

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Bell,
Thomas - Represented Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 5 Apr 1839 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place
Leonora McCray 2 May 1864 Des Moines County, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.

C. Profession Grocery business - both retail and wholesale

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 26th, 27th General Assemblies 1896, 1899

6. Public Offices

A. Local Trustee of the Iowa State School for the Blind at Vinton, Iowa
for several years;

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 18 Aug 1903 Fairfield, Iowa; buried

8. Children Frank A.; Edwin B.; Thomas L.; Florence;
Oliver A. (died at age 5 years)

9. Names of parents Thomas and Rachel (Grames) Bell

10. Education He spent some time in schools, he also has two terms of
courses of education at an academy

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- At age 12 he began learning the shoemaker trade
- When the war began he and a friend raised a company and went into service
- Military service - Civil War - Company K, 2nd Iowa Cavalry
- When he returned from the war he started a grocery business in Salford
in 1865. His partners was H. B. Rowland and later J. A. Beck.

TOWN AND COUNTY.

SMOKE "Defender" five cent cigar.
 FIVE MONEY to loan. W. G. ROSS.
 THE best ice cream soda at Copeland's
 new fountain.

ONLY about three weeks until the
 fair—September 8th to 11th.

LOST—Gold frame glasses. Return
 to THE LEDGER office and get reward.

THE track at the fair grounds is be-
 ing widened six feet and re-fenced.

DON'T forget the Jefferson county
 fair, September 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th.

EVERYTHING clean and fresh at Cope-
 land's drug store—a specialty of ice
 cream soda.

WANTED—Competent girl for gen-
 eral housework. Good wages. Call at
 this office.

GRADING has commenced on the site
 of the Iowa Malleable Iron Company's
 plant, near the fair grounds.

THE fall term of the public schools
 will begin Monday, September 14th, a
 few days somewhat later than usual.

FOR perfumes, toilet articles, pre-
 scriptions, etc., go to Copeland's drug
 store—everything clean, new and fresh.

ED. THOMAS of Cedar township came
 from Kansas City, Mo., Saturday with
 a fine bunch of calves, forty in number.

WANTED—Strong boy or young man
 to work at trade.

P. J. BRADY, Plumber.

IF you have not already received a
 premium list of the fair, ask the secre-
 tary for one.

THE Stump & Heer stock of general
 merchandise at Stockport has been sold
 by J. W. Whiteley & Sons of Bonaparte
 and will not be removed.

BECAUSE of the death of Thomas
 Hill the picnic to have been given by
 the Sunday school of the Methodist
 church tomorrow has been postponed.

A NOTE in The Washington Gazette
 states that J. B. Crail is making the
 preparation for a fine residence in that
 city which is to be completed this fall.

D. P. STUBBS has sold his large farm
 tract northeast of the city to John F.
 Nelson of Princeton, Ill. There is 390
 acres in the tract, and it brought \$600

OF the Washington Masons who

was started and his right ankle caught
 between the bumpers of the cars, crush-
 ing the member badly. He is now in
 the sanitarium at Colfax, and it will be
 some time before he fully recovers from
 his injuries.

Fell Dead in His Store.

Hon. Thomas Bell fell dead in his
 store in this city yesterday afternoon
 about 4:20 while waiting on a customer.

He died from hemorrhage of the brain,
 a disease from which he had been suffer-
 ing for two years past. Mr. Bell was
 one of Fairfield's oldest business men.
 He entered the grocery trade here in
 1865 and was engaged in that business,
 either in a wholesale or retail way, un-
 til the moment of his death.

Thomas Bell was born in Philadel-
 phia, Penn., April 5th, 1839, and came
 to Iowa in 1857. He enlisted in Com-
 pany K, Second Iowa cavalry, at Daven-
 port August 25th, 1861, and re-enlisted
 in 1864. He was with his regiment in
 all its active service and had a most
 creditable military record. Mr. Bell
 was a member of the Methodist Episco-
 pal church during most of his life and
 was active and effective in its work and
 in that of the Sunday school. He was
 deeply interested in the affairs of the
 Grand Army of the Republic, was sev-
 eral times commander of George Strong
 Post of this city and a delegate from
 Iowa to national encampments. He
 was also active in politics, was a trust-
 ee of the state school for the blind at
 Vinton for several years, and was elect-
 ed senator from the Jefferson-Van
 Buren district in 1895. Mr. Bell's life
 was one of activity and industry. He
 was a man of deep convictions and was
 fearless in the expression of his opin-
 ion. He had many warm friends among
 his associates in this county and they
 will deeply regret his death.

