

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Merrill, Nathaniel Aaron Senator Merrill, Nathaniel Aaron
Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 26 June 1829 Copenhagen, Lewis County, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place

Mary Ann (Merriman) Merrill 17 July 1855 Lowville, New York

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1855 in New York; president of the first National Order of Deacons

B. Civic responsibilities G.A.R.; Lynde Legion

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 14th 20th 26th General Assembly 1872 1884 1896 - House of Representatives
7th 18th General Assembly 1878, 1880 - Senate

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor of De Witt four years

B. State Commissioner of the Iowa Soldiers Home at Mendota, Iowa

C. National

7. Death 31 Dec 1896 De Witt, Iowa; buried Elmwood Cemetery, De Witt, Iowa

8. Children Emma; Adeline J. (Mrs. William Lee); John; Estelle (Mrs. Robt.)

9. Names of parents Setti and Mabel (Sanford) Merrill

10. Education He was educated in common schools

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- Military Service - Civil War - Co. D, 26th Iowa Infantry
As soon as he was drafted to the war in 1851, he went to the front
He lived there for 40 years.
- He worked on the farm for some time and attended school in winter.
He then taught school and studied law.
- His wife was the widow of his brother.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- G.A.R. Records		✓	
- Obituary -			The Des Moines Daily Leader, Des Moines, Iowa Fri. Jan 1, 1897, p. 2, col. 3 and Fri. Jan 7, 1896, p. 14, col. 2
- Obituary -			The Des Moines Register, Iowa Wed. Jan 6, 1897, p. 6, col. 2
- Obituary -			The Dubuque Herald, Dubuque, Iowa Sun. Jan 18, 1897, p. 1, col. 6
- ancestry.com (accessed 21 Aug 2011)			
- FamilySearch.org (accessed 18 May 2012)			
- Portrait -			The original photo is located in the archives at the State of Iowa Historical Library, 606 E. Locust Des Moines, Iowa
- History of Iowa 1904, Vol. II, p. 167			
- The History of Clinton County, Iowa 1879, p. 744-745			
- The United States Biographical Dictionary Iowa Volume 1878, p. 33-34			
- Recollections and Sketches of Adelle Langens and Public Men of Edge Grove by Stiles, 1916, p. 956-951			



Hammond
Feb 26
Pearson's Gallery
DES MOINES, IA.

State of Iowa

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

Des Moines, Nov. 8th, 1871.

Hon. _____

Iowa.

DEAR SIR:

It has been the custom of each House, at the commencement of every session of the General Assembly, to cause to be prepared and published, a table, showing certain statistics in connection with the names of the members thereof. This is usually done in much haste, hence is frequently incorrect; especially in the orthography of names. In order to prevent errors of this kind, and to have the table in print at the commencement of the session, I transmit you this circular, with a request that you will fill up the blanks found below, and return to this office as soon as practical. You will please give the first name in full, and write plainly.

Name... *Nathaniel A. Merrill*
P. O. Address... *De Mo*
County... *Clinton*
Occupation... *Lawyer*
Nativity... *New York*
Married or Single... *married*
Religion...
If in the Service; regiment and rank... *Capt 26th Iowa Infy*
Years in Iowa... *Fifteen*
Age... *Forty Two*
Weight... *240 #*

I send herewith a copy of the rules of last Session of the General Assembly, in which you will see the table above referred to.

Yours truly,

ED WRIGHT,

SECRETARY OF STATE.

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ceremony last evening for John Fletcher Hobbs, the oumalee or king of the cannibal islands of Illika, of the Hebrides group, and Miss Ella Collin, daughter of a New York tailor. Hobbs, who is an American, was shipwrecked off the coast of the Illika islands in 1890, and the natives made him king. He has 30,000 subjects.

CAPT. N. A. MERRILL DEAD.

Clinton County Loses Its Senior Representative.

News reached the city last night of the death of Capt. Nathaniel A. Merrill, one of the oldest attorneys of Clinton county and a member of the Twenty-sixth general assembly, from stomach troubles. He has been a sufferer for some time and of late has been more or less confined to his home at DeWitt. His death occurred at 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

Capt. Merrill was known to everybody in Clinton county and his name is intimately connected with that of the state. He was born in 1829 in Copenhagen, N. Y., and immediately after his admission to the bar, in 1856 he came to DeWitt. He had since lived there, forty years. He was captain of Co. D, 26th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded at Arkansas Post. He was mayor of DeWitt two years, and a member of the house of representatives in the state in its 14th session, and of the state senate the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th sessions. He had always been a Democrat.

He was a leading figure in the meetings of the old settlers of the county. No man will be more keenly missed than Nathaniel A. Merrill.

His wife and two children, Mrs. Will Lee and Miss Emma Merrill, of DeWitt, survive him. The funeral services will probably be held under the auspices of the fraternal societies, of which deceased was a member.

