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Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Dodge,
William Wallace - Represented Des Moines County Iowa

1. Birthday and place 25 April 1854 Burlington, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place
Sella J.

3. Significant events for example:
A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th General Assemblies 1886, 1888,
1890, 1892

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death _____

8. Children William H.; Louis A.

9. Names of parents Augustus C.

Dodge, William Wallace

10. Education _____

11. Degrees Notre Dame University
Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa graduate of law school
in 1876

12. Other applicable information Democrat

He began practicing law in Burlington, Iowa

to the bar in 1873, and has been engaged in a large practice ever since. A portion of the time he was in partnership with Judge Hubbard, and later his firm was Hubbard, Clarke & Deacon. Mr. Deacon is a very close and industrious student of the law, an invaluable office associate, and is fully at home in the trial of cases in court. He is a man of most excellent character and is well appreciated, not only in his own county and district, but also throughout the state.

William W. Dodge, a native of Iowa and a son of Senator A. C. Dodge and grandson of Senator Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, was educated at Notre Dame, and graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University in 1876 with distinguished honors. He commenced the practice at once in Burlington and has maintained a very excellent and extended practice ever since. In 1884 he was elected to the state senate, in which he became a leading member and served with such efficiency that his constituents elected him to a second term, wherein he served with equal ability, fidelity and distinction. It is enough to say of Mr. Dodge that he has maintained the reputation of his distinguished ancestors and of the state of his birth.

Williard L. Eaton was born in New York, but removed with his parents to Osage, Iowa, when quite young. He is thoroughly educated, being a graduate of the Cedar Valley Seminary and of the law department of the Iowa State University, class of 1872. He began the practice shortly after his graduation from the law department and has continued it with decided ability, fidelity and success. He has served as county attorney and as representative of his county in the house of the Twenty-seventh general assembly. Mr. Eaton is a man of very decided superior abilities, and with a liberal literary education and a thorough legal course, it is not strange that, with his industry and excellent character, he should have attained, as he

Eldora, and aided in introducing a more humane discipline into that Institution. He was an ardent friend of young people and constantly aided them in their struggles for education.*

His habits were exemplary, he discountenanced the drink habit by consistent example, and looked to the invigoration of men's moral sense for the suppression of intemperance; not to prohibitory legislation.

At meetings of pioneers and old settlers he was an honored guest, and never wearied in commemorating their exploits and labors. He presided over the Semi-Centennial Celebration of the settlement of Iowa on the 1st day of June, 1883, at Burlington, and gave surpassing dignity and zest to that occasion. It was a sight which can never be looked upon again, to see that illustrious pioneer of Iowa, at the age of more than three score and ten, pour forth from his capacious, accurate and ready memory treasures of information concerning the beginnings of the Commonwealth. He seemed as if inspired with a religious zeal to snatch from oblivion the memory of our founders for the instruction of after times.

He had been a man of sorrows as well as successes. His only brother, Capt. Henry L. Dodge, after having been Sheriff of Iowa County, Wisconsin, an officer in the Black Hawk War and United States Agent for the Navajos, was captured and burned at the stake by Indians in New Mexico. Four of his seven sisters had died; one of them, the wife of the Territorial Governor, James Clark, who, with her husband and son, perished in the cholera epidemic of 1850. Of his own family, he had lost three daughters and two sons in early life. Of his remaining children, two have passed away since his death, leaving as his sole descendant, his son, William W. Dodge, a lawyer of Los Angeles, California, and three promising grandsons, children of the latter.* * With almost unbounded opportunities along the line to have become rich, he died poor. In these times of commercial greed and political plunder, to turn the back upon so many opportunities, makes poverty an ornament. He gave his time and services to his country, and turned his face against using his offices as means of speculation. He served as Register of the United States Land Office, when opportunities for speculative gain were open, and laid down

* Note—Among the floral offerings at his funeral was one from the children of the North Hill Public School, accompanied by the following touching note which throws a strong sidelight on the character of this lovely old man:

"For many years past General Dodge has been in the habit of visiting North Hill School at least once a year; and on such occasions interesting its pupils with reminiscences of his long and eventful life, and also counseling and advising them in regard to their future, and now that his voice is hushed in death and we nevermore shall hear his kind admonitions, we desire to express our great sorrow, and to tender his bereaved family the united sympathies of our young hearts. We also as a last token of our regard send for this sad occasion a design of beautiful flowers—faint emblems of the loveliness and purity of the great life now lost to us forever.—Teachers and Pupils of North Hill School."

**Note—William W. Dodge inherited many of the traits of his illustrious father. He was born at Burlington in 1854. He was a graduate of the Notre Dame University of Indiana and of the Law Department of the Iowa State University. He commenced practice at Burlington. He was frequently a delegate to Democratic State Conventions and a Delegate at Large to the Democratic National Convention that resulted in the second nomination of Grover Cleveland for the Presidency.

his staff at the end as poor as when he entered, and without the smell of smoke upon his garments. A poor man, he was three times elected to the National House of Representatives, and twice to the United States Senate, without the aid of money to boost his claims or bribe Legislators. A poor man, he was appointed on his merits Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain. With what distinction to himself and honor to his country, he served, we have seen.

The death of no public man during my day has caused so spontaneous an outburst of veneration and regret as flowed from the Iowa Press. The majority of these newspapers had been the political enemies of General Dodge throughout all the years, and yet, from friend and foe alike came the unstinted tribute of veneration for his memory and for his services to the State.

The following from the pen of the gifted and lamented Samuel Clark, of the "Gate City," one of the foremost Republican papers of the State, and which had always opposed General Dodge politically, may be taken as a sample of the others:

I remember that about six or seven years ago, the late James B. Howell, who had been a leader and fighter in the great anti-slavery contest, and who had hurled a political broadside at General Dodge, said to me: "One thing can be said of General Dodge: he has been all his life as honest a man as ever lived." That was his noblest trait, but he had many others. He was brave and gentle, kind and courteous, of unsullied purity and of unflinching graciousness to all he met. His manners were like a benediction. He was a gentleman, and put a splendid nobility and exaltation into his personal and social intercourse. His faults were his party's; his virtues were his own. And these made for him a splendid monument in the hearts and memories of all that knew him.

An eloquent eulogium upon his life and public services was pronounced before both Houses of the General Assembly of Iowa by Hon. B. J. Hall on the 21st of March, 1884.

He was born a hundred years ago. He lived through the most eventful period of the world's history. He had come to be the most striking figure in the State and one of the most so in the whole nation. In him were embodied in a sense, the principal events of Iowa's entire history. He had been a leader in its affairs for a longer period than any other man.

In 1885, he was elected to the State Senate from Des Moines County, and by re-election, served in the Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth General Assemblies, a rather unusual occurrence in the consecutive senatorial service of the State. He was an influential member, took a leading part in legislation and was the author of several important measures, among which was the Bill prohibiting the employment of children under fifteen years of age in factories, workshops and mines, and the one making the first Monday in September a holiday to be known as Labor Day. He built up a successful law practice in Burlington and attained an excellent standing in his profession, but on account of impaired health determined to remove to the more favorable climate of Los Angeles, where he engaged in the practice and soon became well and favorably known in the profession.

I omitted to say that he was one of the two members selected by the Senate to investigate charges made against the administration of the State University; and that in 1890 he was appointed on the staff of Governor Boies with the rank of Colonel.