Mr. Bell was married to Leonora Mc-
 Cray in Des Moines county May 2d,
 1864. Five children were born to them,
 four of whom are living—Frank A. of
 Cement, Okla., E. B. of Altamont, Mo.,
 Thomas H. of Merrill, Wis., and Miss
 Florence. Funeral services will be held
 at the home on North Main street
 Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Old Settlers' Reunion.

At the meeting of officers and mem-
 bers of the Old Settlers' association in
 this city Saturday it was decided to hold
 the annual reunion at the fair grounds
 Thursday, October 1st. Committees of

on a lot where they can give people
 their money's worth.—The show car-
 ries a number of wild animals and their
 ring performance is not equaled by any
 show exhibiting at low price.—Lancas-
 ter, Pa., Daily Intelligencer, May 31st.

And Frank O. Danielson Is Gone?

A message from Four Corners Thurs-
 day evening announced the sudden
 death of Frank O. Danielson. Mr. D.
 was a member of the first party of
 people of Swedish birth to settle in the
 United States west of the Allegheny
 mountains. These colonists repre-
 sented five families and numbered
 about thirty people. They came
 to Jefferson county in 1845 and located
 in Lockridge township. They settled in
 a wilderness and submitted to all the
 hardships of pioneer life, but the com-
 munity which they and their descend-
 ants have erected was worth all the
 sacrifice they made. Only seven mem-
 bers of the original party survive—
 Andrew F. Cassel, Mrs. A. Castile,
 Mrs. Matilda Danielson and Mrs. John
 Stephenson of Lockridge township, Mrs.
 Ward Laimson of this city, Mrs. Mary
 Hall of Skandia, Kan., and Mrs. Louise
 Johnson of Creston.

Mr. Danielson was only six years of
 age when he came to this new country,
 but he was a bright and active boy and
 grew into a splendid manhood. He was
 the trusted friend and adviser of his
 people through much of his life, wield-
 ed a wide influence for good among
 them and extended his acquaintance to
 all portions of the county. His death
 will be very generally mourned, for it
 marks the passing of a good man, a
 brave soldier and an citizen of sterling
 worth. The Four Corners correspon-
 dent of THE LEDGER sends the follow-
 ing notes of the sad event:

Frank O. Danielson died very unexpected-
 ly Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. He was at
 work in a grove near his home, became sud-
 denly ill about 3 o'clock and came home very
 sick. He suffered severe pain in the region
 of the heart, and passed away before the phy-
 sician who was summoned had arrived. His
 ailment was pronounced neuralgia of the
 heart. The taking away of Mr. Danielson is
 an incalculable loss to the community, as he
 was a recognized leader in the church and so-
 ciety. The community is grief stricken and
 its loss seems greater than can be borne.

Mr. Danielson was born in Sweden Septem-
 ber 13th, 1839, came to America and this vic-
 inity in 1845, and was married to Mrs. Ma-
 tilda Peterson September 2d, 1866. He was a
 soldier in the Fourth Iowa infantry for three
 years, enlisting July 2d, 1861, and being

Portrait



Biographical

Album

OF

Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa.

CONTAINING

FULL PAGE PORTRAITS

AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS
OF THE COUNTY

TOGETHER WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE
PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.
AND GOVERNORS OF THE STATE

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1890.

and Surgeons, of Keokuk, Iowa, and having mastered the regular course of study was graduated from that institution in the class of 1869. One week later he had established himself in practice in Moulton, Appanoose County, Iowa, where he remained until the fall of 1870, when he removed to Peru, Kan., continuing practice in that place until the spring of 1872. He then returned to Iowa, and locating in Perlee, Jefferson County, announced to the public that he was ready to receive patronage from any in need of services in his line. He there built up a good practice and continued business in that place until January, 1879, when he came to Fairfield, where he has since resided. Almost from the first he won recognition as an able physician and took rank among the leading practitioners of this section.

The marriage of Dr. Snook and Miss Ella A. Anderson was celebrated on the 16th of January, 1869, in Keokuk, Iowa. The lady is a native of Keithsburg, Ill., and a daughter of Dr. I. M. Anderson. By their union have been born three children, one son and two daughters: Mary B. John Newton and Esther. Mrs. Snook is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

The Doctor is a Democrat in his political views and has held a number of local offices. For two years he held the office of Councilman, for one year served as a member of the School Board, and in the spring of 1890 was elected to the same position for a term of three years. For eight years he held the office of City Health Commissioner and for four years, under Cleveland's administration, was pensioner examiner. He is connected with a number of medical societies, including the Jefferson County Medical Society, the Des Moines Valley Medical Society, and the Iowa State Medical Society. In connection with his professional labors, Dr. Snook is engaged to some extent in stock-raising and farming with his brothers, one of whom carries on that business in Cedar Township, Jefferson County, while the other is engaged in the same line in Nebraska. They were reared to work together in harmony and since attaining to mature years have always done more or less business together with great satisfaction. The Doctor has been quite successful in the practice of his profes-

sion and is well deserving of the liberal patronage accorded him. He is studious and keeps himself well posted on all the discoveries and theories connected with the science and is the acknowledged peer of any of his professional brethren in the county.



