

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Graff, Valentine Senator _____

Represented Page County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 4 Oct 1842 Bingen on the Rhine, Germany

2. Marriage (s) date place

Nancy E. Fairley 25 Oct 1870

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.

C. Profession Clothing and dry goods merchant

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 28th, 29th General Assembly, 1900, 1902

6. Public Offices

A. Local Clarinda city councilman

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 9 Oct 1921 Clarinda, Iowa; buried Clarinda Cemetery, Clarinda, Iowa

8. Children Rosa (died in infancy); Walter A.; Gerald H.; Everett D.;
Myna (Mrs. Dr. C. B. Eller); Mary (Mrs. Olin McConor);

9. Names of parents Valentine and Agnes Graff

10. Education educated in the common schools of
Savannah, Missouri.

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came with his parents to the United States at age 9
living until manhood at Savannah, Missouri
- Military service - Civil War - 10 Jul 1861 in Missouri State
Militia until Aug 1862, next a cavalry regiment for eleven
months and then Oct 1863 he enlisted in the 12th Missouri Cavalry.
- After the war he returned to Savannah, Missouri and clerked in a
clothing store until 1869
- At age 26 he came to Clarinda, Iowa establishing his own clothing store

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>Obituary</u> -			<u>The Clarinda Journal, Clarinda, Iowa,</u> <u>Oct. 13, 1921, p. 8</u>

at an early age. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon, Oct. 14, at 2:30 o'clock, at the home where she died, conducted by Rev. J. A. Burns. Burial will be in the Oak Grove cemetery, beside the grave of her husband, and also where her mother and other members of her family are buried. The sorrowing relatives will have the heartfelt sympathy of many friends.

Valentine Graff.

A man who for nearly a half century was a strong, active and successful leader in the business and public life of Clarinda, Valentine Graff, passed away at his home in this city at 11 o'clock p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, 1921. He was an invalid the last few years before his death, and during his invalidism his life was quiet and retired. In the days of his activity he was a soldier in the Union army, later a clothing and dry goods merchant, for about twenty-five years just preceding his invalidism a dry goods merchant, and in public life a zealous Grand Army man, a vigorous Republican; a faithful, helpful member of the Presbyterian church, and devoted to the upbuilding of every good public enterprise around and about him. His time and money were at the disposal of any enterprise calculated to benefit the community in which he lived.

Mr. Graff was one of ten children born to his parents, Valentine and Agnes Graff. He was born at Bingen on the Rhine, Germany—that historic spot so prominently mentioned in an old-time poem which school children used to find in a public school text book. The date of his birth was Oct. 4, 1842. At the age of 9 years he came with his parents to the United States and made his home until manhood at or near Savannah, Mo. He was educated in the common schools of Savannah.

A number of years ago The Journal published the following concerning Mr. Graff's military record:

"V. Graff enlisted three different times. First at Savannah, Mo., July 10, 1861, in the state militia. He enlisted for six months and served eight. In August, 1862, he enlisted again in a militia company—this time a cavalry regiment, and when he served for eleven months, when he was given a

His word was reliable, he could be trusted; he was a true friend to be valued. And aggressive and powerful as he could be he also had the ways of gentleness and a geniality that was captivating. A born fighter he was a frequent advocate and worker for harmony and peace. He was a great reader and student, and saw to it that his children were afforded ample educational facilities. He was a man of handsome features and of manly bearing. He had the polished manners of a true gentleman.

Funeral services were conducted for Mr. Graff at the Presbyterian church of which he was so long a member, Tuesday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock, conducted by his pastor, Dr. A. B. Marshall. The doctor paid high tribute to the memory of the departed. Dr. Marshall was a pastor at Des Moines when Mr. Graff was in the legislature. The doctor became very well acquainted with him as a legislator and knew Mr. Graff as one of a small number of legislators who were known as the "moral squad," and who were jeered and laughed at by some for their stand for prohibition and other good principles. Dr. Marshall said that he knew when he went to Mr. Graff for things that the ministers wanted. done he could always count on his support. He also spoke of Mr. Graff as a frequent attendant at his Presbyterian church in Des Moines during the sessions of the legislature when Mr. Graff was a representative. He referred, also, particularly, to Mr. Graff's persistence; to his fine mental strength, and to his purity of speech, that he never uttered language unfit to be heard by a mixed company, and never was known to use profanity. He likened Mr. Graff to the general and afterward president of the United States, U. S. Grant, in referring to his purity of speech.

