

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Wm. Benjamin Townsend Senator _____
Represented Union County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 15 Sept 1840 / Ohio County, Kentucky

2. Marriage (s) date place

Virginia E. Rhodes 9 Jul 1863 Williamstown, Kentucky

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was assistant cashier at the Afton Citizens Bank

B. Civic responsibilities GAR; Mason; Eastern Star; IOOF

C. Profession Farmer; teacher; assistant bookkeeper

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 32nd General Assembly 1907

6. Public Offices

A. Local Elected county clerk in 1880 serving 4 terms

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 18 Mar 1914 Afton, Iowa; buried Greenlawn Cemetery, Afton, Iowa

8. Children Alberta (died at age 5 years); Elizabeth (Mrs. C. H. Pinkerton)

9. Names of parents James E. and Frances Wix

10. Education Educated in common schools and
completed - his education at La Grange,
Kentucky

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Military service - Civil War - regiment unknown
Later re-enlisted and joined the 53rd Mounted Infantry
both in Kentucky
- He farmed in Kentucky for three years after the war
- In the fall of 1868, he moved to Burlington, Iowa
- In 1870 he moved to Clarke County, Iowa and in 1875 to
Platte Township in Union County, Iowa.
- He moved to Afton, Iowa in 1881 and moved in 1898 to the
where he lived at death.

AFTON STAR-I

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CAPT. B. T. NIX.

In writing an article on the life of the late Capt. Nix, we not only feel our inability to do so, but we are at a disadvantage, not having known him when he was at his best. During the past year, or since the death of his life companion, he has not taken an active part in the affairs of the community such as he did prior to that time.

A little over thirty years ago he came to this community and during that time he has taken an active part

his country in defense of the union enlisting on the 18th day of August, 1862. He went to the front as captain of his company, and served for one year; after which the regiment was discharged. He then re-enlisted and joined the 53rd mounted infantry again being honored by being elected captain of his company. He thus served until the close of the war. He was the eldest of three brothers who defended the stars and stripes. At the close of the war he was honorably

SHALL WE HAVE WATER

The Question to be Decided
Election Next Monday: Whether
Not We Install the System

Before another issue of this the people of the town will have to decide whether or not they want a water system. It is entirely in their hands. If they want the system they can vote the bonds and the city will advertise for bids and the lowest responsible bidder will receive the contract for the installation of the system.

We have already said a great deal regarding the value of a water system to the town, and believe that the people pretty generally know our opinion on the subject. But we wish to give them an opportunity to come out to the mass meeting to be held in the opera house next night where everyone will have an opportunity to express their opinion as regards the installation of a water system. There will be several speakers to address the people, a O. Roe, State Fire Marshal, will be here and explain the benefits of a water system from a standpoint of fire protection. He is an interesting speaker and will give us some valuable information and suggestions.

We believe the water project will carry. In time it will be a source of revenue to our town and will be an asset to the town. Property will be worth more. It is an investment. If the system is installed in Afton it will be a nicer place in which to live. It will be an incentive for others to move here and homes will be built and water will be in the houses. People already here will connect up with the mains and as the system becomes more firmly established practically everyone will put in water, because they have to, but because the cheapest way to get water

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CAPT. B. T. NIX.

In writing an article on the life of the late Capt. Nix, we not only feel our inability to do so, but we are at a disadvantage, not having known him when he was at his best. During the past year, or since the death of his life companion, he has not taken an active part in the affairs of the community such as he did prior to that time.

A little over thirty years ago he came to this community and during that time he has taken an active part in the upbuilding of it. He was prominent in politics, having served four terms as county clerk and one term as representative. He always took an active part in the political campaigns and stood for better and cleaner politics.

His home life was exemplary. Those who were intimately acquainted with him, and who were privileged callers at his home, say that he was at his best in the home. He made you feel welcome and you could feel the spirit of uprightness and christianity in the home. He was a devoted christain, and his every day life was a living example of righteousness. He was a prominent member of the Methodist church and was always willing to share his portion, and more, of the duties of the church. Always ready to give a word of cheer, a helping hand to a brother or sister.

Truly the life of Capt. Nix is a worthy example and one that may be emulated.

The funeral was held Friday from the late home, the services being conducted by Rev. C. A. Carlson, assisted by Rev. J. N. Strain. Interment was made by the side of his wife in Greenlawn cemetery.

Following is an obituary notice regarding the life of Mr. Nix:

Benjamin Townsend Nix, son of Rev. James E. and Frances Nix, was born Sept. 15th, 1840 in Butler Co., Kentucky. His early educational privileges were those afforded by the common schools. He completed his education at La Grange, Kentucky. He was not yet 22 years of age when he offered his services to

his country in defense of the union enlisting on the 18th day of August, 1862. He went to the front as captain of his company, and served for one year; after which the regiment was discharged. He then re-enlisted and joined the 53rd mounted infantry again being honored by being elected captain of his company. He thus served until the close of the war. He was the eldest of three brothers who defended the stars and stripes. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged and returned to his home.

