

30 7/10 1889

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Biphey Ransom Jones Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Delaware County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 29 Mar 1854 near Edgewood, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Flora Blanchard 22 May 1879 Edgewood, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities Commercial Club, Modern Woodmen of America;  
Knights of Pythias, Old Eastern Star, Mason, Shriner

C. Profession Farmer, teacher, merchant

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assemblies 1904 1906 1908

6. Public Offices

A. Local Notary public; Justice of the Peace; Edgewood Board of education;  
Township clerk

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 18 Nov 1940 Edgewood, Iowa; buried Edgewood Cemetery, Edgewood, Iowa

8. Children Ralph L.; Sylvan W.; Ruby L. (Mrs. J. L. Smith);  
Angelina J. (Mrs. J. J. Bellamy)

9. Names of parents Rev. Powell Willard and Ruby (Knapp) Biphey

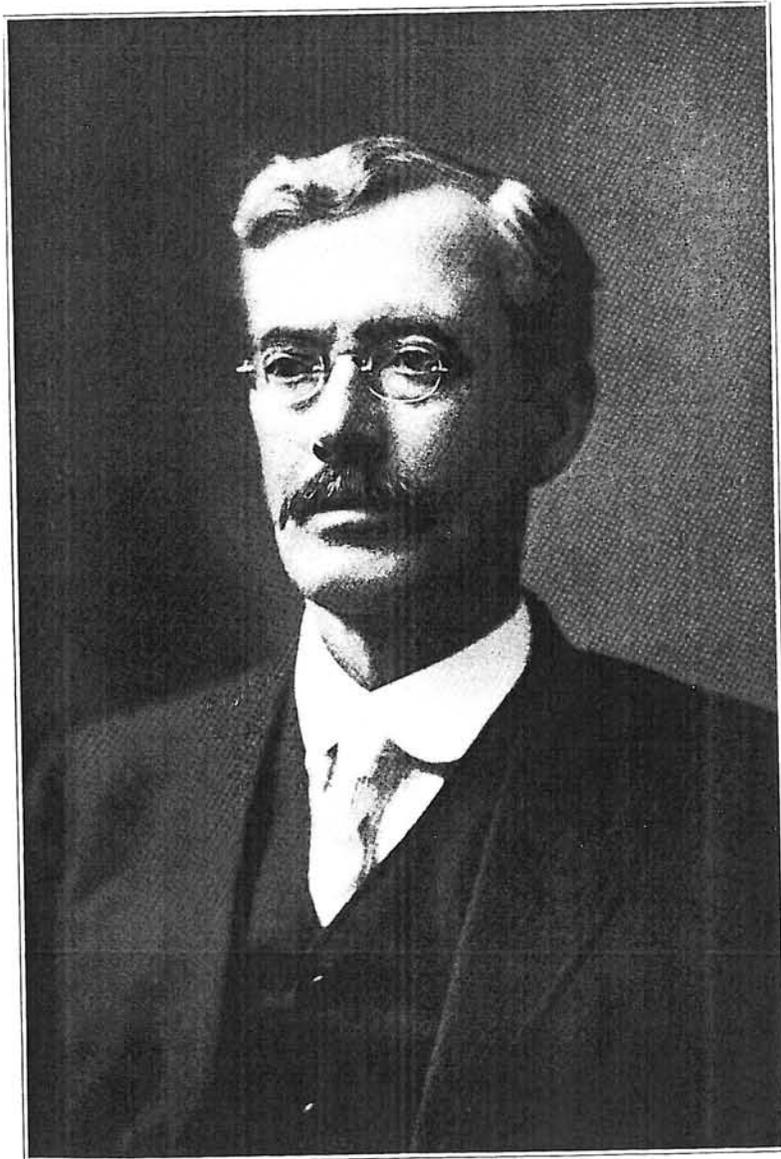
10. Education He was educated in rural schools in Lodenilla  
Township of Clayton County

11. Degrees He attended Ketter College, Ketter, Iowa in 1877

12. Other applicable information Republican

- After his own schooling he taught school, went to college and  
then taught in Delaware, Clayton and Cedar counties and was  
principal in the Edgewood school
- In 1879 he entered a partnership with his father-in-law Dr. Lewis  
Blanchard in the mercantile business in Edgewood for 5 years
- He then purchased the store and operated until 1898 when he decided to farm.
- In 1909 he opened an insurance and real estate office until he became ill.
- His wife, Flora, died Oct 1 Oct 1930.
- He was the founder of Bixby Park that was dedicated August 1896. It  
has been a state park since 1928





RANSOM J. BIXBY

Chicago the past few days on business.

—Mrs. Myrtle Aitchison visited her daughter, Merna, at Dubuque on Sunday.

—Dr. and Mrs. Schluster of Cedar Rapids visited relatives here on Sunday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Allison Durey of Decorah spent Sunday with relatives here.

—Mrs. Carl Haltmeyer visited Miss Ann Malcolm at Cedar Rapids last Thursday.

—Mr. and Mrs. James Houlihan are visiting friends in Council Bluffs and Norfolk, Nebr., this week.

—Mr. and Mrs. Al Bennett and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker visited friends in Washington, Ia., Monday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Martin attended the funeral of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Wm. Martin, at Stanwood, last Friday.

—Mrs. John McIntosh Jr., who has been confined at Finley hospital in Dubuque the past week, returned home Sunday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Evans and Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Howard were visitors in the H. A. Reed home at Shell Rock Sunday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Johnson spent Sunday with their sons, Neal and Norman, students in the University at Iowa City.

—Rev. Wm. A. Frazier enjoyed a visit from his son, Paul Frazier, and Mrs. Frazier of Fond du Lac, Wis., last Thursday evening and Friday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schrunck of Greeley are the parents of a nine-pound son, born in the Willard hospital here on Sunday, Nov. 10, 1940.

—The Jones Mill grange will sponsor a benefit card party at the home of Irl Lane Friday evening, Nov. 22. The public is cordially invited.