A number of gentlemen will attend the funeral from this city among them will be Hon. George T. Baker and it is probable that Hon. Christ Marti will also attend though he has not been heard from.

AT THE Y. M. C. A.

Open House to the Members and Their Gentlemen Friends.

The Y. M. C. A. kept open house this afternoon to receive the members and

store on day and Brinkm. it, so he in payn brother, had the \$5. He other N pocket. coin wa it was a down a Mrs. Br \$5 bill the two

Amus out for thing n required nineteen vanceme as in sci ager Wi tirely ne season (than ple addition derful dances rich, wi ror effe mous. I most na dances Kelly, th monolog Fadden, imported and othe sist in n the best all is the est impr which p a wonde Fire Re shop," "street scene," "famous Jones," those John G. Jan. 1.

TC George recently crossing Island, t against

enterprises in 1893 forced its abandonment. As planned, it will be 264 miles shorter than any other trans-continental line. McLean claims to be backed by \$32,000,000 of English capital and says the work will be rushed through.

MONEY WAS TOO TIGHT.

Farmers' Trust Company, of Sioux City, in Receiver's Hands.

SIoux CITY, Dec. 31.—On application of W. T. Honsinger, vice-president and a large shareholder in the Farmers' Trust Company, of Sioux City, G. H. Hollister has been appointed receiver for the institution. Tightness of the money market made it impossible for the company to meet its debentures. Receiver Hollister estimates assets of \$238,000 and liabilities \$135,000.

Captain Merrell Dead.

CLINTON, Jan. 1.—Captain N. A. Merrell died at his home in DeWitt, this county, at 9 o'clock. He had been ill some time of stomach trouble. He was long identified with the history of the state, and was a member of an early legislature, as well as of the present one. He was prominent in civic and military affairs, and leaves a wife and two children.

Two Men Held for Murder.

OTTUMWA, Dec. 31.—The preliminary trial of W. M. Franklin, Butler Hazlet and Burt Hazlet, charged with the murder of Joe Wright, at Hickory, resulted in the binding over of Franklin and Butler Hazlet and the acquittal of Burt Hazlet. There was a row in front of Hickory church and Wright was killed with a stone.

Defalcation in Greene County.

JEFFERSON, Dec. 31.—The board of supervisors of Greene county find the county clerk to be \$700 short in his accounts. It seems the board knew of this a year ago, when he was short some \$1,200, but they gave him to the

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stating that Jameson's force has sur-
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his regret that Jameson's dis-
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loss of life and to do his best to se-
cure generous treatment of prisoners
and care of the wounded and tele-
graph the names of the killed and
wounded.

A Job for a Democrat.

DES MOINES, Jan. 3.—Capt. N. A. Merrell of DeWitt has tendered his resignation to Governor Jackson as trustee of the soldiers' home at Marshalltown. Captain Merrell is a member elect of the house of the coming general assembly. The law provides a member of the board of trustees cannot sit in the general assembly. The resignation was sent the governor several days ago, but has been kept quiet because the governor did not want to be annoyed with applications for the place. The position is one of the most important at the disposal of the chief executive. There are six members of the board of trustees, all of whom are appointed for six years, by the governor, with the approval of the senate. No more than four can belong to the same political party and no two can belong to the same congressional district. Captain Merrell is a Democrat. He was appointed by Governor Boies. His term of office would expire May 1, of this year. The appointment will consequently be made for four months only. The commissioners or trustees have the power of appointing the commandant of the home and electing a secretary and treasurer. They draw a per diem for each day actually employed in work for the home, and 10 cents mileage for all trips made in its behalf. In all probability Governor Jackson will appoint a Democrat to fill the vacancy. Captain Merrell being a Democrat it is but natural a member of the same political party will receive it. He must be an ex-union soldier, and possibly may be taken from the Second congressional district, the one in which Captain Merrell resides.

Further News of Jameson.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—Further advices from Cape Town state that Dr. Jameson lost absolutely thirty men in a battle which lasted from three o'clock in the afternoon until eleven o'clock at night. Dr. Jameson led the three principal attacks in which his men distinguished themselves by great gallantry. The afternoon pa-

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ment will not affect the solvency of these companies. The liabilities are \$25,000 and he places his assets at \$155,000. He is also an indorser on his son's note for \$10,000.

New York, Jan. 9.—The Stewart Ceramic company, manufacturers of wash tubs, basins and ceramic ware, assigned today. Capital stock of the company is \$300,000.

A SPECIAL ELECTION.

Governor Calls One to Elect a Successor to the Late N. A. Merrell.

Gov. Drake has issued a proclamation for a special election to be held in Clinton county on Jan. 18, for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Nathaniel A. Merrell, who until his recent death represented the Forty-fifth representative district of Iowa in the general assembly.

