

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** Secor, Eugene Senator _____

Served from Winnebago County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 13 May 1841 Peckshill Hollow, New York in Putnam County

2. Marriage (s) date place
William M. Spencer 17 Sept 1866

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President of Winnebago County Farmers Institute; organized Winnebago County Agricultural Society

B. Civic responsibilities Span Society; Sons of American Revolution

C. Profession Real estate (Secor Brothers and Law); mason; bee agriculturist

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 29th General Assembly 1902

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of Forest City; City Council; clerk of the courts; county auditor; county coroner. Trust of education of Forest City, school superintendent of Forest City, appointed in 1907

B. State Trustee of the Iowa Agricultural College; board of trustees of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa

C. National Delegate to Farmers National Congress

7. Death 14 May 1919 Forest City, Iowa; buried Oakland Cemetery, Forest City, Iowa (died 23 May 1919)

8. Children Willard P. Alson; Nina; Maurine; Bryant (died 12 Feb 1880); Sadie (died Sept 1884); Fildis (died 1867); Thos (died 1873); Frank (died 1875); Charles (died 1877)

9. Names of parents Alson and Sarah (Gardner) Knapp Secor

10. Education Educated in schools in his New York home

11. Degrees Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa - honorary
MA Degree from Cornell

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Came to Forest City, Iowa in 1862 where his brother David Secor was the county treasurer and recorder as well as Forest City postmaster
 - When the Civil War began he moved from college back to Forest City to assume his brother's position while the brother was away at war
 - Was a well known bee culturist; 1893 appointed sole expert apian judge for the World's Columbian Exposition
 - Regular contributor to various agricultural and technical journals
 - Editor of the beekeepers department of the Northern Agriculturist of Minneapolis
 - Held office in the Iowa Horticulture Society
 - Wife, Millie, born in Milan, OH 29 Jan 1848, died 29 Apr 1912
 - Died from being gored by a bull
 - At age 6, he moved with his family to Grub Oak, Westchester County New York where he worked on his father's farm in the summer and attended school in winter
 - His brother, David Secor, was also a legislator serving in the 19th and 15th Iowa General Assemblies.
- He was a member of the banking house of Secor, Low and Plummer
- He was a fine bee agriculturist, having 20 colonies of pure Italian bees. He was a member of the World American Beekeepers Society of America.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary			<u>The Independent, Forest City, Iowa, Thur.</u> <u>May 22, 1919, p 1, col 1, 2, 3</u>
- ancestry.com			(accessed 18 May 2010)
- History of Keosauqua, Hancock and Winneshiek Counties, Iowa 1884			p. 766-767
- Iowa, Its History and the Starbuck Citizen, Vol IV 1916			p. 1682-1688
- Portrait - the original is located at the State of Iowa Historical Library, 600 E Locust, Des Moines, Iowa			
			"The Vision" by Eugene Secor - in library clipping file #2
			"A Story of a Garden" by Eugene Secor - in library clipping file #2
			"The Passing of Eugene Secor" in library clipping file #2
			Articles - from clipping file #2

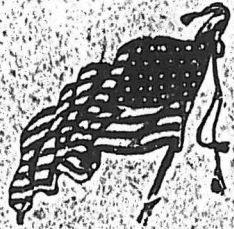


Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

The INDEP

VOLUME 40

FOREST CITY, IOWA, THURS



HON. EUGENE SECOR IS NOW AT REST

Hon. Eugene Secor, a well known pioneer settler of Winnebago county, Iowa, met a tragic death at his home in Forest City Wednesday afternoon, May 14, 1919, by being gored to death by a bull. Aged 78 years and one day. The funeral services were held at the Methodist church last Saturday afternoon in the presence of a large concourse of people. These impressive services were conducted by Rev. F. W. Ortmeier, his pastor, and Rev. W. A. Winterstein of Britt. After the services at the church the remains were laid to rest in the Oakland cemetery.

Mr. Secor was a man who united sound sense with strong convictions, and was eminently fitted to mould the rude elements of pioneer society into form and consistency, and aid in raising a high standard of citizenship in our young and growing state. How much this community owes him and such as he, it is impossible to estimate, although it would be grateful task to trace his influence through some of the more direct channels, to hold him up in these degenerate days, in his various characters of husband and father, of neighbor and friend, to speak of the sons and daughters he has reared to perpetuate his name and emulate his virtues. But it comes not within the scope of this brief article to do so, suffice it to say, he lived nobly and peacefully at the advanced age of 78 years. The stern Reaper four years ago, "as a shock of corn, fully ripe for the harvest." Not for him be our tears, rather let us crown his grave with garlands; few of us will live as long or as well, and fewer yet will the Angel of death greet with such a gentle touch.