THOMAS BELL has been longer engaged in the grocery business than any other merchant in Jefferson County, his operations in that line in Fairfield covering a period of twenty-five consecutive years. A prominent business man and leading citizen, he is well worthy a representation in this volume, and we feel assured that his sketch will be received with interest by many of our readers. Pennsylvania is the State of his nativity. He was born in the City of Brotherly Love, on the 5th of April, 1839, his parents being Thomas and Rachel (Grames) Bell. His paternal grandfather, who was reared in Scotland, imbibed the love of freedom and religious liberty characteristic of the people of that country, as will be seen later on. Having married in his native land, he emigrated to County Donegal, Ireland, locating in Rathmelton. He was a devout Presbyterian, and a leader among the Orangemen. So intense was the hatred of the Catholics toward him that on one occasion, while crossing a bridge, he was met by a number of the Romanists and thrown over. He was unconscious on reaching the ground, and the Catholics, thinking they had killed him, piled stone upon him and thus left him buried. Some time afterward, parties passing by heard groans, and throwing off the stones liberated Mr. Bell. It is needless to say this barbarity neither inspired in him nor his descendants a love for Catholicism.

Thomas Bell, Sr., was born on the way to the Emerald Isle, and at the age of nineteen years sailed for the United States, locating in Philadelphia, Pa., where he worked at the shoemaker's trade, which he had learned in the old country. In that city he married Miss Grames, who was a native of Pennsylvania, although her ancestors

came from Scotland. After living in Philadelphia for some time. Mr. Bell removed to Allegheny City, where he kept a shoe store. Later he carried on business in Pittsburg and other towns in the Keystone State, but subsequently, following the course of human emigration, which was steadily flowing westward, reached Harrison County, Ohio, and in 1857 we find him in Louisa County, and three years later in Des Moines County, Iowa. After his arrival in this State he devoted his time between farming and work at his trade until the organization of the Thirtieth Iowa Infantry, when he joined that regiment and served until its discharge, holding the office of Sergeant. When the war was over he removed to Corning, Iowa, where he engaged in the shoe business and also dealt in furniture for some years. He is now living a retired life, being some seventy-two years of age. In Allegheny City his wife and only daughter died at the same time, in 1853, leaving a family consisting of five sons. Mr. Bell was afterward again married, and by his second wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Flynn, had six children.

The subject of this sketch was the eldest child of the first marriage. When a lad of twelve years he began learning the shoemaker's trade, and with the exception of a short time spent in school, remained at the bench until he had attained his majority. His primary education was supplemented by two terms attendance at an academy, he thus securing a good practical education. When the war broke out he and a friend proposed to raise a company and go into the service. He secured the number he was to raise but his friend was not as successful, and at length, tired of waiting, Mr. Bell, together with eight other companions, went to Davenport, and on the 23th of August, 1861, enlisted in Company K, of the Second Iowa Cavalry. His war record is one of which he may justly be proud.

Besides participating in sixty-two skirmishes, Mr. Bell took part in the following regular battles: New Madrid, Mo., Farmington, the two battles of Corinth and Iuka, Miss., Colliersville and Moscow, Tenn., West Point and Okolona, Miss. His time having expired, he veteranized on the 1st of March, 1864, and after a short furlough returned to the