Hon. Nathaniel A. Merrell, who was the senior member of the Iowa house of representatives, died at his home in De Witt on the morning of Dec. 31, 1896, of heart disease. He had served three terms in the lower house, in the Fourteenth, Twenty-first and Twenty-sixth general assemblies and in the senate two terms. He was captain in the Twenty-sixth regiment, Iowa infantry, and was severely wounded at the battle of Arkansas Post. He was a member of the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army, and was a commissioner of the Soldiers' Home from its foundation until last year. He was the president of the First National Bank of De Witt. He was a life-long democrat, but voted for McKinley at the last election. He was born in Copenhagen, N. Y., June 26, 1829. He lived in New York until 1856, when he settled in Clinton county.

NEW SPHERE FOR WOMEN.

Mrs. Paul Daniels Appointed Weather Observer at Her Husband's Old Station.

Mrs. Paul Daniels, widow of the late weather observer of the local station, has been appointed observer at Williston, North Dakota, and departed for

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THE UNITED STATES
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

AND

PORTRAIT GALLERY

OF

EMINENT AND SELF-MADE MEN.

IOWA VOLUME.

CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1878.

enterprises for general good, and was for many years a director in the State Agricultural Society, a curator in the State Historical Society, and was its corresponding secretary and editor of its "Annals" for a few years. He was the first, and several years later again elected, president of the State Teachers' Association, and for twenty-five years superintendent of sabbath schools, twelve of which in Iowa City; was for a number of years president of the school board of Muscatine City, and later of Iowa City, and superintendent of schools in Johnson county, Iowa.

He was raised in the old Jefferson-Jackson school of politics, casting his first vote in Iowa in 1838, and ever since has been an able and earnest advocate of its principles.

He became a Mason in March, 1838, and has held the chief offices in all the state bodies subordinate and grand. He has held the position of grand secretary of the grand lodge from the organization of this body, January 1844, save in 1852, when he was grand master, until the present time. In 1859 he was elected active sovereign grand inspector general of the A. and A. rite for Iowa; holds, and has held for a number of years, the office of grand representative of the supreme council of England and Wales, and in 1871 was elected grand recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, and still (1876) holds that office by a succession of reëlections.

He has traveled extensively over the States and Canadas, partially for pleasure, but mostly on scien-

tific and Masonic business, and has attended all the great gatherings of Masonic national bodies since 1855. In religious views, he is a Presbyterian "of the old school of the prophets," being brought up as such from youth.

He was married on the 7th of May, 1843, to Miss Agnes McCully, of Muscatine, Iowa. She is of Scotch descent, and a native of Pennsylvania. They have six children, all living; the eldest and youngest are daughters, and four sons.

Mr. Parvin's works are numerous, to enumerate a list of the titles of which, literary, scientific and Masonic, would far exceed our space. His lectures and writings have been quoted in the journals and works of this country, as well as in Europe, and have thus brought his name prominently to the notice of the world. Sufficient has been said to show that he occupies a very distinguished position; that his life has been spent in a career of usefulness, and that knowledge and honor have been more highly valued by him than gain; and his life presents a wonderful example of how much may be done by one man.

He is very popular among his fraternity, and is a hard worker. Whatever he undertakes, he throws into it his whole energy. As an ardent student he has climbed the hill of knowledge, has been a successful teacher, is eminent as a writer, and has done much in the interest of his order. He ranks high as a promoter of every good work, and has made a record which might satisfy any ordinary ambition.

HON. NATHANIEL A. MERRELL,

DE WITT.

NATHANIEL ANSON MERRELL, twenty-one years a resident of De Witt, Iowa, and a leading attorney at this place, is a native of Lewis county, New York, and was born in the village of Copenhagen, on the 26th of June, 1829. His parents, Seth and Mabel Sanford Merrell, were from Connecticut. His paternal grandfather was in the first war with England, and his father in the second.

When sixteen years of age Nathaniel began to divide his time between farm and literary work, attending some academy and teaching about half the time until twenty-two. At that age he commenced reading law with an elder brother, Eliada S., then

residing at Copenhagen, now a resident of Lowville, and judge of Lewis county. He was admitted to the bar at Watertown, Jefferson county, in July, 1855, and the next spring came to De Witt, here building up a good reputation as an attorney, his professional career being one of marked success. He is a fluent speaker, quite persuasive withal, and in any reasonably just cause carries the jury with him.

Mr. Merrell went into the army in the autumn of 1862, as captain of company D, 26th Iowa Infantry, and was wounded severely at the battle of Arkansas Post, on the 11th of January, 1863.

He was mayor of De Witt two years; was a member of the lower house of the general assembly during the fourteenth session, and of the senate during the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions. In the upper house he was chairman of the committee on public lands, and was on the committees on constitutional amendments, judiciary and agricultural college. In 1877 he was reelected to the senate for the further term of four years, in all ten years.