Among the relatives and very near friends who were present at the funeral were: Fores Secor, son; Miss Hortense Secor, Des Moines; Alson Reagan and daughter, Des Moines; C. G. Patten, Charles City; Wesley Green, Sec'y State Horticultural So-

ber of the town council for many years. In 1869 he was elected clerk of the courts, having previously served as deputy, and filled that position acceptably for six years, being elected for the third term of two years without opposition. He was not a candidate for the fourth term. In 1876 he was called to the office of county auditor and served for four years, after which he refused to be again a candidate. He was also county coroner for two years and still higher honors awaited him in his election as a member of the twenty-ninth general assembly of Iowa, in which he served on several important committees and was chairman of the Horticultural committee. He was not a candidate for re-election. For many years Mr. Secor by appointment of the governor served as a delegate from Iowa to the Farmers National Congress. For six years he was a trustee of the Iowa Agricultural College and filled that position when it was an elective one by the state legislature. He was also a member of the board of trustees and of the executive committee of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, for twenty years, and held an honorary degree of M. A. from that institution. For fifteen consecutive years he served as a member of the board of education at Forest City and with the exception of one year was throughout that entire period president of the board. His public service has been of the greatest benefit. Thoroughly understanding the various duties that have developed upon him, he has ever been prompt and faithful in their execution and at all times has been guided by the utmost spirit of devotion to the general good. He was for twelve years president of the Winnebago County Farmers Institute, and then declined reelection. He organized the Winnebago County Agricultural Society and was its first president, and it was in his administration that the property was bought and the first building erected. In 1907 he was appointed by President Roosevelt to the position of postmaster of Forest City and occupied that office for five and one-half years. He was a charter member of the Iowa Society, Sons of American Revolution, and was at one time president thereof.

All during the time that Mr. Secor served in these various positions of public honor and trust he also conducted a real estate and loan business in Forest City, and for the past forty years he was widely known as a successful business man. He had a reputation in this connection. He had, at the time of his death, only about twenty colonies of fine, pure Italian

1882 under the name of Secor, Law & Plummer, and which was later organized as the First National bank.

On September 17, 1866, Mr. Secor was united in marriage to Miss Millie M. Spencer, who was born in Milan, Ohio, January 29, 1843, and died April 29, 1912. They became the parents of ten children but only four survived the mother: Willard, who succeeded his father in the Secor Company of this city, and whose death occurred in May, 1915; Alson, who is the editor of the paper called Successful Farming published in Des Moines; Nina, at home and Manley, who is engaged as a horticulturist at Tama, Iowa.

In his political views Mr. Secor was always a republican and his efforts were an effective force in promoting party successes. He was a delegate to the republican national convention in 1892. He belonged to the Methodist church, in which he served for a long time as an officer. In May, 1893 he was a delegate from Northwest Iowa conference to the quadrennial general conference of the Methodist church at Omaha, Nebraska. In fact his ability had called him to leadership in many lines in which his activities were put forth. Thoroughness was characteristic of all that he had done and the spirit of advancement and progress had guided him in every stage of his career, bringing him at last to a place where he stood as a recognized authority upon many questions that had to do with the material resources and development of the state.

Mrs. R. T. Norvet had a visit from her sister, Mrs. Callie Gettys.

Sylvan Olson was a business visitor a few days ago at Billings, Montana, and other places.

Mrs. Wynne Jacobs had a visit from her sister, Mrs. Edward Price of Lake Mills.

Mrs. Mary McCann visited with her daughters, Miss Elizabeth and Mrs. J. P. McCann of Albert Lea, Minn.

Miss Carlé Guending was down at Britt a few days ago, visiting with friends.

Miss Charlotte Redolph was down at Humbolt visiting with relatives and friends.

John P. Johnson was down at Hayfield the middle of last week on account of the illness of his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Nelson were over at Mason City the middle of the week calling on friends and transacting business.