#### Stunt Night at Gymnasium.

The Band Boosters club will present a stunt night program at the high school gymnasium on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 21, at 8:00 o'clock, under the sponsorship of the federated clubs of the city. Prizes of \$5, \$3 and \$2 will be awarded and judged by the volume of applause. A live turkey will be given away during the evening. All contestants will be eligible for the prizes, and at the close of the program a special exhibition surprise for all will be a feature. A nominal admission fee will be charged, and all are urged to come and help a worthy cause.

#### Boy Seriously Injured.

Merwin, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Boll of near Dundee, is in the Jones hospital here suffering from serious spinal injuries suffered in an accident at the farm Saturday. The boy fell from a truck and was run over by a manure spreader. It was feared at first that his backbone was fractured. His recovery, if that is the case, would be a relief to his family, who are glad to learn.

#### Women Meet.

The Rock Prairie Homemakers club met at the home of Mrs. Bernice Schwartz Thursday. Seventeen

## RANSOM J. BIXBY DIES AT EDGEWOOD

### Served County in State Legislature for Three Terms.

## BURIAL WEDNESDAY

### Is Survived by Three Children. Many Will Mourn His Passing.

Our Edgewood correspondent has given us the following account of one of Delaware county's most widely known and beloved citizens, Ransom J. Bixby, of Edgewood, who died at his home Monday, Nov. 18th:

Ransom J. Bixby, 86, died at his home here Monday morning after an illness of a year. Funeral services will be held from the Congregational church Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock and burial will be in the Edgewood cemetery. Ransom James Bixby was born March 29, 1854, on the old Bixby homestead three miles northwest of Edgewood. His parents were the Rev. Newell W. Bixby and Ruby Knapp-Bixby, who were pioneer Baptist ministers in this section. At the completion of his local schooling Mr. Bixby taught school to earn a higher education, which he received at the Wilton college, Wilton, Iowa. He then taught in Delaware, Clayton and Cedar counties and was principal of the Edgewood school when he was married to Miss Flora Blanchard on May 22, 1879. That year he entered into partnership with his father-in-law, Dr. Lewis Blanchard, in the mercantile business in Edgewood. This partnership continued for five years and then Mr. Bixby purchased the village drug store and continued to operate this until 1898 when he retired from commercial life to concentrate on his farming interests. In 1909 he opened an insurance and real estate office and he was still selling insurance until his illness became too acute a few weeks ago. He was still an acting notary public and justice of the peace, having been re-elected to the latter office on Nov. 5th. Mr. Bixby served through three sessions of the state legislature, the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second general assemblies as a republican representative from Delaware county. He was instrumental in the preservation of forests and it is still one of the laws of the state. He also introduced bills for the advancement of agricultural interests, was in charge of the bill for the establishing the women's reformatory and many other good bills and

## Delaware County Draft Quota 'is 2

### Local Selective Service Board Received Notice of First Quota Last Saturday.

The Delaware County Selective Draft board received notice from Washington, D. S., last Saturday, directing the board to select two selectees for call No. 1 and that the two report at Ft. Des Moines on Thursday, Nov. 28, for induction in the U. S. army.

Last week the county draft board sent out 100 questionnaires to registrants in the order in which their numbers were drawn in the lottery at Washington, D. C., recently. A number of questionnaires were returned to the local board's office the latter part of last week, and all of the first 100 questionnaires will be in the office by the required time.

## Fellowship Dinner is Well Attended

### Reports of the Committee Show Church as Active in Various Branches.

The first Fellowship dinner of the Community church, was held in the church parlors on Thursday evening of last week, with a goodly number of the members and friends present. Pot luck dinner was served at 6:30, in charge of the Kensington ladies. Members of the Tri-C waited on tables.

Following the meal an interesting program was given. The young ladies' trio, composed of Mesdames Holbert, Tutton and Swindle, gave several selections, which were greatly appreciated. Reports in Tri-C work were given by Miss Margaret Willard, president of the Northeastern Iowa Fellowship association, and Joe Sloan of the local group. The talks by the young people were much enjoyed and gave the members of the church an idea of the activities of the Tri-C.

Mrs. Walter Cooley, Mrs. L. C. Platt and Mr. Platt gave interesting short talks on the work of the Sunday school. Mrs. O. G. Odegaard, secretary of the Missionary society, gave a brief review of the work being carried on by the society. The chairmen of the several groups of the Kensington society gave brief reports of the activities of six groups. Mrs. R. B. Arnold, treasurer of the Kensington, gave a brief report of the finances of the society. Thos. H. Tracy, chairman of the finance committee, and Fred W. Sherman, reported on the finances of the church.

## Red Cross Roll Call is Now On

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**Women Meet.**

The Rock Prairie Homemakers' club met at the home of Mrs. Bernice Schwartz Thursday. Seventeen were present. A dinner was served at noon. Miss Marie Pound gave the lesson about taking care of a sick room and received temperature reading. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Theima Ryan, Dec. 12th.

**Mrs. Fannie E. Tucker.**

Mrs. Fannie E. Tucker, long time resident of Manchester, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Olive T. Grace, in Chicago, on Monday evening, Nov. 18th, 1940. The remains are being brought to Manchester for funeral services and burial in the family lot here. Friends may call the Brown funeral home for the day and hour of the funeral.

**20 Rounds of Boxing.**

Thursday evening, Nov. 21, there will be 20 rounds of boxing at the K. C. hall on West Main street between boys from the Manchester Athletic association and boys from the Oelwein boxing team. Come out and see the boys in action! Try-outs for the Golden Gloves will surely entertain you royally.

**Banks Close Nov. 21 and 28.**

The banks of the county will be closed Thursday, Nov. 21, on the Thanksgiving holiday decreed by President Roosevelt, and also on Thursday, Nov. 28, the day decreed as Thanksgiving by Gov. George A. Wilson. The public is asked to be governed accordingly.