Mr. Merrell has been a life-long democrat, but does not "give up to party what was meant for mankind"; would not sacrifice his country for any political body. He was an ardent supporter of the

national administration in its efforts to suppress the rebellion.

He was married at Lowville, New York, on the 17th of July, 1855, to Mrs. Mary A. Moman Merrell, then late of Richmond, Kentucky, and widow of his brother. They have three children living, and have lost two.

Mr. Merrell has gray eyes, a ruddy complexion, stands perfectly erect, is six feet in height, and weighs two hundred and fifty pounds. His physique is impressive, his bearing commanding, his address cordial, his manners are easy and pleasant, and his conversational gifts excellent.

HON. WILLIAM W. WILLIAMSON,

DES MOINES.

WILLIAM WARWICK WILLIAMSON, a native of Franklin, Kentucky, was born on the 6th of September, 1821, the son of Tucker Woodson Williamson and Permelia *née* Martin. His paternal grandparents were Thomas and Elizabeth (Reynolds) Williamson; the former was a Methodist minister and one of the pioneers of Kentucky. His maternal grandfather, John Martin, was a Kentucky farmer.

In 1828, when William was eight years old, his mother died, and he lived with his grandmother Williamson until 1834, when his father married his second wife, Miss Caroline Depue, and removed to Orleans, Indiana, and engaged in the mercantile trade. Prior to this time William had attended school at various places, but upon removing to Indiana entered his father's store, where he was engaged for two years. He afterward spent three years on a farm in Orange county, and in 1840 entered Asbury University at Greencastle, Indiana.

He continued his studies for three years, and in the spring of 1843 taught a school for three months. Going thence to Lawrence county, he there had charge of a seminary for more than a year, and at the expiration of that time entered the office of George G. Dunn, Esq., for the purpose of completing his law studies which he had previously begun.

Being admitted to the bar in 1846, he began the practice of his profession at Bedford, Indiana, and continued it with good success until the spring of 1848, when he removed to Fairfield, Iowa. He had intended to settle at Monroe City, the capital, hav-

ing been located there, but the legislature of that year set aside the action locating the capital there, and Mr. Williamson spent eighteen months at the above-named place. Believing that the capital would eventually be located at Fort Des Moines, he removed thither in September, 1849, and established himself in the practice of his profession.

He soon made for himself a fine reputation, and in 1851 was elected prosecuting attorney of Polk county for a term of two years. In 1854 he was elected on the whig ticket judge of the fifth judicial district, which comprised all of western Iowa. After his election had been reported, and his certificate issued by the secretary of state, the election was contested, the contesting board consisting of two democrats and one whig. Poll books were admitted in a questionable, if not fraudulent, manner, and the result was that his election was set aside.

He continued his profession with marked success until 1860, when, by reason of his wife's ill health, he removed his family to San Antonio, Texas. In July, 1861, on account of the civil war which had already opened, he returned to Des Moines and continued his practice until the fall of 1865, when he again went to San Antonio. Such, however, was the state of society, that he returned to Des Moines in the following spring, and opened a law office, admitting into his business, as a partner, Mr. J. M. St. John. By strict attention to business Mr. Williamson had accumulated considerable property, and at this time was in good circumstances. Contrary to his principles, he became surety for a friend who

General
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THE
HISTORY
OF
CLINTON COUNTY,
IOWA,

CONTAINING

A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.,

Biographical Sketches of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers
in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits
of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the
Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Clinton
County, Constitution of the United States,
Miscellaneous Matters, &c., &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1879.

WITHDRAWN
STATE LIBRARY
DES MOINES, IOWA

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

THOMAS LARGE, farmer and stock-raiser; P. O. De Witt; was born in Ireland in 1821. He married Elizabeth Rogers, a native of same country; he came to the United States about 1844; settled in Boston, Mass., and engaged in the boot and shoe business; he came to De Witt in March, 1859, and engaged in the boot and shoe trade; he located on eighty acres of the farm which he now owns in 1860, which he had bought in 1858; he has now 450 acres; is engaged principally in stock-raising. Mrs. Large died in 1864; his present wife was Miss Mary Gorman. Mr. Large has eight children, four by each marriage.

S. LUN, farmer, Sec. 18; P. O. De Witt; was born in New York in 1814; He married, in 1835, Eunice Cass, also of New York; they removed to Scott Co., Iowa, in 1839; settled where they now live in 1840. Mr. Lun has a fine farm of 220 acres, just without the limits of De Witt.

REV. T. McCORMICK, Pastor of St. Simon's Church, De Witt. Father McCormick was born in the State of New York in 1850; he is of Irish parentage; was educated at Niagara Falls; he went to Dubuque in 1874; in 1875, he came to Clinton Co. and took pastoral charge of the church at Center Grove; he came to De Witt in the autumn of 1878. Father McCormick was the founder of St. Patrick's Temperance Society, at Center Grove, organized in 1876; it has connected with it a fine library, also the fruit of his labors; this Society, aided by his faithful labor, has done much to aid the cause of temperance among the people. He is an earnest though quiet worker in the temperance reform, and much good is accomplished wherever his influence is felt. He has organized a school in connection with his church at De Witt, which is now in a flourishing condition; in this school he now employs three teachers; it has an enrollment of over one hundred pupils.