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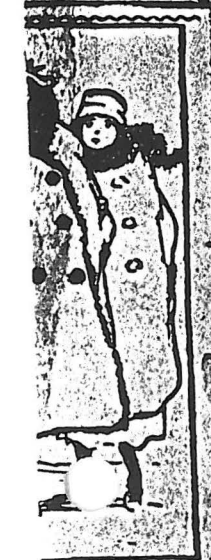
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in his character of husband and father, of neighbor and friend, to speak of his sons and daughters, he has resolved to perpetuate his name and om... virtues. But it comes not without the hope of this brief article to do so. Office it to say, he lived nobly and peacefully at the advanced age of 77 years. The stern Reaper four years ago, "as a shock of morn, fully ripe for the harvest." Not for him be our grief rather let us crown his grave with garlands; for and fewer yet will the Angel of death greet with such a loving touch.

Among the relatives and very near friends who were present at the funeral were: Fores Secor, son; Miss Hortense Secor, Des Moines; Alson and wife, Des Moines; Mrs. Paul Reagan and daughter, St. Paul, Minn.; C. G. Patten, Charles City; Wesley Green, Secy State Horticultural Society, Des Moines; and Mrs. B. A. Beach, Ames.

EUGENE SECOR

Called to many positions of public honor and trust, Eugene Secor of this place, had ever manifested his loyalty to the best interests of his community and his state and in everything that he had undertaken he had worked toward high ideals. Gifted by a nature with strong mental powers, his career has been one of continued development, reaching out along those lines which make life fuller, richer and better. He was born in May, 1841, on a farm in Peekshill Hollow, New York, a son of Alson and Sarah C. (Knapp) Secor, who were farming people and spent their entire lives in the Empire state. The Secors were descended from French Huguenots who came to America in 1689.

Eugene Secor attended school in his native county and in 1862 removed westward to Iowa, settling in Forest City, his elder brother, David Secor, being at that time treasurer and recorder of Winnebago county and also postmaster of Forest City. After working for a time he resumed his studies, entering Cornell college at Mount Vernon, Iowa. He had been there not quite a year when the elder brother enlisted for service in the Civil war, so that Eugene Secor was called back to take charge of his brother's office and the postoffice, as deputy, discharging the duties of those positions until the close of the war. After removing to the west he had learned the mason's trade, but for many years was active in public office. At the first election for mayor in Forest City he was chosen to that office and his administration was so satisfactory to his constituents that he was three times re-elected, serving for four consecutive terms. He carefully administered the affairs of the new municipality and his administration was fraught with excellent results. Afterwards he was a mem-

ber of the County Farmers Institute and then declined reelection. He organized the Winnebago County Agricultural Society and was its first president, and it was in his administration that the property was bought and the first building erected. In 1907 he was appointed by President Roosevelt to the position of postmaster of Forest City and occupied that office for five and one-half years. He was a charter member of the Iowa Society, Sons of American Revolution, and was at one time president thereof.

All during the time that Mr. Secor served in these various positions of public honor and trust he also conducted a real estate and loan business in Forest City, and for the past forty years he was widely known as a bee culturist, winning a world-wide reputation in this connection. He had, at the time of his death, only about twenty colonies of fine, pure Italian bees. Such is his standing along this line that in 1893 he was appointed the sole expert apiarian judge for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, a fact indicative of his wide study and knowledge of the subject. He was a member of the North American Bee-Keepers Society, of which he was at one time president, while for seven years he was its general manager and treasurer. He was a regular contributor to various agricultural and technical journals on subjects relating to bee culture and other phases of country life, and his opinions have become accepted as authority. He was editor of the bee keeper's department of the Northern Agriculturist of Minneapolis for many years and at one time held a similar position on the staff of a farm paper published at Cedar Rapids. He possessed considerable literary taste and talent, and his writings on various subjects appeared frequently in city papers as well as in the local press. From his pen have also come various poems of worth, and many of his songs have been set to music. Another phase of his activity has been in the field of horticulture, and that he had attained prominence and success in that direction is indicated in the fact that he had honored with the vice presidency and presidency of the Iowa Horticultural Society, of which he was a director. He had been on the program at the conventions for twenty years or more and articles from his pen appear in every volume of the published proceedings of the Society. At the time of his death he was devoting his attention most largely to horticulture, making a specialty of ornamental trees and plants, particularly peonies. He owned a fine tract of land adjoining Forest City and called his place The Shelter. He was engaged to some extent in breeding registered shorthorn cattle. For many years he was a director of the City Bank, which was organized by himself and others in

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Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Burdick and Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Streeter of Lake Mills were in the city visiting at the home of Mrs. George W. Headie.

Mrs. John Olson was down at Des Moines last week calling on friends, and witnessed the arrival of the celebrated army Rainbow Division.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marlette and son were in the city visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Martin Steen.