For three years after the close of the war he engaged in farming. In the fall of 1868 he came to Des Moines Co. 1870 he removed to Clark Co. and in 1875 to Union Co., locating in Platte township. He was elected county clerk in 1880 and served four terms. In 1881 he removed to Afton. For some years he was engaged in different financial interests in the town. He moved to his late home in 1898 and in connection with his other interests resumed agricultural pursuits.

He was elected to the state legislature in 1908 serving one term.

Mr. Nix was married in Williams-town, Kentucky July 9th, 1863 to Virginia E. Rhodes, who passed on before Jan. 1st, 1913. Two daughters were born to this union, Alberta who died in infancy, and Elizabeth, now

Mrs. C. W. Pinkerton of Afton, Iowa, who is the only surviving member of the family.

He was prominent in fraternal circles, being a member of the G. A. R., the Masonic Blue Lodge Chapter, the order of the Eastern Star, also the I. O. O. F.

In early manhood he was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1869. To the ideals of the church he gave himself unsparingly, being in full sympathy with her aims both local and abroad. He was always the special friend of his pastor, loyally giving his support to every good cause and undertaking. The expression that is on every ones' tongue is 'that a good man has gone from us.'

fire protection. He is a speaker and will give us useful information and sug-

We believe the water will carry. In time source of revenue to will be an asset to the erty will be worth more an investment. If the in Afton will be a ni which to live. It will ment for others to move homes will be built and in the houses. People a homes will connect mains and as the sys more firmly establishe everyone will put in wa cause they have to, but the cheapest way to ge the handiest way. Mar were opposed to the ligh putting the lights in th can now see the benefit will be the same way w Once they get it install would not have it take twice what it cost.

We ask you to consid from all standpoints. time next summer wh the streets will be s deep, when your lawn will be suffering for w as they were last sum how nice it would be turn the water on th only one of the many Another is the sanitar could keep the streets get the dust packed a condition of eatibles, n stores, but in the hon greatly improved. A the closets around to those near the business

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Consider this matt you cast your ba

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL



OF

Ringgold and Union Counties, Iowa.

CONTAINING PORTRAITS OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM WASHINGTON TO CLEVELAND, WITH ACCOMPANYING BIOGRAPHIES OF EACH; A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE STATE OF IOWA; PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE TERRITORY AND STATE; ENGRAVINGS OF PROMINENT CITIZENS IN RINGGOLD AND UNION COUNTIES, WITH PERSONAL HISTORIES OF MANY OF THE LEADING FAMILIES, AND A CONCISE HISTORY OF RINGGOLD AND UNION COUNTIES AND THEIR CITIES AND VILLAGES.

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY,

113 ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO.

1887.

education in the common schools, and himself and wife are genial, kind-hearted, and by their deeds of benevolence have endeared themselves to all who know them. They are prominent members of the Free-Will Baptist church, and in political views he is an outspoken Republican. Postoffice, Cromwell.



CAPTAIN B. T. NIX, Clerk of Court, Union County, was born in Ohio County, Kentucky, in 1840. His father, Rev. James E. Nix, was a Methodist minister, and as such was necessitated to change residence often. When the civil war broke out the people of Kentucky were divided in their sympathies toward the North and South, and the partisan feeling became extremely bitter. There was no neutral ground to be taken. A man was either for or against the Government, emphatically and absolutely. When the time for deciding this question came, there was no hesitancy in the mind of Captain Nix, nor in that of any other member of the family, as to which cause he should espouse. They were arrayed at once on the side of the Government. In August, 1862, our subject enlisted in Company B, Thirty-second Kentucky Infantry, for one year. Upon the organization of the company he was made its Captain, and he commanded the company throughout his time of service. The regiment operated in Kentucky, participating in the battle of Mill Springs, where the Confederate General Zollicoffer was killed. At the expiration of his term of service he immediately engaged in recruiting a company, which consisted of many members of his former company, and, as before, was made its Captain. He re-entered the army and the company became Company D, Fifty-third Kentucky Infantry. He continued in the service until after the war closed, being mustered out in the fall of 1865. He served with his regiment in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky. Much of the time he was engaged