JAMES McKAY, engaged in drilling wells, selling pumps and wind-mills, De Witt; born in 1832; came to De Witt in 1865; he sells the Barnes Pump, manufactured at Maquoketa, Iowa, also the Rockford Pump, and is agent for the Wind-Mill Co. at Freeport, Ill.; has followed his present occupation for eleven years. His wife is a native of Canada; has nine children, two sons and seven daughters.

ALANSON McLAUGHLIN, carpenter and farmer; P. O. De Witt; born in Mercer Co., Penn., in 1830. Married, January, 1856, Nancy Bates, a native of Crawford Co., Penn.; born in 1835. They came to De Witt in the spring of 1856, where Mr. McLaughlin worked at his trade until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Co. H, 26th I. V. I.; served till close of war; was in all the battles in which his regiment took part; was wounded at Arkansas Post. At the close of the war, he returned to De Witt, and resumed his trade, which he continued till 1873, when he exchanged his property in De Witt for the farm he now owns. Has six children—Eugene F., Laura E., Carrie J., Wandy L., Claude and Maud (twins). His parents, Henry and Laura McLaughlin, came to De Witt in the spring of 1870. His father died in July, 1872; his mother resides with her son.

JAMES S. MAYES, farmer, Sec. 14; P. O. De Witt; was born in Harrison Co., Ohio, Sept. 21, 1835; he came to De Witt Township in the spring of 1860. He married, in 1865, Sarah Ann Barrett, whose parents, Wm. and Ann Campbell, came to Clinton Co. in 1853.

NATHANIEL A. MERRELL, attorney, De Witt; born in the village of Copenhagen, Lewis Co., N. Y., in 1829. His parents, Seth and Mabel Sanford Merrell, were from Connecticut. His paternal grandfather was a soldier of the Revolution; his father was a soldier in the second war with England. From the time he was 16 years of age until 22, he divided his time between farming, teaching and attending school; he then began the study of law with an elder brother, Eliada S., who was then residing at Copenhagen, now a resident of Lowville, and Judge of Lewis Co.; he was admitted to the bar at Watertown, Jefferson Co., July, 1855, and the next spring came to De Witt and worked up a good reputation as an attorney; his professional career has been one of marked success; he is a fluent speaker, and, in any reasonably just cause, carries the jury with him. Mr. Merrell entered the army in the fall of 1862, as Captain of Co. D., 26th I. V. I.; he was severely wounded at the battle

of Arkansas Post, Jan. 11, 1863. He was Mayor of De Witt two years, and a member of the Lower House of the General Assembly during its fourteenth session, and of the Senate during the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions. He has been a life-long Democrat, but does not "give up to party what was meant for mankind." He was an earnest supporter of the administration in its efforts to suppress the rebellion. He married at Lowville, N. Y., July 17, 1855, Mrs. Mary A. Momam Merrell, the widow of his brother; they have three children living; have lost two.

MELVIN MORTON, engaged in general draying and expressing business, De Witt; born in Ontario, Canada, in 1849; his parents, Lowell and Emily Morton, removed to Michigan about 1854; they came to De Witt about 1858; his father died in the army during the rebellion; his mother, now Mrs. Robinson, resides in Cedar Rapids. Mr. Morton has been engaged in his present business in De Witt for twelve years. He married Miss Dolly M. F. Familton, of De Witt; she was born in Ohio; her parents were early settlers of this county; they have one son—Lowell W.

MRS. ANN E. NEVILLE, widow of the late George W. Neville; resides in Sec. 21; Mrs. Neville was born in Berks Co., Penn., in 1810. She married, in 1832, Mr. George Neville, who was born in Maryland, then a resident of Philadelphia; they came to De Witt Township in the fall of 1837; has resided where she does since 1841; has had eight children, five living—Mrs. Rosaltha Cassey, William Lewis L., Winfield S. and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Smith; Mrs. Isabella L. Browning died July 15, 1857, leaving one daughter, now Mrs. T. W. Grear; two others, Anna and Charles, died in infancy. Mr. Neville died June 14, 1864.