dreadful work of war, and participated in the battles of Tupelo, Old Town Creek, Hurricane Creek, Shoal Creek, Butler Creek, Franklin and Nashville, Tenn. On the 17th of December, 1864, the Second Iowa Cavalry engaged in a hand to hand contest with the Confederates a few miles south of Franklin. Bayonets, swords, muskets and pistols were used indiscriminately. The following is substantially given in Sergt. L. B. Pierce's history of the Second Iowa Cavalry: "The principal event of this struggle, the fiercest in which the regiment ever engaged, was the capture of the colors of Ross' (rebel) brigade. As the contending forces came together, Thomas Bell ordered the rebel color bearer to surrender. He refused; a rush was made upon him. Just as Dominic Black was in the act of striking down the color bearer with his saber, he was shot through the heart by one of the color guards. Sergt. Coulter seized the flag, wrenching it from the rebel's hands, and though at that instant he received a bullet through his shoulder, he handed the flag to Thomas Bell, who took it and led Coulter off the field, carrying the flag with him to the Union lines. When they were returning, they were met by their reinforcements, who on seeing the rebel flag, and thinking it was in the hands of a rebel officer fired upon Mr. Bell, and his escape from death was almost miraculous. Private Wall was confronted by a rebel, who placed the muzzle of his gun against the former's side. Wall dropped his own gun, seized that of his antagonist, and thrust it aside. Thomas Bell rushed to Wall's relief, aiming an empty carbine at the rebel; seeing Bell, the rebel dropped the gun, jerked the pistol from his belt and fired at the former's head, however without effect. Bell discovered another pistol in the rebel's belt, and urging his horse beside him made a successful grab for the weapon, with which he killed his antagonist. Wall, who had the rebel's gun, killed with it another of the enemy who had assaulted Bell. Thus for some time they fought like tigers; blood flowed like water; men fell on every hand, but the flag remained in the possession of the boys in blue."

Our subject was mustered out at Selma, Ala., having been saddler of his company for some time. After over four years of service, in which he par-

ticipated in seventy-eight engagements, Mr. Bell returned unscathed, conscious of having done his part in maintaining the Government's honor and establishing universal liberty. He has two relics of the war which he prizes very highly—the pistol above referred to and a leave of absence. In 1864 every man in the field was needed, and orders were given that no soldier should be allowed a furlough. Mr. Bell received word that his wife lay at the point of death. He despaired of getting a release, but his Lieutenant wrote a letter citing the reason for his wishing a furlough, recounting Mr. Bell's valor in capturing the rebel flag, and recommending that he be permitted to go home. This message passed through the hands of the several authorities, each time receiving the proper official endorsements, and he was granted the much prized furlough.

In 1865 Mr. Bell engaged in the grocery business in Fairfield, which without interruption he has carried on since. He has had a partner for four years of that time, W. B. Rowland having been associated with him two years, and J. A. Beck an equal length of time.

On the 2d of May, 1864, in Des Moines County, Mr. Bell was united in marriage with Miss Leonora McCray, who was born in Indiana, but came with her parents to Iowa in an early day. They are parents of five children, four of whom are living: Frank A., Edwin B., Thomas H. and Florence. The eldest, Alonzo A., died at the age of five years. Both Mr. Bell and his wife are members of the Methodist Church, and take an active part in Sunday-school work. For a number of years he has been Chairman of the county Sunday-school organization, and has been instrumental in establishing many schools throughout the county. He is a member of the Grand Army Post, of Fairfield, of which he has been Commander. Twice he has been honored by being sent as delegate to the National Encampment. He is and has been for the past three years, President of the Old Soldiers and Sailors Association of Fairfield. Mr. Bell is not only a temperance man in practice, but is also a fearless, outspoken advocate of prohibition.

Politically, Mr. Bell took a stand with the Abolitionists, in fact, was one among the first to volun-

teer in their ranks; since he has been a Republican of the most enthusiastic and pronounced type. In the army, the boys longing for home and the close of the struggle, would call upon him to make a speech in regard to the issues of the war. He would tell them that the war could never close until every man under the flag should be free. While they enjoyed this talk they hooted at his ideas. How well he divined results, history shows. Mr. Bell has made business a success owing to industry, enterprise and good management. As a result he has secured to himself a handsome competence, from which he makes liberal contributions to church and Sunday-school work, and other worthy interests. He believes that a man's zeal for a cause is truly shown by what he is willing to invest in it.



HENRY BASCOM EDMONSON, who is engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 29, Washington Township, Van Buren County, is a native of Kentucky, the youngest of eight children, whose parents were Alfred O. and Kitty (Burton) Edmonson. The family was founded in America during Colonial days, in all probability, yet little is known concerning its early history. A. O. Edmonson was born in Maryland, in 1803, and grew to manhood in his native State, learning the tailor's trade in his youth. When a young man he left his old home and became a resident of Kentucky where he formed the acquaintance of Miss Burton who was born in that State in 1808. As the fruits of their marriage eight children were born but only four of the number are now living: Anna E., wife of J. F. Freeman, who resides near Sacramento, Cal.; Catherine E., deceased; William who was drowned in the Des Moines River, breaking through the ice December 3, 1867; Harriet, wife of G. W. Paul of Idaho; Susan C. and Mary H. both deceased; Irene S., wife of W. Campbell of California; Henry B. of this sketch, and George A. who died in childhood, and an infant deceased. The two youngest were born in this county and all