in guerrilla fighting, the most dangerous and hazardous kind of warfare. Captain Nix was a gallant and an efficient officer, ready for duty at all times, and discharging that duty wisely and faithfully. His record as a soldier is an honorable one. In 1868 he decided to come West. He first went to Kansas with a view of locating in that State; but not being altogether pleased with the country he retraced his steps as far as Iowa, and, in 1870, settled upon a farm in Clarke County, where he remained five years. In 1875 he came to Union County and purchased a farm in Platte Township, which he still owns. He was married in Kentucky, to Virginia E. Rhodes, a daughter of S. C. Rhodes, formerly of Platte Township, but now deceased. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. They have one daughter, Libbie F., born in Des Moines County, Iowa. Their first child, Alberta M., died at the age of five years. The father of Captain Nix died in Kentucky, in November, 1885. He had ten children, most of the surviving members still living in Kentucky. He had been twice married. A sister, Mrs. E. C. Lucas, resides in Creston. Politically, Captain Nix is a Republican. He has served as clerk of the court six years, having been first elected in 1880. He is recognized as a worthy and efficient officer, having been nominated three times by acclamation by the Republican party of Union County.



BEN LININGER, one of the prosperous agriculturists of Platte Township, is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Mercer County, November 11, 1833. His parents, Daniel and Catherine (Klingensmith) Lininger, were natives of the same State, but subsequently came to Iowa, and in 1858 settled in Ringgold County. The father was born in 1802. Our subject was reared to manhood on a farm, and received his education in the district schools. March 19, 1863,

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name **Nix, Benjamin T**
 Residence
 Occupation **Farmer**
 Date birth **Sept 15, 1840** Place **Ohio co., Ky.**
 Date death **Mar 18, 1914** Place
 Cause **Green Lawn Cem** Place burial **Afton, Iowa**
 Lot **253, 1st addn**
 War record **Capt. 3 32 Ky Inf.**
 Rank Company Regiment State Organization

War
 Battles, etc.
 Nearest relatives
 Father Nativity
 Mother Nativity
 Wife **Jennie E** born **Ohio**
 Children **L**
Lebbie F.

Enlisted **Aug 22, 1862** Recruit for 9 months.
 Date Place

On organization of company was elected Capt.
 His regt. operated chiefly in Kentucky guarding
 railroads... Must out with company, re-enl
 Co. D 53 Kentucky Mtd Inf. and cont in
 service until fall of 1865. September
 Discharged

Source: Ex. Soldiers living Ia. 1886: Nix, B. T.
 Capt. D 53 Ky Inf-res. Afton.

Date Place

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name **Nix, B T**

Record Membership and Dues Paid

Offices of honor in G. A. R.

Post name	Post No.	Place	Date Joined
Henry Keating	211(8)	Afton	18 Jul 1883
Sus. 1st term	94		

History Union Co. 1887 p. 322
 Nix, B. T. born S. 15, 1840, Ky
 Educ. common schools & Funk's Seminary
 at LaGrange, Ky. Was not 22 yrs. old
 when enl Aug 18, 1862 in 32 Ky Inf.
 Went to front as Captain, Co. B,
 served 1 yr. after which Regt was
 discharged. **Member-at-Large** He re-enl
 and joined the 53d Mtd Inf. - again
 elected Captain of his Company...

Year	Date Paid	Amount	Year	Date Paid	Amount

Hist Union County Soldiers 1898, p. 8. B. T. Nix
 came to Iowa Oct 1868, locating in Clark county,
 near Woodburn in 1870. In 1875 moved to Platte
 tshp. Union county and in January 1881 to Afton
 where he now resides on a beautiful farm adjoining
 the city,
 Iowa Census 1885. Union Co., Afton, p. 331. Nix,
 Benjamin T. age 44, married, born Ky. Clerk of
 Courts. Jennie E. 43, born Ohio Lebbie F. 15, born
 Des Moines Co., Iowa

was eldest of 3 bros who served through the
 the war. Must out Sept 1865, Louisville, Ky. Came to Iowa 1868, 1st settled
 Des Moines Co., there 2 yrs. moved to
 Clarke Co. in 1875 came to Union Co.,
 where has farmed & engaged in Real Estate business. Married Virginia E. Rhodes of Williams
 town, Ky. J1 9 Died 1863. She was born Cincinnati, O. Children: Elizabeth (C.W.)
 Linkerton, Afton; One daughter, Alberta died at age 5 yrs.



You searched for **Benjamin T. Nix** in **Iowa**

1870 United States Federal Census

Name: Benjamin T Nix

Birth Year: abt 1841

Age in 1870: 29

Birthplace: Kentucky

Home in 1870: Jackson, Clarke, Iowa

Race: White

Gender: Male

Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Benjamin T Nix	29
	Virginia E. Nix	28
	Elizabeth F. Nix	9/12

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Jackson, Clarke, Iowa; Roll: M593_382; Page: 45A; Image: 93; Family History Library Film: 549881.

Source Information:
 Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data:

- 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
- Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:
 This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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Benjamin T Nix

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