REV. DAVID NICOLL, Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, De Witt. Mr. Nicoll was born in the town of Andes, Delaware Co., N. Y., in 1841; he entered Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, in 1861. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Knapp's Pennsylvania Battery; was wounded at Wahatchie Valley Oct. 28, 1863; from that time till the close of the war, was employed in the Provost Marshal's office in New York City; was discharged May 19, 1865. In September, 1865, returned to Jefferson College; Jan. 1, 1866, he entered Monmouth College, Ill., graduating June, 1867; he graduated at the Theological Seminary, Monmouth, March, 1869; in November of the same year, was ordained, and installed Pastor of the U. P. Church, of De Witt. Married, Jan. 16, 1870, Isabella F. Brown, a native of Bovina, Delaware Co., N. Y.; has four children—Wm. A., Thomas E., Geo. D. and Mary. The U. P. Church at De Witt was organized Sept. 8, 1855, with sixteen members. The Elders were John Barrett and James Bartlett; in June, 1856, the Rev. R. S. Campbell became the first Pastor; remained till April, 1868; he was succeeded by the present Pastor in January, 1870. In 1861, nine members of the Church enlisted in the army—John Barrett, John Henderson, D. J. Cranston, J. A. Hyde, W. H. Hyde, James Barnes, John F. Beard and James V. Patterson. Of these, but one, D. J. Cranston, survived till the end of the war, and he lost a leg at the battle of Chattanooga, in 1863; the others were killed in battle or died of disease while in the service. The Church has now ninety members. The members of Session are James Bartlett, N. T. Baird, Robert McClenahan, J. D. Buchanan and J. S. Mayes.

CHARLES M. NYE, attorney at law, De Witt; born in Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1828; he came to Davenport, Iowa, in 1856, to De Witt in 1858; he went to California, Moniteau Co., Mo., the same year, and engaged in the practice of law. He returned to De Witt in 1862, and enlisted in the 26th I. V. I.; was elected Captain of Co. H; was promoted to Major in 1863; he served a year and a half, resigning on account of ill-health. He soon after engaged in the practice of his profession in De Witt. His first wife was Miss Anna Rodgers; left one child—Charles A.; his present wife was Emma C. Lowe, of De Witt; they have two children—Martha W. and George; has lost one child—James B.

A. G. OATMAN, retired farmer, De Witt; was born in Middletown, Rutland Co., Vt., in 1829; his parents, Ira and Lovica Oatman, removed to St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., about 1827; his mother died in 1834; he returned to Vermont and lived in the family of his mother's brother until he was of age; he went to Wisconsin in the

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HISTORY OF IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FOUR VOLUMES

12
35

BY BENJAMIN F. GUE

*Illustrated with Photographic Views of the Natural Scenery of
the State, Public Buildings, Pioneer Life, Etc.*

WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN OF IOWA

VOLUME IV
IOWA BIOGRAPHY



SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA

THE CENTURY HISTORY COMPANY
41 LAFAYETTE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

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of the college farm and secretary of the board of trustees. In 1865 he was appointed by President Lincoln, United States Marshal for Iowa. In 1871 he was reappointed for four years by President Grant. He was instrumental in 1865 in securing the location of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Cedar Falls and was one of ten citizens to purchase forty acres of land on which the home was located. In 1864 he was a delegate to the National Republican Convention which renominated President Lincoln and was one of the committee sent to Washington to notify the President of his nomination. Mr. Melendy was for five years president of the State Agricultural Society and also served as vice-president, marshal and treasurer. He was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee in the Grant campaign of 1868 and was a delegate to the Chicago National Republican Convention which nominated Grant and Colfax. He was a member of the board of trustees of the State Agricultural College for fourteen years and one of the most influential promoters of that institution. In 1866 he was a member of the committee to visit and examine into the working and plans of the various Agricultural Colleges of the country, report a plan for organization, and select suitable persons for president and members of the faculty. In 1879 Mr. Melendy was appointed agent for the Quartermaster's Department of the United States to adjust claims arising out of the war and served in Tennessee until 1886. After his return to Cedar Falls his old neighbors insisted on making him mayor of the city which had been his home for nearly half a century. He died on the 18th of October, 1901.

NATHANIEL A. MERRILL was born in Copenhagen, Lewis County, New York, in 1829. He was reared on a farm, attending the common schools winters and assisting in the work of the farm during summers. He taught several terms and then studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1855 and the following spring removed to Iowa, locating at De Witt, then the county-seat of Clinton. He soon acquired a good practice but when the Civil War began he raised a company and entered the service as captain of Company D, Twenty-sixth Regiment of Infantry. He was severely wounded at the Battle of Arkansas Post. Mr. Merrill was mayor of De Witt two years, was a Democratic member of the House of the Fourteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-sixth General Assemblies and a member of the Senate of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth General Assemblies. He took a prominent part in the revision of the Code of 1873. Mr. Merrill was a commissioner of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home and president of the First National Bank of De Witt for several years. He died at his home in De Witt on the 31st of December, 1896.

SAMUEL MERRILL, seventh Governor of the State, was born in Oxford County in the State of Maine on the 7th of August, 1822. He

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Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

Belonging to the First and Second
Generations, with Anecdotes and
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

By

EDWARD H. STILES

For many years a member of the Iowa Bar; member of its House of Representatives, 1863-1864; member of its Senate, 1865-1866; Reporter of its Supreme Court, 1867-1875; author of Complete Digest of its Decisions from the earliest Territorial period to the 56th Iowa Reports.

