids, Ia

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)..... Olaf Olson
2. Chief occupation or profession..... Farmer (or looking after it)
3. Former occupation or profession..... Mercantile
4. Date and place of beginning each..... Rock Rapids, Ia. 8/1 - 1882
5. Present residence address..... Rock Rapids
6. Present business address.....
7. Date of birth..... October 4th 1855
8. Place of birth..... Sand. H. Sandefjord - Norway
9. If born abroad, where.....
10. Emigrated to America, when..... Has been when 12 years old with my father
11. First migrated to what state and county, whether born abroad or in America..... Rock Co. Minn - 1880
12. Emigrated the second time to what state or county..... Lyon Co. Ia 1882
13. Further emigration, if any.....
14. Education. Give name and location of rural, high, business or technical school, college or university.....
Borger Skole, (High school) of Sandefjord - Norway
School of Astronomy and Navigation
Private school - Exeter - Devonshire - England
15. Date of graduation and degree if any.....

16. Place of death.....
17. Date of death.....
18. Place of burial.....
19. Name of father in full (all names).....
20. Occupation of father.....
21. Full Maiden name of mother (all names).....
22. Residence when married.....
23. Military service, if any (exact dates).....
24. Political offices, (from the smallest to the largest, with dates)
 Elected Mayor of Rock Rapids Ia 1887 - reelected 2nd term
 Elected Treas of Lyon Co. Ia 1898 - reelected 2nd term
25. Director or trustee of financial, religious and educational institutions
 Trustee of the 1st Cong Church Rock Rapids Ia
 at present Clerk of same church
26. Politics..... Democrat
27. Religious denomination if any..... Congregationalist
28. Religious preference if non-affiliated with a denomination.....
29. Member of what societies or associations of learning.....
30. Member of what secret organizations, with honors or offices held, with dates
 H. P. Chapter Royal Arch Masons # 111 - 1907 & 8
 E. C. - Petros Community # 54 - 1909
31. Member of what clubs if any.....
32. Belonged to what firms (give names in full and dates if possible)
 H. Old & Olson
33. Officer or director in any corporation
 Director Farmers Elevator Co 1910
34. Enclose business card if possible.....
35. Enclose photograph and autograph.....

37. Miscellaneous

FAMILY HISTORY

1. To whom married *H. P. Olsen and Stina Koystad Abelstad*
2. Date of marriage *October 5th 1882*
3. Place of marriage *Morray Suverne Minn*
4. Date of his or her birth
5. Place of his or her birth
6. Religious denomination *Lutheran*
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 *Hans P. Olsen*
11. Born where and when *Morray*
12. Occupation of his or her father *Captain in Marines*
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

Olaf Olson

AND

Belle Todd Olson

NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE	MARRIED TO WHOM	WHERE	DATE
Mrs. Vt. - Maudie E. - George H.	Rock Rapids " " " "	11/1-1883 4-0-1886 5/19-1907			Belle Tomlin	born City	1907

CHILDREN OF

AND

SIGNATURE

Olaf Olson

DATE

9/12 1910



You searched for **Olaf Olson** in **Iowa**

1910 United States Federal Census

Name: **Olaf Olson**
[**Olaf Olsen**]

Age in 1910: **54**

Estimated birth year: **abt 1856**

Birthplace: **Norway**

Relation to Head of House: **Head**

Father's Birth Place: **Norway**

Mother's Birth Place: **Norway**

Spouse's name: **Belle Olson**

Home in 1910: **Riverside, Lyon, Iowa**

Marital Status: **Married**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Olaf Olson	54
	Belle Olson	48
	Maud A Olson	23
	George W Olson	2

Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: *Riverside, Lyon, Iowa*; Roll: T624_406; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 56; Image: 886.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, L178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29, National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#).

Description:

This database is an index to the head of households enumerated in the 1910 United States Federal Census, the Thirteenth Census of the United States. In addition, each indexed name is linked to actual images of the 1910 Federal Census. The information recorded in the census includes: name, relationship to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, color or race, whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, and more. [Learn more...](#)

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