**Social and Club Events of Week**

**November 20.**

St. Judes Study club. Hostess, Mrs. Harry Kelsey. Program, Mrs. Kelsey.

**November 21.**

N. I. E. club. Hostess, Mrs. Will Dudley.  
Beta Delphian. Hostess, Mrs. C. A. Brown. Program, Mrs. Olaf Odgaard.

**November 22.**

Friday Afternoon Club. Hostess, Mrs. F. W. Herimann.  
Thursday Afternoon club. 6:30 Committee, Mr. and Mrs.

years ago. The village drug store and continued to operate this until 1898 when he retired from commercial life to concentrate on his farming interests. In 1909 he opened an insurance and real estate office and he was still selling insurance until his illness became too acute a few weeks ago. He was still an acting notary public and justice of the peace, having been re-elected to the latter office on Nov. 5th. Mr. Bixby served through three sessions of the state legislature, the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second general assemblies as a republican representative from Delaware county. He introduced the law for the preservation of forests and it is still one of the laws of the state. He also introduced bills for the advancement of agricultural interests, was in charge of the bill for the establishing the women's reformatory and many pure food bills and temperance measures. He was one of the oldest members of the Pioneer Lawmakers association and had attended most of its meetings in Des Moines. Mr. Bixby had served the Delaware County Republican organization as chairman at various times for many years, but had to give up the work for the 1940 campaign because of illness. When the ice cave was discovered on an 84-acre tract of land which he owned he developed the tract into a park for the public and when it became a state park the commission named it Bixby park in his honor. He had served on the Board of Education in Edgewood many terms. When the Baptist church ceased to hold its meetings here he joined the Congregational church and had been deacon, trustee, superintendent of the Sunday school, and for several decades had been teacher of the Brotherhood class. Until the last five years he had sung in the church choir. Nine years ago Mrs. Bixby died. They were the parents of four children, all of whom survive. They are Ralph L. Bixby of Orcas, Wash., Mrs. Angie Bellamy of Edgewood, Mrs. Ruby Smith also of Edgewood, and Sylvan N. Bixby of Hopkinton. Mr. Bixby was one of four children and is survived by his youngest sister, Mrs. Lucina Buckley, of this place. There are also nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Besides these there are many friends whom he had befriended and who called him "Father B" and "Uncle Ransom."

**County Agent Talks to Local Rotarians**

Boys' and Girls' Club Work is Emphasized by Agent Edward L. Molln.

Ed. Molln, county agent, addressed the Rotarians at their noon day luncheon Monday, and told of the work of the REA, stating that about 300 Delaware county farm homes now have electric service and many are being put in. The speaker, who has done an

years ago. The village drug store and continued to operate this until 1898 when he retired from commercial life to concentrate on his farming interests. In 1909 he opened an insurance and real estate office and he was still selling insurance until his illness became too acute a few weeks ago. He was still an acting notary public and justice of the peace, having been re-elected to the latter office on Nov. 5th. Mr. Bixby served through three sessions of the state legislature, the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second general assemblies as a republican representative from Delaware county. He introduced the law for the preservation of forests and it is still one of the laws of the state. He also introduced bills for the advancement of agricultural interests, was in charge of the bill for the establishing the women's reformatory and many pure food bills and temperance measures. He was one of the oldest members of the Pioneer Lawmakers association and had attended most of its meetings in Des Moines. Mr. Bixby had served the Delaware County Republican organization as chairman at various times for many years, but had to give up the work for the 1940 campaign because of illness. When the ice cave was discovered on an 84-acre tract of land which he owned he developed the tract into a park for the public and when it became a state park the commission named it Bixby park in his honor. He had served on the Board of Education in Edgewood many terms. When the Baptist church ceased to hold its meetings here he joined the Congregational church and had been deacon, trustee, superintendent of the Sunday school, and for several decades had been teacher of the Brotherhood class. Until the last five years he had sung in the church choir. Nine years ago Mrs. Bixby died. They were the parents of four children, all of whom survive. They are Ralph L. Bixby of Orcas, Wash., Mrs. Angie Bellamy of Edgewood, Mrs. Ruby Smith also of Edgewood, and Sylvan N. Bixby of Hopkinton. Mr. Bixby was one of four children and is survived by his youngest sister, Mrs. Lucina Buckley, of this place. There are also nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Besides these there are many friends whom he had befriended and who called him "Father B" and "Uncle Ransom."

**Red Cross Roll Call is Now On**

National Organization Asks that Citizens Enroll in Larger Numbers Than Ever.

The annual roll call of the American Red Cross got under way Monday, Nov. 11, Armistice day, and is in full swing. As has been stated, half of every dollar membership remains in this county for service, while the other half goes to national headquarters for work in this nation and for distressed peoples of the war stricken countries. The need for an increased membership is apparent to everyone, and was emphasized in a message received by the county roll call chairman, Miss Martha Rowe, last week from mid west headquarters of the Red Cross at St. Louis, Mo., which reads as follows:

"The Central committee reviewed the greatly increased work and responsibility of the Red Cross incident to the national defense program. Civilian and military programs nationally and in chapters necessitate a large membership increase. I am confident you and your associates will patriotically make an extra effort to reach every man and woman in your jurisdiction with an invitation to join. The time is short and the next two weeks are vital in determining the strength of the Red Cross for the critical months ahead. Norman H. Davis, chairman."

**Swiss Breeders to Meet December 2**

Iowa Brown Swiss breeders will hold their annual business meeting at the Chamber of Commerce building in Cedar Rapids Dec. 2nd. The main events on the program will be presentation of life-time certificates, a discussion by Fred S. Idtse, Beloit, Wis., field representative for the National Brown Swiss Breeders' association, and a talk by Floyd Arnold, Iowa State college extension dairyman, on records back of Brown Swiss bulls in Iowa dairy herd improvement associations.

The Honey Creek grange met at the J. P. Cole home Nov. 14 and elected the officers named below.

