

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Bonwell, John C. Senator _____

Represented Audubon County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 6 Nov 1842 near Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Mary Ellen Miller 27 Dec 1866 Highland County, Ohio

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Bookkeeper in the First National Bank

B. Civic responsibilities Mason;

C. Profession Farmers; bookkeeper; teacher; merchant, fed and raised livestock

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 32nd, 33rd General Assemblies 1907, 1909

6. Public Offices

A. Local Member of Viola Center, Iowa school board; Audubon County supervisor

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 3 Oct 1943 Viola, Iowa; buried Viola Cemetery, Viola, Iowa

8. Children John (predeceased his father in death); Lilly Blanche (predeceased her father in death); Pauline Viola (Mrs. H. E. Jewell); Lestrade C. (Mrs. Fred Herschel); Leonard (Mrs. Carl Jewell)

9. Names of parents Nathanial and Charity (Lowman) Bonwell

10. Education He was educated at a district school; this was
supplemented by a course at Professor Halbrook's
Normal College at Lebanon, Ohio

11. Degrees Attended Northern Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio;
attended Darvport Business College

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Military service - Civil War - Co. F, 60th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
and later re-enlisted in Co. A, 175th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
- He was the last living Civil War veteran in Audubon County, Iowa
- In 1869 he and his wife came to Jasper County, Iowa settling in
Monroe Township where he taught school for 2 years
- They moved to Epira, Iowa in 1875 and in 1876 they moved to a
farm in Viola Township, Audubon County, Iowa.
- He quit active farming in 1889.
- His wife, Mary Ellen, died Sept 1918.
- Prior to 1869 he farmed with his mother in Ohio
- In 1869 he farmed in Marion County, Iowa; then taught school in 1870 in
Jasper County, Iowa
- In 1872-1886 he was a merchant in Epira, Iowa and in 1876 a
merchant in Viola Center, Iowa

ites Sunday For Bernhard O. Brown



SGT. BERNHARD BROWN

(Special Republican Staff Correspondent)
Funeral services for Sgt. Bernhard O. Brown, who was killed in a plane crash September 24, were held Sunday at 2:00 p. m. at the home of his parents, and at 2:30 p. m. at the Kimballton church. The Rev. Rodholm of Des Moines officiated briefly. Representatives of the Elk Horn and Kimballton Legion posts, with members of the medical forces formed a military guard.

Buy U. S. War Bonds and Stamps

Exira Resident Dies Of Stroke

Suffered Paralytic Stroke Several Days Ago; Grew Steadily Worse

Marius Simonsen died at his home in Exira Tuesday morning, October 6. Death was caused by a paralytic stroke suffered a few days before.

He was born in Denmark May 1, 1874 to Simon and Emilie Simonsen. He came to the United States in 1892, locating in Linn county, Iowa. In 1907 he was married to Hannah Jensen, and they farmed in Audubon county until 1914 when they moved to Exira.

He is survived by his wife and one child, Mrs. Helen Sutherland, Atlantic City, N. J.

John C. Bonwell Viola Resident Dies; Near 101

Was The Last Civil War Veteran In Audubon County

John C. Bonwell, Audubon county centenarian, and veteran of the Civil War, died at his home in Viola Sunday morning. He lacked one month and three days of being 101 years old.

He was born November 6, 1842, in Highland county, Ohio, to Nathaniel and Charity Lowman Bonwell. He was educated there and attended the Northern Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio.

Mr. Bonwell's paternal great-grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and he a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted in 1862 in Company F, 60th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After three months he was taken prisoner at Harpers Ferry. He was later exchanged and returned home, where he remained until 1864 when he re-enlisted in Company A, 175th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He fought in the battles of Spring Hill, Franklin and of Nashville, and was mustered out of service at Nashville in 1865. He was the last veteran of the Civil War in this county.

On December 27, 1866 he was married to Miss Mary Miller, and they came to Jasper county, Iowa in 1869, settling in Monroe township. Mr. Bonwell taught school there two years, then became bookkeeper in the First National Bank. They moved to Exira in 1875, and one year later to a farm in Viola township. He quit active farming in 1889.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. H. E. Jewell of Coon Rapids, Mrs. Fred Herschel and Mrs. Leora Jewell of Viola Center. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Dr. Harrison Jewell of Perry; Dr. John Jewell of Coon Rapids, Holly Jewell of Viola and Mrs. Samuel P. Gardner of Greeley township, and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. at the Presbyterian church with the Rev. Hugo Orr officiating. Burial was in the Viola Center cemetery.

Joint Memorial

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