Nels Swanson is building a vault in the Farmers Savings Bank at Leeland, which assures a good job for the bank.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Ostby went down to Des Moines last week to see their son, Selmer, who returned home with the Rainbow division of the United States army.

When the improvements on the Palace of Sweets is completed the entire building will be one-hundred feet long of the longest business building in Forest City.

E. J. Meredith has leased for the summer the Oakwood Hotel at Clear Lake to be used for his employees on the Successful Farming, while on their summer vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Iver Hanson of Clark's Grove Minn. were in the city last Sunday visiting at the home of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. O. Hanson and other relatives and friends. They came down in an automobile.

S. H. Larson, former treasurer of this county and for many years a banker of Lake Mills, has purchased the Olive & Moe furniture store in Lake Mills, and he and his two sons, Earl and Kenneth, are now the owners of the well known institution and have already taken possession of the same. Messrs. Olive & Moe were in the furniture business in Lake Mills about thirty years and were well known throughout the county.

A large crowd to meet them

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Hiram K. Landru was a native of Norway. While he was still a boy, his parents emigrated to America, locating at Madison, Wis., where they remained for a number of years. In about 1863, he came with his parents to Winnebago county. Hiram was at this time about twenty-three years of age, and when he reached this county engaged in farming for himself, two miles north of Forest City. In 1865 he enlisted in the United States service, in company I, 32d Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served till the close of the war. Returning from the service he engaged in the mercantile business at Forest City, continuing in this for nearly two years. He then sold out and purchased a part interest in a steam saw mill, which business he followed until being elected county auditor. He then sold his interest in the saw mill and devoted his time to the duties of his office. Mr. Landru was not a thorough business man and did not make a very efficient officer. Still he was well thought of and continued in office for six years. He remained about a year after the expiration of his last term of office, then went to Yellow Medicine Co., Minn., where he was living in 1883.

Eugene Secor was elected county auditor in October, 1875, and re-elected in 1877.

Eugene Secor was born in Putnam Co., N. Y., May 13, 1841. At the age of sixteen, his father removed to Shrub Oak, Westchester county, where he grew to manhood, working on his father's farm in the summer, and attending district school in the winter. On arriving at the age of twenty-one, he went west, and located in Forest City, Iowa, working at the mason's

trade summers and teaching school winters. In 1864, he entered Cornell College, at Mt. Vernon, in view of a classical education, but his brother David having enlisted in the war, he was called home to oversee his brother's business, and was appointed by him deputy treasurer and recorder of Winnebago county, and deputy postmaster at Forest City, which position he held for a couple of years. In 1867 he was appointed deputy clerk of the district court, and in 1868, was elected district and circuit clerk, which office he held for three successive terms, being elected the last time without opposition. In 1875 he was elected county auditor, and re-elected in 1877, without opposition. In the proceedings to incorporate Forest City, he was appointed one of the commissioners to call the election, and was elected its first mayor, and re-elected three successive times. On retiring from the office of mayor, he was elected to the town council, which position he still holds, thus having been identified with the city government from its organization. There is no person who has taken more interest in the improvement of town and county than Mr. Secor. He is a member of the real estate firm of Secor Brothers & Law, and also of the banking house of Secors, Law & Plummer. In addition to this he finds time to oversee a farm or two, is engaged in fruit growing to some extent, and successfully manages the largest apiary in the county. He is at present president of the board of education, and takes an active interest in school matters. In 1866 he was married to Millie M. Spencer, daughter of David M. Spencer, a native of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Secor

have had eight children, only three of whom are living—Willard, aged fourteen; Alson, aged twelve; and Sadie, an infant. Mr. and Mrs. Secor are members of the M. E. Church. Mr. Secor came to this county without a dollar, in fact he borrowed money to come west with, but by industry, energy, perseverance and honesty, has succeeded in obtaining a competency in this worlds goods, and is to-day one of the solid business men of the city.

Charles Isaacs was the next county auditor, elected in October, 1879, and re-elected in 1881 and 1883.

Charles Isaacs is a native of Norway, born Oct. 1, 1849. In 1855 his parents came with their family to the United States, settling in Dane Co., Wis. Charles remained at home and attended different schools of learning, until 1872, when he came to Winnebago Co., Iowa, locating on a farm about three miles southwest of Lake Mills. He engaged in teaching school during the winters and in summers worked at farming until in 1875, when he purchased a farm and devoted his time to its improvement. In 1879 he was elected county auditor, and was re-elected in 1881 and 1883. He was married in 1868 to Susan Jorgens, a native of Norway, by whom he has seven children living—Emma, Delia, Oscar, Alfred, Conrad, Rudolph and Walter. One son died aged six months. Mr. Isaacs is a thorough business man and is well qualified to fill the position which he has held for two terms. He graduated from Worthington & Warner's Commercial College, Madison, Wis., on May 3, 1872. He is a republican in

politics; in religion a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

TREASURER AND RECORDER.

