

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Knight, William J. Senator Knight, William J.
Representative Dubuque County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 3 Mar 1832 Kilkenny, Ireland

2. Marriage (s) date place

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1857 at age 19; held numerous positions of honor and trust in the political and financial world

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Attorney; district attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad for 40 years; legal adviser for the marshes of New-Melheray Abbey and for Sisters of Charity

4. Church membership Catholic

5. Sessions served 18th General Assembly 1880 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 21st, 22nd General Assemblies 1886, 1888 - Senate

A. Local Elected mayor of Dubuque in 1869 and again in 1878; member of Board of Education for several years;

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 23 Feb 1908 Dubuque, Iowa

8. Children James E.; Frank W.; Mrs. Emil Kien; Mary

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education Educated by a private tutor

11. Degrees Attended Kilkenny College in Kilkenny, Ireland

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He came to America with his parents at age 14, settling at
Dubuque, Iowa
- In 1855 he was a student in the law office of Jeffrey M.
Griffith where he was a successful student. In 1857 at age
19, he was admitted to the bar.
- He stayed with Mr. Griffith, Sr. attracted by his unusual
ability. He stayed as a junior member of the firm until
Mr. Griffith, Sr. died in 1882.
- He then began to practice alone

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W. J. KNIGHT DEAD

**PROMINENT ATTORNEY PASSES
TO GREAT BEYOND.**

End Came Sunday Afternoon At
Family Residence On Main Street
Dubuque Bar Loses a
Brilliant Member.

The death of Attorney W. J. Knight, one of the oldest and most able members of the Dubuque bar, and for many years an important figure in the political and financial history of the city, occurred at the family residence, 1397 Main street, at 1:25 Sunday afternoon. Mr. Knight had been in falling health for the past three months, but his illness did not assume a serious aspect until last Tuesday. Since that time he sank rapidly and Saturday all hopes for his recovery were abandoned, and Sunday afternoon he passed peacefully away surrounded by his children.

W. J. Knight was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, March 3, 1838. He received his early instruction and education under a private tutor and later entered Kilkenny college in his native city. As a mere youth his remarkable aptitude in his studies attracted attention. When fourteen years of age he came to American with his parents and settled in Dubuque.

Lawyer at Nineteen.

In 1855 he became a student in the law office of Jeffry M. Griffith, where he was most successful in his studies, and in 1857, when only nineteen years old, he was admitted to the bar. During the time he was in the office of Mr. Griffith his unusual ability attracted the notice of the elder attorney, who took young Knight into partnership. He continued in the position of junior member of this prominent legal firm until the death of Mr. Griffith in 1882. Since that time Mr. Knight had continued the practice of law alone. He held numerous positions of honor and trust in the political and financial world.

Mayor of Dubuque.

In 1869 he was elected mayor of Dubuque, and again in 1878 he was

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Mayor of Dubuque.

In 1869 he was elected mayor of
Dubuque, and again in 1878 he was
elected to the same office. In 1880
he was elected a member of the legis-
lature and in 1885 elected state sena-
tor. He also served as a member of
the board of education for several
years. For forty years he held the
important position of district attorney
for the Illinois Central railroad. He
was also legal adviser for the monks
of New Melleray abbey and for the
Sisters of Charity.

Was Remarkable Man.

In many respects W. J. Knight was
a remarkable man. His great ability
as a lawyer was conceded by all, and
his force, fearlessness and learning
was admitted by all coming in con-
tact with him. Absolute inde-
pendence of character was his, and at
all times he displayed courage that
was unflinching. As a politician and
a citizen he was always the same;
fearless, aggressive, asking no quar-
ter, but pursuing the tenor of his way
regardless of public or private criti-
cism. His mind was unusually active
and his perceptions keen, and when
he entered into the preparations of a
case he never dismissed it from his
mind until he had studied and inves-
tigated all the law bearing relating
to the subject. In his death the Du-
buque bar loses one of its most
brilliant members.

In religion Mr. Knight was a Cath-
olic, and for many years was a mem-
ber of St. Patrick's parish. Four
children survive him. They are:
James E., Frank H., Mrs. Emil Kiene
and Miss Mary.

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