At the church the employes of the Graff Mercantile company were seated in a body. The five living children of the deceased were all in attendance, the sons, Walter and Everett coming from Chicago. Among those from out of town at the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Guy Thurman and Mrs. Thurman's mother, Mrs. Ridgeway, of Blanchard. Many old friends of the deceased occupied seats in the church. Among this number were eighteen

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After he left the army he returned to Savannah, Mo., where he was a clerk in a clothing store until 1869. He then at the age of 26 years came to Clarinda and established a clothing store of his own. The older citizens remember his success both as a clothing and dry goods merchant, and the newer residents recognize the excellence and extent of the dry goods business which he established and which for some years past has been conducted under the management of his son, Gerald G. Graff. The late Mr. Graff in addition to his business in Clarinda at one time had important business interests outside of this state. He was

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The bearers were S. E. Sperry, D. D. Stitt, I. D. Christie, A. J. Hawley, Hugh Miller and W. F. Stipe.

The flowers about the casket were beautiful and in tasteful profusion.

James R. Miller.

N. W. Cline has received a telegram from the state of Vermont telling of the death of James R. Miller, a former resident of Page county, who died Oct. 11, 1921. The remains are to be brought to Clarinda for burial. Mr. Cline has been Mr. Miller's guardian.

A Remarkable Record.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has a remarkable record. It has been in use for colds, croup and whooping cough for almost half a century and has constantly grown in favor and popularity as its good qualities became better known. It is the standard and main reliance for these diseases in thousands of homes. The facts that it can always be depended upon and is safe and pleasant to take are greatly in its favor when it is wanted for children. For sale by H. F. Jones.—Advertisement.

A Small Purchase.

Nervous Piano Salesman (formerly a department store clerk)—Shall we send it for you?—Boston Transcript.

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Mr. Graff was married to Miss Nancy E. Fairley of Highland county, Ohio, Oct. 25, 1870. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Graff, one of whom, Rosa, the first child, died in infancy. The others, surviving, are Walter A., Gerald G., Everett D., Mrs. Myra Eller, wife of Dr. C. B. Eller, and Mrs. Mary Fleenor, wife of Otis Fleenor. Mrs. Graff, the wife of the subject of this sketch, died about three years ago.

Mr. Graff united with the Presbyterian church on profession of faith, July 26, 1876. Three years later he was elected a ruling leader of that church and held the position for seventeen years. In his religious work he was known as a faithful churchman. He was devoted to his church, not only in attendance at the meetings of the session, but as a regular attendant at the usual church services and Sunday school. As long as he could go to his church he did.

At one time, when the waterworks were installed in Clarinda, Mr. Graff was a member of the Clarinda city council. He represented Page county in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth general assemblies. In the legislature he was one of its ablest and most useful members. Locally he served on many committees in public work, and held numerous positions of usefulness. Old timers here who knew him well will remember how readily he sacrificed his time to promote the general welfare.

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She was united with the Methodist church. She was a member of the church for many years. She was a member of the church for many years. She was a member of the church for many years.

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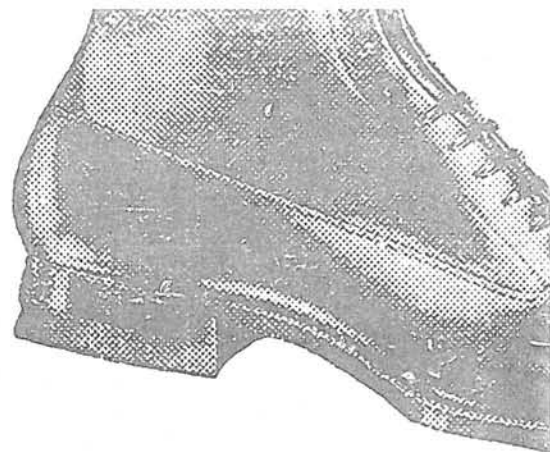
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For many years he was a great power in Page county Republican politics. He was an enthusiastic friend of the late Col. W. P. Hepburn, and was one of the staunch supporters of that distinguished congressman who always guarded the colonel's political interests. He became widely known in Republican circles, and mingled freely in Republican conventions, county, district and state.

It would not be fitting to overlook the fact that with his power to plan and push to victory the work he undertook to accomplish that he was not only bold, aggressive and fearless, but that he sometimes created strong antagonisms. He was of the class of men who have ardent friends and active opponents. Men who are the best qualified to speak of him know that he was a man guided by motives that he believed were the best, and they know, further, that he never proposed or countenanced that which was evil.



A Finer For Only

WE offer in the Selz shoe for the money. Sturdily built and of smart sort of a shoe you've cost as costing considerably more. For comfort, style and low price, believe this shoe is unequalled. So be sure to see it before you know you'll want a pair-

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