At the time Winnebago county was organized the duties of these two offices devolved upon one person. This continued in vogue until 1863, after which an officer was elected for each office.

The first treasurer and recorder was Charles H. Day, who was elected in 1857. In 1859 Philip Tennis was elected, but failing to qualify, Mr. Day held over till the next general election, when he was re-elected and again in 1861.

Charles H. Day is a native of Illinois. He came to Forest City, in 1856, from Owens Grove, Cerro Gordo county, bringing with him a steam saw-mill, the property of J. B. Long, judge of Cerro Gordo county. For a time Mr. Day was merely engineer and manager of the mill, but finally he purchased an interest and so continued to run it for about a year. When elected treasurer and recorder he sold his interest in the mill and gave his attention to his official duties. After the expiration of his term of office he remained only a short time, but soon went to Mason City, Cerro Gordo county, where he engaged in the mercantile business. He continued in that about a year and a half, then sold out. He is still living in Mason City. Mr. Day was a sharp, shrewd business man and is now in very comfortable circumstances.

In October, 1863, David Secor was elected treasurer and recorder. During his term the offices were separated and he was retained as treasurer, while J. P. Gardner, in 1864, was elected

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IOWA

Its History and Its Foremost Citizens

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME III

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1916

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opposition. In 1876 he was called to the office of county auditor and served for four years. He was also county coroner for two years and still higher honors awaited him in his election as a member of the twenty-ninth general assembly of Iowa, in which he served on several important committees. He was not a candidate for reelection. For many years Mr. Secor by appointment of the governor served as a delegate from Iowa of the Farmers National Congress. For six years he was a trustee of the Iowa Agricultural College and filled that position when it was an elective one by the state legislature. He was also a member of the board of trustees and of the executive committee of Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, for twenty years, and holds an honorary degree of M. A. from that institution. For fifteen years he served as a member of the board of education at Forest City and with the exception of one year was throughout that entire period president of the board. His public service has been of the greatest benefit. Thoroughly understanding the various duties that have devolved upon him, he has ever been prompt and faithful in their execution and at all times has been guided by the utmost spirit of devotion to the general good. He was for twelve years president of the Winnebago County Farmers Institute. In 1907 he was appointed by President Roosevelt to the position of postmaster of Forest City and occupied that office for five and a half years. He was a charter member of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and was at one time president thereof.

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In 1866 Mr. Secor was united in marriage to Miss Millie M. Spencer, who was born in Milan, Ohio, January 29, 1848, and died April 29, 1912. They became the parents of ten children but only four survived the mother: Willard, who succeeded his father in the Secor Land Company of Forest City, and whose death

several township positions and afterward as a member of the county board of supervisors for six years, during five years of which time he was chairman. On the 15th of April, 1913, he was appointed by Governor Clarke as a member of the state highway commission and is making an excellent record in that office.

WINSLOW CASADY TOMPKINS.

We accord and wisely so a large measure of respect to the man who wins success honorably and regard as a proud American title the term of self-made. The individual deserves even more credit, however, when he is self-educated as well as self-made in a material way, when he comes to a realization of the value of intellectual advancement and achievement and uses his opportunities for learning the lessons of life, drawing therefrom logical conclusions. Such has been the record of Winslow Casady Tompkins, who is now living retired at Clear Lake, Iowa, where for many years he was actively identified with business interests, taking up his abode there in 1862 and remaining continuously a resident of the city with the exception of the period of his military service in the south at the time of the Civil war.