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THE  
IOWA JOURNAL  
OF  
HISTORY AND POLITICS

JOHN ELY BRIGGS

EDITOR

RUTH A. GALLAHER

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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IOWA CITY IOWA

1941

## NOTES AND COMMENT

Officers of the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society re-elected on September 21, 1940, were: president, Fred Albin; vice president, W. B. Anderson; secretary-treasurer, F. L. Pearson. Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, was named a member of the board of trustees.

Early days in Mahaska County were recalled by Rev. C. D. Mattix at the annual Mahaska County Old Settlers' Association reunion at Oskaloosa on October 13, 1940. C. A. Briney was re-elected president, Mrs. M. S. Downey, vice president, and Mrs. W. A. Hoyt, secretary-treasurer of the association. Steps were taken toward the organization of a Mahaska County historical association to take charge of historical records and relics.

Mrs. Virginia Knight Logan, former opera singer and composer of song lyrics, mother of the late Frederick Knight Logan, died at her home in Oskaloosa on November 27, 1940, at the age of 91. After a career as prima donna of the American Opera Company and as teacher of music in her own studio in New York, Mrs. Logan took up her home in Oskaloosa with her son with whom she collaborated in composition. Their compositions became widely known and were a distinct contribution to American music. Mrs. Logan was also actively engaged in civic and social service work in her identification with the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs.

Ransom J. Bixby, legislator and civic pioneer, died at his home in Edgewood, November 18, 1940. Mr. Bixby served as Republican Representative from Delaware County in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second General Assemblies. He introduced the Bixby bill on the preservation of forests and bills for the advancement of agricultural interests, and promoted the movement for the establishment of the Women's Reformatory and many pure food bills and temperance measures. Mr. Bixby was engaged in insurance and real estate business since 1909. Bixby State Park, named

in his honor, was developed originally by Mr. Bixby as a public park from his private land.

The Iowa Authors' Club held its annual dinner on September 28, 1940, at Des Moines. The following new officers were presented by the Club's retiring president, Dr. Frank Luther Mott of the State University: Bess Streeter Aldrich of Elmwood, Nebraska, honorary president; J. Hyatt Downing, honorary vice president; Dr. William J. Petersen, president; Harvey Ingham, vice president; Marguerite Gode, second vice president; Mrs. Maude Hicks Hickman, secretary; and Gernie Hunter, treasurer. Eight Iowa authors have won Pulitzer prizes, six former members have served the United States abroad, five have been chosen poet laureates by Governors of other States, and over one hundred Iowa authors have been recorded in "Who's Who in America".

Judge John Hancock Henderson, pioneer Iowa lawyer of Indianola, died at the age of ninety-two, in Orange, California. Judge Henderson served sixteen years as a district court judge, and served a year as circuit judge to fill a vacancy. He was named president of the Iowa State Bar Association in 1897, and was a member of the State Board of Law Examiners from 1902 to 1906. Judge Henderson was first appointed commerce counsel of the Iowa railroad commission in 1911, and served in that office for twenty-four years. Mr. Henderson was active in a number of Indianola organizations. He served as a member of the board of trustees of Simpson College for some fifty years. Judge Henderson's father was Col. P. P. Henderson, who came to Warren County from Indiana in 1847 and was the first judge and first sheriff in the county.

The Iowa State Teachers Association held its annual convention at Des Moines on November 7-9, 1940. "Our Association and Its Future" was the title of the address by A. E. Harrison of Storm Lake, retiring president. Among the speakers were Dr. William G. Carr, Secretary of the Educational Policies Commission, Washington, D. C., Dr. Edwin A. Lee, Professor of Vocational Education, Teachers College, New York City, Dr. A. L. Sachar, National Di-

A Narrative History  
of  
The People of Iowa

with  
SPECIAL TREATMENT OF THEIR CHIEF ENTERPRISES IN  
EDUCATION, RELIGION, VALOR, INDUSTRY,  
BUSINESS, ETC.

by  
EDGAR RUBEY HARLAN, LL. B., A. M.  
*Curator of the  
Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa*

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IOWA BIOGRAPHY  
(Gratuitously Published)

*Selected and Prepared by Special Staff of Writers  
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Volume V

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ILLUSTRATED

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CHICAGO AND NEW YORK  
1931

and material progress and prosperity of his home city and county, and here his circle of friends is virtually coincident with that of his acquaintances. Mr. Doxsee is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and he attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal Church in his home city, his wife having been an active member thereof until her death. Mr. Doxsee has found his chief recreation in travel. He has visited every state of the Union, and has thrice made the tour of Europe and twice the Mediterranean, in company with his wife. Their travels were extended to both Asia and Africa.

February 3, 1887, recorder the marriage of Mr. Doxsee to Miss Jessie Sloan Fawcett, daughter of Dr. Charles L. and Eliza (Sloan) Fawcett, of Salem, Ohio. Charles Alfred, elder of the two children who survived the loved and devoted mother, was graduated in Cornell College and also in the law department of Drake University, he being now, as previously stated, associated with his father in the practice of law and in the publication of the *Monticello Express*. Mary E., younger of the children, remains at the parental home, she likewise having been graduated in Cornell College. The devoted companionship of Mr. and Mrs. Doxsee covered a period of forty-one years, and the gracious marital bonds were severed only when Mrs. Doxsee passed to the life beyond, March 22, 1928, her memory being revered in the city that represented her home during the entire course of her married life.

LOUIS G. ELFERS. Remembering how the great force, electricity, now enters and practically rules in every branch of human activity, it is not remarkable that able, competent, specially-trained men should find in this great line a profitable commercial field. A successful young business man of Muscatine, dealing in electrical goods, and a general contractor on wiring, is Louis G. Elfers, an experienced electrician and a veteran of the World war.