"In old age alone we are masters of a treasure of which we cannot be eprived, the only treasure we can call our own. The pleasures of memory and the retrospect of the varied images which in an active life have floated before the mind, compensate, and more than compensate, for the alternate pleasures and cares of active life."—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

"Personal anecdotes, when characteristic, greatly enliven the pages of a biography."—SAMUEL SMILES.

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porations, and was frequently employed in cases involving their construction. For many years he was the legal representative at Clinton of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, and of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. He had a wide and lucrative practice.

He was a native of Ohio, born in 1827. In his veins he carried the blood of the Revolution. His grandfather, Silas Bailey, was an officer in the Colonial Army. From the biblical names given, they must have been a religious people, for the Major's first name, I am told, was Eli, his father's Jacob, and his grandfather's Silas. Great pains were taken in the education of Major Bailey in his youth. He was well tutored in the preparatory schools and graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1849. He studied law under James W. Nye, afterwards the distinguished Governor of Nevada, and its United States Senator, was admitted to the bar of New York, in 1855, came West the following year, settled at Dewitt, Clinton County, Iowa, and entered upon the practice. Four years afterwards he removed to Janesville, Wisconsin, engaging and continuing in the practice there until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a soldier in a Wisconsin regiment, was commissioned Major, and afterwards Lieutenant Colonel. Though entitled to the latter rank, he was always perfectly content to be called Major Bailey.

In 1860 he returned to Clinton County, settling at Clinton, where he remained, and died when but little past his prime, at the age of sixty-five, in 1892.

He was a Republican in politics, and though not a partisan, frequently attended the State Conventions of that party. The last time I had the pleasure of seeing him was at the State Convention which nominated Buren R. Sherman for Governor, in 1883. He was appointed by the President of the Convention, David B. Henderson, of Dubuque, as one of the committee to notify and escort Governor Sherman to the stage or platform. I hope to again meet him in the Elysian Fields.

Nathaniel A. Merrell was one of the early lawyers of Clinton County, and for many years a prominent one in that part of the State. He was conspicuous, both as a lawyer and a law maker, and left a deep impression upon the laws and jurisprudence of the commonwealth. He was a prominent leader in the Democratic Party, a man of force and high character. Despite the generally prevailing Republican majority, he was frequently chosen to represent his constituency in the State Legislature. In the fall of 1871 he was elected to the House of the Fourteenth General Assembly. In the fall of 1873 he was elected to the Senate and served in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth General Assemblies. In the fall of 1877 he was elected and served in the Senate of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth General Assemblies. At the close of his Senatorial service in the fall of 1883, he was elected to the House and served in the Twentieth General Assembly. In the fall of 1895 he was elected again to the House and served in the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly.

Through this long experience he became conversant with the course of legislation. He took a prominent part and materially aided in the work of revising the Code of 1873. During his legislative service he was regarded as an acknowledged leader and representative of his party, and he well deserved this confidence. Political considerations, however, did not influence whatever his legislative work; he was far above that; his views were statesman-like, broad, just and practical.

In the politics of the State at large, he was looked up to as a leader worthy of being followed. He had great influence in party councils, and had his party been in the ascendancy throughout the State, he would have received its highest public honors. He was well calculated to be a leader, for, in addition to his natural sagacity, and practical wisdom, he had a commanding and inspiring personality. He was robust, erect, tall, with an open face and fresh complexion, that carried a magnetic influence. His old friend, E. H. Thayer, editor of the Clinton Age, thus wrote of him on the occasion of his death:

No prominent man in Iowa politics was ever more popular with the masses. He was one of those big-hearted men whom everybody loved and respected. To his friends he was as true as the needle to the pole. A noble man, broad gauged and great, he has gone to enjoy the reward which such men are promised in the "book of books."

As a lawyer, he exhibited the qualities of an able and successful one. He was a forceful advocate, strong, persuasive and had great influence with a jury. As a counselor, his advice might be confidentially relied upon.

He was born in Lewis County, New York, in 1829, reared on his father's farm, subsequently taught school, studied law with his brother, Eliada S. Merrell, a prominent lawyer and judge of Lewis County, was admitted to the New York Bar in 1855, and in the following spring came to Clinton County, settling at Dewitt, where he continued to reside until his death. He was of New England and Revolutionary stock. His parents were natives of Connecticut, who went from that State to New York. His paternal grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and his father, a soldier in the War of 1812.

At the legislative session of 1896, he was one of its most active and laborious members, and it was thought that his great exertion in that body impaired his health, which gave way and he died at the close of that year, at the age of sixty-seven. The last time I saw him was while he was a member of the House in 1884.

For much of the particular data embraced in this sketch, I am indebted to the notice in the "Clinton Age," hereinbefore referred to.