Mr. Tompkins was born at Lockport, New York, January 31, 1836, a son of Enoch and Deborah (Westbrook) Tompkins, also natives of New York and representatives of old families of the Empire state. The father was born in Dutchess county and the mother in Rochester. The former saw service in War of 1812, and fought at Sackett's Harbor, New York. Winslow C. Tompkins was the fifth in order of birth in a family of nine children. He was less than a year old when his parents removed to Brantford, Canada, and was four years of age when they established their home in the township of Norage, about twenty miles west of Brantford. The father was a tanner and currier and had the difficult task of providing by means of his trade for the wants of his large family. His son Winslow went to Illinois when a lad of nine years, in 1845, there joining a cousin with the expectation that his parents would remove to that state the following year, but the father became ill and died. Mr. Tompkins received anything but kind treatment at the hands of his cousin during the year and a half which he spent in his home. He was then sent to a neighbor of the name of Armstrong, with whom his condition was even worse. The Armstrong family removed to North Grove, Ogle county, and while there Mr. Tompkins formed the acquaintance of a Mr. Frantz, who took an interest in him and told him that he might have a home in his family until he could get a good place. When the Armstrong family removed from that district Mr. Tompkins was returned to the home of his cousin. He was ordered one day to do the chores and after, as he believed, satisfactorily performing this task, went to bed. His cousin returning home, complained of the manner in which the work had been done and the lad overheard the statement that he was to receive a beating in the morning. At daybreak he gathered his little possessions together, tying them in a blue handkerchief which his mother had given him before he left home, and without breakfast started for the home of Mr. Frantz, fifteen miles away. He lived with the Frantz family for two years, enjoying all of the privileges of the children of the household. He then hired out to Elias Thomas, who paid him



Return to Eugene Secor

Compare With People From Your Family Tree

<p>Children (10)</p> <p>Willis Secor B: 1867</p> <p>Willard Secor B: 1869</p> <p>Alson Secor B: 1871</p> <p>Thad Secor B: 1873</p>	<p>Eugene Secor</p> <p>B: 13 May 1841 in Peekskill, Westchester, New York, United States</p> <p>D: 14 May 1915 in Forest City, Hancock, Iowa, United States</p> <p>Matilda M Spencer B:29 Jan 1848</p>	<p>Parents:</p> <p>Alson Secor 1802-1865</p> <p>Sarah Caroline Knapp 1806-1881</p>
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1850 United States Federal Census

Name: **Eugene Secor**

Age: **8**

Estimated birth year: **abt 1842**

Birth Place: **New York**

Gender: **Male**


Home in 1850 (City,County,State): **Putnam Valley, Putnam, New York**

Family Number: **103**

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Abson Secor	48
	Sarah Secor	46
	Abby J Secor	18
	John Secor	17
	Catharine Secor	15
	David Secor	13
	Caroline Secor	11
	Egbert Secor	10
	Eugene Secor	8
	Mary Secor	7
	Phebe Secor	5
	Ann Secor	1
	Abby Knapp	48
	Catharine Hill	70

Source Citation: Year: 1850; Census Place: Putnam Valley, Putnam, New York; Roll M432_581; Page: 49B; Image: 103.

Source Information: Ancestry.com. 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.



Original data: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description: This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1850 United States Federal Census, the Seventh Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color, birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, 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 1850 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



You searched for **Eugene Secor** in **Iowa**

1880 United States Federal Census

Name:	Eugene Secor																
Home in 1880:	Forest City, Winnebago, Iowa																
Age:	39																
Estimated birth year:	abt 1841																
Birthplace:	New York																
Relation to Head of Household:	Self (Head)																
Spouse's name:	Millie M.																
Father's birthplace:	New York																
Mother's birthplace:	New York																
Neighbors:	View others on page																
Occupation:	Farmer																
Marital Status:	Married																
Race:	White																
Gender:	Male																
Cannot read/write:																	
Blind:	View image																
Deaf and dumb:																	
Otherwise disabled:																	
Idiotic or insane:																	
Household Members:																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eugene Secor</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Millie M. Secor</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Willard Secor</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alson Secor</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bryant Secor</td> <td>3M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ricca Filter</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Washburn</td> <td>73</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	Eugene Secor	39	Millie M. Secor	33	Willard Secor	11	Alson Secor	9	Bryant Secor	3M	Ricca Filter	17	Mary Washburn	73
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Willard Secor	11																
Alson Secor	9																
Bryant Secor	3M																
Ricca Filter	17																
Mary Washburn	73																

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Forest City, Winnebago, Iowa; Roll: 370; Family History Film: 1254370; Page: 615B; Enumeration District: 230; Image: 0133.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site.

Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1-454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description:

This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1880 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



You searched for **Eugene Secor** in **Iowa**

1900 United States Federal Census

Name:	Eugene Secor														
Home in 1900:	Forest City, Winnebago, Iowa														
Age:	59														
Birth Date:	May 1841														
Birthplace:	New York														
Race:	White														
Gender:	Male														
Relationship to Head of House:	Head														
Father's Birthplace:	New York														
Mother's Birthplace:	New York														
Spouse's name:	Millie														
Marriage Year:	1866														
Marital Status:	Married														
Years Married:	34														
Occupation:	View on Image														
Neighbors:	View others on page														
Household Members:	<table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eugene Secor</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Millie Secor</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nina Secor</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manley Secor</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arthur Gillett</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martha Husduksen</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	Eugene Secor	59	Millie Secor	52	Nina Secor	13	Manley Secor	10	Arthur Gillett	20	Martha Husduksen	23
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Millie Secor	52														
Nina Secor	13														
Manley Secor	10														
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Martha Husduksen	23														

Source Citation: Year: 1900; Census Place: Forest City, Winnebago, Iowa; Roll T623-405; Page: 18A; Enumeration District: 194.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.



Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623.1854 rolls.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



You searched for **Eugene Secor** in **Iowa**

1910 United States Federal Census

Name:	Eugene Secor	
Age in 1910:	68	
Estimated birth year:	abt 1842	
Birthplace:	New York	
Relation to Head of House:	Head	
Father's Birth Place:	New York	
Mother's Birth Place:	New York	
Spouse's name:	Millie	
Home in 1910:	Forest, Winnebago, Iowa	
Marital Status:	Married	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Eugene Secor	68
	Millie Secor	60
	Nina Secor	22
	Munell Secor	18
	Otto Anderson	19

Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Forest, Winnebago, Iowa; Roll T624_425; Page: 15B; Enumeration District: 229; Image: 1384.

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, 1,178 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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Ferguson/Arnold/St.John/Mangan View Family Tree Owner: sharonwright11 Home Person

Eugene Secor

Save this person to your tree

Birth **13 May 1841** in Peekskill, Westchester, New York, United States
 Death **14 May 1915** in Forest City, Hancock, Iowa, United States

Comment on this

Show immediate family More options

Overview Facts and Sources Media Gallery Comments Member Connect

Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

Timeline (View details)

1841 13 May	Birth Peekskill, Westchester, New York, United States	5 source citations
1850 Age: 9	Residence Putnam Valley, Putnam, New York	1 source citation
1866 17 Sep Age: 25	Marriage to Matilda M Spencer	
1870 Age: 29	Residence Esopus District 1, Ulster, New York, United States	1 source citation
1880 Age: 39	Residence Forest City, Winnebago, Iowa, United States	1 source citation
1895 Age: 54	Residence Forest City	1 source citation
1910 Age: 69	Residence Forest, Winnebago, Iowa	1 source citation
1915 14 May Age: 74	Death Forest City, Hancock, Iowa, United States	

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

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Family Members

Parents

- Alson Secor**
1802 - 1865
- Sarah Caroline Knapp**
1806 - 1881

[Show siblings](#)

Spouse & Children

- Matilda M Spencer**
1848 - 1912
- Willis Secor**
1867 - 1867
- Willard Secor**
1869 - 1915
- Alson Secor**
1871 -
- Thad Secor**
1873 - 1873
- Frank Secor**
1874 - 1875
- Charles Secor**
1877 - 1877
- Bryant Secor**
1880 - 1880
- Sadie Secor**
1883 - 1884
- Nina Secor**
1886 -
- Manly Secor**
1890 - 1970

[Family group sheet](#)

Historical Records

- 1850 United States Federal Census
- 1870 United States Federal Census
- 1880 United States Federal Census
- 1910 United States Federal Census
- Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

[View source citations \(6\)](#)

Web Links

There are no weblinks available for this person.

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Source: Plain Talk
May 22, 1919

THE PASSING OF EUGENE SECOR

A Tribute to a Beekeeper Who was one of Iowa's
Best Known and Most Beloved Sons, and
Who was Widely Recognized in
Other Fields

by
Frank C. Pellett

Many hearts were saddened by the word of the death of Eugene Secor, of Forest City, Iowa. Gored by an angry bull, on May 14, he died the same afternoon. It falls to the lot of few men to bind the hearts of so many in the ties of friendship as he did. Eugene Secor was one of the world's noblemen. He was not a specialist and did not rise to great eminence in any field, yet he was a leader in several. It was as a horticulturist and beekeeper that he was most widely known. He began contributing to the pages of the American Bee Journal nearly forty years ago. For many years he was prominent in the beekeeping field, having served as Vice President, and later as President of the North American Beekeepers' Association; the name was later changed to National. He was afterward treasurer and general manager for a period of six years. Mr. Secor was selected as the sole expert judge of the apiary department of the World's Columbian Exposition held at Chicago in 1892-93, and later served in the same capacity at the Omaha Exposition. For many years he judged the bee and honey exhibit at the Iowa State Fair.