Louis G. Elfers was born at Muscatine, Iowa, December 1, 1894, and was reared and educated in his native community. His parents were substantial and highly respected people, C. J. H. and Anna Elfers, the latter of whom died in 1907. C. J. H. Elfers was a highly esteemed resident of Muscatine, where he received a public school education and began an independent career at an early age. His inclinations drew him to the grocery business, first as a clerk, and through integrity and thrift he managed to accumulate sufficient capital to embark in business on his own account in a moderate way. The same qualities, combined with excellent business judgment, careful investment and accurate recognition and acceptance of every-day opportunities, made him one of the substantial merchants of his city, and he is now living in comfortable retirement. He has always been a public-spirited man and has allied himself with other capable and energetic citizens in the furtherance of movements for the betterment of Muscatine and its people.

Louis G. Elfers attended the grade school at Muscatine, and after his graduation therefrom spent one year in the Muscatine High School. In 1911 he began his career as an electrician in the employ of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, starting at the bottom of the ladder and gradually mastering the business through personal contact and ready assimilation of the principles of the vocation. Later he was employed by the Muscatine Lighting Company, with which he was holding an important position when the United States became involved in the World war, and in 1917 enlisted in the Signal Corps. His knowledge of his trade made him of particular value in electrical work as identified with military operation and the establishment of camps, and during his service he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth and Camp Meade, Maryland, receiving his honorable discharge after the signing of the armistice. He returned immediately thereafter to his position at the Muscatine Lighting Company, and remained with that company until 1922, when he embarked in business on his own account, as sole proprietor of the South Side Electrical Shop, at 605 Grand View Avenue, where he carries a fine line of electrical goods of all kinds and also does general contracting in wiring and fixtures. He has made a great success of his business, and well merits the esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

On November 18, 1926, Mr. Elfers was united in marriage with Miss Rose M. Weyman, daughter of prominent people of Muscatine, the father having died in 1920, while the mother is still living. The pleasant family home is located at 117 Canon Avenue, and is a center of sociability and hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Elfers are members of the Lutheran Church, to the work of which they are generous contributors. Mr. Elfers is energetic in business and civic organizations, belonging to the Muscatine Advertising Club and the Kiwanis Club, and as a fraternalist holds memberships in the Masons, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Improved Order of Red Men. He is likewise a member of the American Legion. Mr. Elfers is a Democrat in his political allegiance, but has never sought public office and takes only a good citizen's interest in public matters.

RANSOM J. BIXBY, of Edgewood, has been a conspicuous figure in the citizenship of Delaware County for half a century. For many years he owned the land that recently was acquired by the state as a state park, and it was appropriately named in his honor, Bixby Park.

Mr. Bixby was born in Clayton County, Iowa, March 29, 1854. His father, Rev. Newell W. Bixby, was born, January 18, 1809, at Williams-town, Vermont, was reared and educated in that state, and devoted a long and effective life to agriculture and the ministry of the Baptist Church. In 1846 he left for Iowa, arriving the following year, having made a slow and difficult journey by boat and by horse. He lived until

1903, passing away at the age of ninety-four years. His wife was Ruby Knapp, a native of Starksboro, Vermont. She passed away in 1877, and of the four children two are now living: Ransom J.; and Mrs. Lucina Buckley of Edgewood, Iowa.

Ransom J. Bixby spent his early years on his father's farm in Clayton County. When not attending the district schools his time and energies were well employed in the routine of the farm. About the time he was seventeen years of age he qualified as a teacher and taught in rural districts for eight years, the last two of which he served as principal of the Edgewood schools. His education was completed by four years in Wilton College, and he was valedictorian of his class in 1876. Mr. Bixby in 1879 began his career as a business man at Edgewood, becoming a member of the mercantile firm Blanchard & Bixby. In 1884 he bought out his partner and continued alone until 1898. In the meantime he studied pharmacy and was registered by the state board. For the past thirty years he has carried on a general real estate and insurance business and for over thirty-five years was a director of the Edgewood State Bank, and for many years president of the institution.

The community has always trusted in his leadership and his helpfulness and has called him to many positions of trust. He was on the city council, was once elected mayor, but declined the office, has been a member of the school board, township clerk, and in 1904 was sent to represent his home county in the State Legislature, and by reelection served six years, taking part in all the important problems before the legislature during that time and faithfully looking after the interests of his home county. Recently he has been active on the state highway committee and has been influential in putting through important extensions of highway. Mr. Bixby is a Knight Templar Mason and Shriner, member of the Knights of Pythias, is chairman of the Republican County Central Committee, and is a deacon in the Congregational Church. He married, May 22, 1879, Miss Flora R. Blanchard, daughter of Dr. Lewis Blanchard, an old and honored physician of Iowa, who was born at Centerville, New York, and died October 1, 1930, in a hospital at Cedar Rapids and is buried at Edgewood. Mr. and Mrs. Bixby have four children: Ralph Lewis, of San Diego, California, married Lucile Rousseau, of South Dakota, and they have an adopted daughter, Patricia Louise. Angie married W. F. Bellamy, owner of the Pioneer Service Station at Edgewood, and they had four children: Newell W.; Florann, who died at eight years of age; Ralph L.; and Willamae. Sylvan N., of Strawberry Point is a veteran of the World war and is a member of the American Legion. He married Susan Ellis, of Fairbank, Iowa, and they have three children: Dorothea R., James Ellis and Sylvan N., Jr. Ruby L. married F. I. Smith, of Edgewood, a R. F. D. carrier, and they have two children: Robert and Roger. Mr. Bixby

was active during the organization of the A. E. F. for World war activities, arranging for men and means needful for success. His service was required for addresses in various localities. He is a life member of the American Red Cross Society, and served as chairman of the local chapter during the war period.

HON. BENNETT E. RHINEHART, United States district attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, is a resident of Anamosa, where for over thirty years he carried on a general law practice, achieving distinction as an able lawyer, also faithful and efficient in all his relationships with the public.