A. J. Leffingwell was a brother of the highly distinguished William Leffingwell, whose sketch will elsewhere be found. He was born at Sag Harbor, Long Island, in 1832, and when seven years of age, in 1839, came with his parents to Muscatine County. He was educated in the public schools of that County, and in

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Merrill, Nathaniel A

War

Residence

Battles, etc.

Occupation Attorney

Nearest relatives

Date birth 26 Je 1829 Place Copenhagen, N.Y.

Father

Nativity

Date death D 31 1896 Place De Witt, Iowa

Mother

Nativity

Cause Elmwood Cemetery Place burial De Witt, Ia

Wife

War record

Capt D 26 Iowa Inf.

Children

Rank Company Regiment State Organization

Age 33 Res. DeWitt

Emma De Witt, Iowa

Enlisted Apptd. Capt. 11 Ag 1862

Mrs. Will Lee

Date

Place

Mrs. Robb

Resigned 18 Ap 1863

Discharged

Date

Place

Sources Roster Iowa Soldiers: Merrell,
Nathaniel A. / Ex. Soldiers living
Ia. 1886: Merrell, N.A. - De Witt.
Graves Reg. : Kingsley News Ja 7, 1897-
died Jan 7, 1897.
born Merrill as Merrill

Department of Iowa
Grand Army of the Republic

Veteran's name Merrill, Nathaniel A

Record Membership and Dues Paid

Offices of honor in G. A. R.

Post name
N.B. Howard

Post No.
92 (30)

Place
DeWitt

Date Joined
26 D '82
age 52

Year Date Paid

Amount

Year

Date Paid

Amount

Member-at-Large

Post #92 Desc Book: age 52; Attorney; Died
D 31 1896

Year

Date Paid

Amount

Suspended

Died

You searched for **Nathaniel A. Merrell** in **Iowa**

U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles

Name: **Nathaniel A Merrell**
Residence: **DeWitt, Iowa**
Age at
enlistment: **33**
Enlistment
Date: **8 Nov 1862**
Rank at
enlistment: **Captain**
State Served: **Iowa**
Was Wounded?: **Yes**
Survived the
War?: **Yes**
Service Record: **Commissioned an officer in [Company D, Iowa](#)
[26th Infantry Regiment](#) on 30 Sep 1862.
Mustered out on 18 Apr 1863.**
Birth Date: **abt 1829**
Sources: **Roster & Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of
Rebellion**

Source Information:

Historical Data Systems, comp.. *U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.
Original data: Data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA from the [following list of works](#).

Copyright: 1997-2009
Historical Data Systems, Inc.
PO Box 35
Duxbury, MA 02331.

Description:

This database is a compilation of military records (including state rosters, pension records, and regimental histories) of individual soldiers who served in the United States Civil War. [Learn more...](#)

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Ancestry.com

1870 United States Federal Census

Name: **Nathaniel Merrill**
Age in 1870: **42**
Birth Year: **abt 1828**
Birthplace: **New York**
Home in 1870: **De Witt, Clinton, Iowa**
Race: **White**
Gender: **Male**
Post Office: **Camanche**
Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Nathaniel Merrill	42
	Mary A Merrill	45
	John Merrill	19
	Addie Merrill	11
	Emma Merrill	9
	Stella Merrill	1
	Maria Cahil	25

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: De Witt, Clinton, Iowa; Roll: M593_384; Page: 215B; Image: 435; Family History Library Film: 545883.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database online]. 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...](#)



You searched for **N. A. Merrell** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name: **N A Merrell**
 Birth Year: **abt 1829**
 Birth Place: **New York**
 Gender: **Male**
 Race: **White**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Census Date: **1885**
 Residence state: **Iowa**
 Residence County: **Clinton**
 Locality: **De Witt**
 Roll: **IA1885_169**
 Line: **1**
 Family Number: **240**
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	N A Merrell	56
	Mary Menell	59
	Addie F Menell	25
	Emma F Menell	23
	Estella L Menell	15

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.
 Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.

Description:

This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration. [Learn more...](#)

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IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

Nathaniel A. Merrill[Pedigree](#)

Male

Event(s):**Birth:** 26 JUN 1829 Jefferson, Schoharie, New York**Christening:****Death:** 31 DEC 1896**Burial:**

Parents:**Father:** [Seth Merrill](#)[Family](#)**Mother:** [Mabel Sanford](#)

Messages:

Record submitted by a member of the LDS Church. The record often shows the name of the individual and his or her relationship to a descendant, shown as the heir, family representative, or relative. The original records are not indexed, and you may have to look at the film frame-by-frame to find the information you want. A family group record for this couple may be in the Family Group Record Collection; Archive Section. (See the Family History Library Catalog for the film number.) These records are alphabetical by name of the father or husband.

Source Information:**Film Number:** [537751](#)**Page Number:****Reference number:**

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