It was during the years of Mr. Secor's greatest activity that the National Beekeepers' organization reached its greatest success, and undoubtedly his efforts contributed greatly to that end. It was as a writer of songs and poems that he, perhaps, became best known in the beekeeping field. Several of these songs were set to music by Dr. C. C. Miller and George W. York and sung at the beekeepers' conventions. "The Hum of the Bee in the Apple-Tree Bloom," "Buckwheat Cakes and Honey" and "The Beekeepers' Lullaby" were sung in hundreds of beekeepers' families a generation ago.

As a horticulturist our friend was known from one end of Iowa to the other. His home, "The Shelter," at Forest City, was surrounded by one of the finest collections of trees and shrubs in the middle west, and fortunate was the nature lover who found himself a guest in that home. Mr. Secor and daughter, Miss Nina, were able to make their guests feel very much at home, and delightful was the atmosphere of the place with its wealth of books and magazines, inside, and flowers out-of-doors.

With his bride Mr. Secor settled at "The Shelter" more than fifty years ago. All, excepting a few old trees there, have been planted by his own hands. Few trees and shrubs hardy under Northern Iowa conditions are missing from the collection, and hardy, herbacious plants have not been overlooked. Plant breeding has been a fascinating pursuit for many years. Crossing the peony was a specialty which claimed his attention for some time past.

I have nearly two dozen new varieties which were originated in the Secor gardens and they are a never-failing source of pleasure to me. The fact that they were the result of my friend's dreams and the parent plants were crossed by hand pollination, in an effort to work out the types which he desired, add greatly to their value to me. The collection at the "Shelter" included many hundreds, and they are a wonderful sight at blooming time.

There has probably not been a volume of the reports of the Iowa Horticultural Society that has not contained some contribution from the pen of Eugene Secor. He was at one time President of that organization, and for many years a director. At the time he first settled in Iowa the State was very new, and little was known of the varieties of fruits which would be suited to its special climate. He went through all the painful process of planting hundreds of varieties which could not stand the rigorous winters, or the hot, dry summers, and suffered the disappointment that always comes through losing a coveted variety. Most of the joy of life to the nature lover comes through the acquaintance with new varieties, and Eugene Secor tasted to the full the pleasure that comes to the man of scientific turn of mind from investigation of nature's secrets. In addition to his beekeeping and gardening activities, he was a breeder of short-horn cattle, and for many years was President of the Farmers' Institute of his county, and also of the Winnebago Agricultural Society. Not only was he active in various lines of agriculture, but in business as well. As one of the founders of the City Bank, later the First National Bank of Forest City, he was closely connected with the commercial development of his town and county.

As a churchman he also rose to leadership, having been a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church, to which denomination he belonged. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell College, of Mt. Vernon, Iowa, for several years. In politics he was also successful, having held several offices, including a seat in the House of Representatives, and also the position of postmaster of Forest City.

Our friend was a well-balanced man. Everything which interested him he investigated thoroughly, but he did not become warped in his judgement and narrow in his views through too close attention to one subject. His indomitable spirit was not crushed by adversity and his life offers a fine example for the young manhood of his community. Seven of his ten children died before he did and his wife preceded him in death by seven years. No matter how great his loss, or how deep his cause for anxiety, he was always genial and uncomplaining.

He continued his interest in bees until the end, but only with about twenty colonies, since he was no longer equal to the physical exertion necessary to care for a large number.

I count it a great privilege to have known Eugene Secor intimately and, in common with others, feel a sense of great personal loss in his going. His memory will be cherished in many breasts to the end of life, as the following poem, clipped from his home paper indicates was his greatest wish:

IF I SHOULD DIE TONIGHT

An atom in the vast universe,
A bit of star dust in a field of light
Am I, nor would the world its course reverse
If I should die tonight

The air is full of spirits of the past,
Spirits that once to the flesh were
clear to the sight;
Forgotten all, as I shall be at last
If I should die tonight.

But deeds, not men, are what alone survive,
Pure thoughts are angels clad in garments white,
Will words or deeds of mine remain alive
If I should die tonight?

Shall one kind act, one unremembered wrong,
One helpful word by me to cheer the right
One phrase remain to speed the truth along
If I should die tonight?

Of all the ones I know who call me friend
Would one, just one, for life keep
memory bright
With some sweet thought I spake while here,
or penned,
If I should die tonight?

-----Eugene Secor

State Traveling Library
Historical Building
Des Moines 19, Iowa