Mr. Rhinehart is a native of Pennsylvania, born at Waynesburg, Greene County, November 27, 1868, and was less than a year old when his parents, Bennett and Katharine (Leonard) Rhinehart, moved to Bedford, Iowa, and settled on a farm. His father was born in Greene County, February 7, 1833, spent all his life as a farmer and left the farm about ten years before his death. He was visiting some of his children in Oklahoma when he died, in 1908. His widow was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1842, and also spent her last years in Oklahoma. They had a family of ten children. Bennett Rhinehart, Sr., was a Union soldier, enlisting in Company K of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. He was at the battle of Stone River, and for about a year was ill in a military hospital and was then honorably discharged. He was a Republican, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he and his wife belonged to the Christian Church.

Bennett E. Rhinehart after graduating from the Bedford High School, in 1891, had to seek his own opportunities to go on and achieve his ambition to become a lawyer. He worked as a farm boy, had about a year of private instruction in the law, and later entered the law department of Drake University at Des Moines, where he was graduated in 1896. He was admitted after examination before the Supreme Court and on January 1, 1897, began practice at Anamosa. In 1900 he became associated with Charles J. Cash in the firm of Cash & Rhinehart, and in 1908 M. W. Herrick joined them in the firm of Herrick, Cash & Rhinehart. He is now senior member of the law firm Rhinehart & McLaughlin. For many years his time was completely devoted to the duties of a large general practice and various business interests. He is vice president of the Citizens Savings Bank of Anamosa and a director of the Farmers Savings Bank of Martelle.

Mr. Rhinehart was a justice of the peace at Anamosa from the time he started practice until January, 1901, and in 1904 was elected city attorney. From January 1, 1917, to 1925 he served as prosecuting attorney of Jones County. His appointment to the office of United States district attorney for the Northern District of Iowa was made March 15, 1927. This is one of the

highest honors that can come to any lawyer, and the press of the state as well as the bar commended Mr. Rhinehart's appointment on the score of eminent fitness and broad experience. He is a member of the Jones County, Iowa State and American Bar Associations, and is a Republican in political affiliations.

Mr. Rhinehart married, March 1, 1894, Miss Julia Florence Feehan, daughter of John and Julia (Brown) Feehan. She was born in Jones County, November 27, 1871. Her parents came to Iowa from Ohio about 1852. Mrs. Rhinehart was educated at Anamosa and taught school before her marriage. Mr. Rhinehart is a Royal Arch and Knight Templar Mason at Anamosa, being a past commander of the Knights Templar, and a member of El Kahir Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Cedar Rapids. In 1925 he was grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias Order of Iowa, and has served that fraternity in many capacities, having been a member of the committee on judiciary, which recodified the grand statutes in 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Rhinehart are Baptists.

WILLIAM W. PHELPS, who has securely established his position as a member of the Iowa bar, is a man whose career has been filled with more than ordinary experience and the overcoming of difficulties. As a young man he set the law as the goal of his ambition, but various circumstances interfered with his education until he finally returned to law school as a disabled veteran of the World war.

Mr. Phelps was born at Warren, Illinois, December 8, 1887. The family moved to Iowa when he was a child and he attended public schools at Britt, graduating from high school in 1907. In high school he was a member of the baseball and football teams, was class editor and he also had considerable vocational training through his own initiative. For one year he followed the trade of painter. In September, 1908, he entered the University of Iowa, in the liberal arts course and in 1909 transferred to the law school.

On account of ill health he left his studies in December, 1909, and went out to the Northwest, taking up a homestead near Terry in Dawson County, Montana. While proving up his claim he worked for the C. K. and X. I. T. cattle ranches as a cowboy and after several years was fully restored to vigorous health. In November, 1915, he returned to Britt, Iowa, but in March, 1916, enlisted in the regular army, being sent to Fort Logan, Colorado, and was soon assigned to the Coast Artillery Corps. With this organization he went to Corrigidor, Philippine Islands, and in August, 1918, left Manila with the Twenty-seventh Regiment of Infantry as a part of the American contingent in the Siberian Expeditionary Forces. He was a sergeant of his regiment. He sailed for Vladivostok and six weeks after arriving the American and Japanese troops had established headquarters at Khabarovsk in Siberia. In the spring of 1919, he was

a member of the First Battalion of the Twenty-seventh Regiment, which proceeded over the Siberian Railway to Lake Baikal. In May, 1919, during his service, he was disabled, was sent to Base Hospital No. 17 and on August 4 left for the United States, arriving at the General Hospital in San Francisco in October. He remained there six or seven months, being discharged from the hospital on May 18, 1920, and two days later was given his honorable discharge from the army.

The following year he was employed at his trade as a painter in a ship yard in California and in 1921 returned to Iowa. He was granted vocational training with compensation by the United States Government and in September, 1922, resumed his law course at the University of Iowa. He was graduated in February, 1925. Mr. Phelps is a Phi Delta Phi. He was admitted to the Iowa bar October 16, 1924, and first practiced with the firm of Hollinsworth & Hollinsworth at Keokuk. In October, 1926, he came to McGregor, where his talents and energies have brought him generous recognition as a lawyer and citizen. He was a member of the City Council and of the school board, has been a delegate to several Republican conventions and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, Knights of Pythias and the county and state bar associations. He was post adjutant of McGregor Post, American Legion, and also past commander in 1930 and is now commander of the Fourth District of Iowa. He helped organize and was elected the first state commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War in May, 1922.

Mr. Phelps married, June 24, 1922, Miss Irene L. Ames, of Waterloo, Wisconsin, a graduate of the Waterloo High School and the 4-C Business College at Madison, Wisconsin. She is secretary-treasurer of the McGregor Chapter of American Legion Auxiliary.

BENJAMIN W. SCHUNEMAN is a Waterloo druggist, where he has been in business for over twenty years. He is especially well known and popular on the East Side, his place of business being at East Fourth Street, at the corner of Lafayette.

Mr. Schuneman was born in Chicago, Illinois, son of John H. Schuneman, a native of the same city, and grandson of William Schuneman. William Schuneman was born in Hamburg, Germany, graduated from a technical college there, and after coming to America settled in Chicago, where he was in business for a number of years as a construction engineer, specializing in contracts for canal and drainage projects. Having lost a leg through an accident, he traded for some land north of Chicago, and spent his remaining years engaged in farming.

John H. Schuneman was one of a family of five children and was educated in public schools in Chicago. He was with his father on the farm until 1879, when he came out to Iowa and bought

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Hannah (Barber) Ellis, who spent their entire lives in the east. The educational opportunities of the son were meager, but in the school of experience he learned many valuable lessons and became recognized as a practical business man of sound common sense and keen discrimination. He remained a resident of the east until 1853, when at the age of twenty-six years he made his way westward to Iowa and on the 15th of August of that year entered a quarter section of land in Elk township, Delaware county. He then returned to the east but in 1856 took up his permanent abode in this county, remaining within its borders thereafter to the time of his death.

Mr. Ellis was twice married. On the 10th of October, 1857, he wedded Miss Cordelia Walton, whose birth occurred in Ohio in 1839 and who passed away August 16, 1865, leaving four children, as follows: Isabel, now the wife of T. M. Smith of Sioux City; Cora, who died on the 21st of May, 1890; Mary, the wife of Edward Cook of Manchester; and Rosetta J., whose demise occurred July 25, 1897. On the 1st of October, 1866, Mr. Ellis was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Julia Evans, who bore the maiden name of Julia Charles and by whom he had five children, namely: Kitty, who died December 7, 1912; Peter, of Honey Creek township; Remington, who passed away December 19, 1890; Ella; and Jerusha, who died December 4, 1868. Mrs. Julia Ellis passed away July 25, 1876, and her death was deeply regretted by all who knew her, for she possessed many sterling traits which endeared her to those with whom she came in contact.

Mr. Ellis long survived, passing away March 9, 1905. He was a successful farmer and stock raiser and by his well-directed business affairs became the possessor of two hundred and eighty acres of fine land in Elk township, which he brought to a high state of cultivation and to which he added many modern improvements. He gave his political support to the republican party and was a staunch advocate of its principles, yet never sought nor held office, preferring to confine his attention to his private interests. He was essentially a home man and found his greatest happiness at his own fireside. He was a great reader of current publications and kept in touch with the questions and problems of the age. He deserved much credit for what he accomplished and his many sterling traits of character made him a citizen whose worth would have been acknowledged in any community. He had many friends and the staunchest were those who had known him longest—a fact that indicates the uprightness and integrity of his life.

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#### RANSOM J. BIXBY.

Ransom J. Bixby, living at Edgewood, Delaware county, is a native of Clayton county, Iowa, his birth having occurred on a farm in Lodomillo township, March 29, 1854, his parents being the Rev. N. W. and Ruby (Knapp) Bixby. In their family were two sons and two daughters, the brother of our subject being Sylvanus N. Bixby, a practicing physician of Strawberry Point, who passed away May 10, 1886. The sisters are: Luthera B., the wife of the Rev. C. H. True; and Lucina R., the wife of Parke Buckley. Both parents have

now passed away, the father's death having occurred in 1903, while the mother died long before—1877. They were natives of Vermont and were there reared and married. It was in 1846 that they left the Green Mountain state and the following year they arrived in Clayton county, Iowa, where the father purchased government land. He first became owner of forty acres on section 28, Lodomillo township, and upon that tract he established his home. It was there that all of his children were born, except Sylvanus N., who was born in Vermont. That place is now in possession of his son, Ransom. After a time the father added the forty acres adjoining his original tract on the north, and still later he laid claim to two forties just south on the same section. On the one further to the north he did some work, but the other was untouched. It was an understanding among the early settlers, however, that this land was Mr. Bixby's, as he had claimed it. Before he had done any work on it, however, a German named Valentine Wolf arrived in the county and learned that the papers had never been filed on this land. He then went to Dubuque, where was situated not only the land office but also the postoffice, and he filed on the south forty, after which he returned and took possession. He would not lay any claim to the forty on which Mr. Bixby had done some work. The neighbors became very indignant and offered to assist Mr. Bixby in clubbing the man of the county, but knowing the man had a legal claim to the land, Mr. Bixby refused to take part in any clubbing affair. The German did not recognize the ethical right in the matter at all, although all the other settlers did, but Mr. Bixby would not contest his legal claim, and forty years later he preached the funeral sermon of this same man, Wolf. Both he and his wife were ministers of the Free Baptist church and engaged in preaching the gospel when opportunity offered in addition to performing the duties of the farm and the household. When called to their final rest their remains were interred in the Edgewood cemetery.

Ransom J. Bixby, when but seventeen years of age, began teaching and by this means acquired funds to become a student in Wilton College. He taught in the schools of Clayton, Delaware and Cedar counties for several years, being principal of the schools at Edgewood. He was recognized as a capable educator, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that he had acquired. In 1879 he entered a mercantile business in Edgewood in connection with his father-in-law under the firm name of Blanchard & Bixby, which relation was maintained for five years. At the end of that time they disposed of their stock of general merchandise and Mr. Bixby continued alone in the drug business, which he carefully and wisely directed until 1898, when he retired from commercial pursuits and concentrated his efforts upon the management of his farming interests. Since 1909 he has been well established in the insurance and real-estate business. He is also a notary public and he is enjoying a liberal patronage in conveyancing and in matters of legal procedure. He has a well appointed office and is assisted by his older son, Ralph L. His plans were well formulated and carefully executed and the wise direction of his business interests has resulted in the attainment of a comfortable competence.

On the 22d of May, 1879, Mr. Bixby was united in marriage to Miss Flora R. Blanchard, a daughter of Dr. Lewis and Anjaline (Metcalf) Blanchard. Four children have been born to them: Ralph L., Angeline F., Sylvan N. and

Ruby L. The eldest married Luceil Rousseau, a daughter of Romeault and Esther Rousseau. The family are members of the Free Baptist church of Edgewood.

Mr. Bixby served during three sessions of the legislature, through the thirtieth, the thirty-first and the thirty-second general assemblies, having been elected on the republican ticket. He has also filled a number of local offices and manifests a commendable interest in public affairs. While in the legislature he served on the appropriation and other important committees and was chairman of the committee on schools and text-books. He stood at all times for advancement and improvement and has ever been recognized as a public-spirited citizen, evidence of which is manifest in his attitude toward the public in regard to the use of Bixby Park. This park is a tract of land of eighty-four acres two miles north of Edgewood, intersected by Bear Creek. Upon it is found some most rugged and beautiful scenery. There is also an ice cave, one of the curiosities of nature, where ice is formed throughout the year. Numerous springs of pure, cold water abound there and people gather there for picnics from all over the countryside, while travelers visit the park to see the wonderful scenery. Mr. Bixby endeavors to maintain this as near as possible as nature made it. He has erected a log cabin in which is a stone fireplace and this affords shelter to any who may need it. Upon this place are seen a greater variety of trees than are to be found on an equal area in the state of Iowa. Mr. Bixby owns the property, keeps it in excellent condition and pays the taxes but allows the public use of it free of charge. In all of his life record there is nothing spectacular, but his course has been marked by the faithful performance of duty in every connection and there is no one who takes a deeper interest in the welfare and upbuilding of the community or is more willing to aid in measures for the general good.

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#### HARRY T. SACKETT.

Harry T. Sackett is the owner of the Twin Oaks Farm, which comprises one hundred and eleven acres on sections 25 and 26, Honey Creek township. It is devoted to the general cultivation of grains and to the raising of graded stock. Mr. Sackett was born in Clayton county, Iowa, July 10, 1860, and is one of a family of seven children whose parents were Charles T. and Phoebe (Baldwin) Sackett. The father and mother were both natives of New England but were married in Ohio and in the early '50s settled in Clayton county, Iowa. In 1872 they came to Delaware county, taking up their abode near Oneida, where the father carried on general farming and also engaged in raising graded stock. He was much interested in public affairs and his aid and support could be counted upon to further measures and movements for the general good. He passed away in 1893 and his wife died in 1899, being laid to rest by his side in the Edgewood cemetery. Of their five sons and two daughters, four are yet living. The record is as follows: Moses and Charles, both of whom are deceased; Willis, a resident of Strawberry Point; Lysander, of Arlington; Laura, the

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days clustered about the site. In 1920 the Estherville people proposed the establishment of a State park to include the site of the old fort. An area of fifty-three acres has since been acquired. It is one of great natural beauty, abounding in ravines, ferns, flowers, trees, and an unusually large number of birds, upwards of one hundred and fifty species having been reported.<sup>225</sup>

*Ambrose A. Call State Park.*—New State parks are continually being established and new areas considered. One of these, established in 1926, is the Ambrose A. Call or Algona tract south of Algona on the east fork of the Des Moines River in Kossuth County. This region of one hundred and thirty-four acres is a rugged area containing a variety of trees and flowers. The park is easily accessible. One road runs through the park and highways skirt both the east and west side of it. Interested citizens in the community contributed one-half the money required to purchase this tract. Ambrose A. Call, a pioneer settler of Kossuth County for whom the park is named, was a great lover of nature. Closely associated with Ambrose A. Call was another pioneer, William H. Ingham, who has left an excellent account of early days in this region in his book, *Ten Years on the Iowa Frontier*.<sup>226</sup>

*Bixby State Park.*—Another new State park is the Bixby tract of sixty-nine acres located near the town of Edgewood in Clayton County. Dr. Pammel describes this park as "one of the really scientific wonders of the State of Iowa." It contains the famous ice cave, "wonderfully good springs, and many fine trees and shrubs." The "flora

<sup>225</sup> Rhodes's *The Coming Park at Estherville in Iowa Conservation*, Vol. IV, pp. 95, 96; *Bulletin Iowa State Parks*, Vol. III, No. 4, p. 117.

<sup>226</sup> *Bulletin Iowa State Parks*, Vol. IV, No. 4, pp. 98, 100-104; Ingham's *Ten Years on the Iowa Frontier*.

is of the typical boreal type, and occurs only in a relatively few places in this state." Adjacent to the park is a fine prairie country. This park was established in 1926.<sup>227</sup>

*Guthrie County Tract State Park.*— The Guthrie County Tract, formerly known as the John King Park, is located on the Middle Coon River in Guthrie County, northwest from Guthrie Center, and not far from Bagley, Bayard, Yale, and Panora. Most of the money for this tract of one hundred and thirty acres was contributed by John King, Jr., and other heirs of the King estate — the remainder of the purchase price was appropriated from the funds of the State Board of Conservation. This park, another one of the group established in 1926, also contains many fine trees and shrubs, as well as a "wealth of other herbaceous plant material." Traces of an overland trail used by goldseekers in 1848 form one of the interesting historical features in this park. John King was a pioneer settler in this region.<sup>228</sup>

*Wood Thrush Park Preserve.*— This tract of twenty-six acres is located seven miles southeast of Fairfield in Jefferson County. The land was given to the State Board of Conservation at the May meeting in 1927. As this region is very attractive it should become a popular State park.<sup>229</sup>

The State park movement has made and is making rapid progress in Iowa. Recreational surveys of several parks have been completed in order to improve these areas so that they may be of even greater service to the people of Iowa. The Iowa Highway Commission has coöperated with the State Board of Conservation to make these parks more accessible to the public, and friends of conservation have

<sup>227</sup> *Bulletin Iowa State Parks*, Vol. IV, No. 4, pp. 98, 99, 104.

<sup>228</sup> *Bulletin Iowa State Parks*, Vol. IV, No. 4, pp. 98-100.

<sup>229</sup> Information furnished by W. C. Merckens, Secretary of the State Board of Conservation.