

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Rustad, Simon Simonsen Senator _____

Represented Kinnabago, Hancock, and North Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 9 Jan 1826 Lillehammer, Norway

2. Marriage (s) date place

Anne Magdalene Eliassdatter Nilsson 9 Mar 1852 Christiania, Norway

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President and secretary of the Northwood Creamery; president of the
Kinnabago Mutual Insurance Association

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership Lutheran

5. Sessions served 21st General Assembly 1896

6. Public Offices

A. Local Township clerk; Justice of the Peace; school director

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 20 May 1894 Northwood, Iowa; buried East Shell Rock Cemetery, Northwood,

8. Children Bergette (Mrs. J. M. Anderson died 15 Nov 1881); Sam Simonsen; Pauline;
Edward; Henry; Christian; Ann Elizabeth; Oscar; Maria Charlotte Egniel; Julia

9. Names of parents Simon Siverson and Ragnild Olasdatter (Overjorstad) Rustad

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

Republican

- He became fatherless at age 12 and so began life for himself. He went to Christiania, Norway and learned the cooper's trade.
- After marriage, he and his wife left for America on 1 May 1852, arriving in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin on 10 Jul 1852. There they remained until spring 1854.
- They arrived in North County, Iowa in June 1854 where they settled on government land in Northwood Township. They lived there the remainder of their years.
- His wife, Anna, died 6 Aug 1903, she is also buried in South Shell Rock Cemetery, Northwood, Iowa.
- He gave land from his farm for the Shell Rock Cemetery.
- He was the second man to permanently settle in North County, Iowa coming in June 1854 and lived there until his death.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-			Obituary - <u>The North County Index, Northwood, Iowa,</u> <u>Thurs. May 24, 1894, p. 4, col 5</u>
-			<u>The Semi-Centennial Anniversary of Northwood Iowa 1907, p. 4</u>
-			<u>History of Mitchell and North Counties Iowa 1884, p. 838</u>
-			ancestry.com (accessed 6 Nov 2010)
-			findagrave.com (accessed 6 Nov 2010)

D FAREWELL.

a pleasant call from

irling made a brief
Glenville last week.

jo e enjoyed his
Albert Lea, Satur-

returned Saturday
friends at Owatonna,

lladay and Warren
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on Chas. Williams
Rockford on busi-
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n and wife and Mrs.
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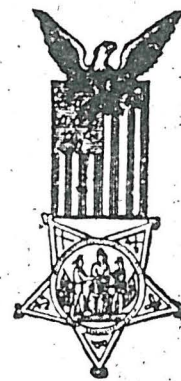
er of Waterloo will
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the evening will con-
ori services at the

st. Miss Lillie Low
brother Oscar to Lon-
re the Sounder
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roomsman.

A PIONEER GONE.

As the Lutheran bell commenced tolling, Sunday morning, a great many Northwood people said, "I wonder if that is for Uncle Simon Rustad?" or, "Poor Mr. Rustad, I'm afraid that bell is tolling for him." And it was amid expressions of universal and profoundest sorrow that their fears were confirmed. At the joining of the weeks, as the closing day of the week of toil made way for the sacred Sabbath of rest, the long earthly life of the sturdy pioneer passed, as we may well believe, to the eternal life of heavenly rest and peace.

Simon Rustad was born at Lillehammer, Norway, January 9, 1826. His childhood was one of but few advantages; he became fatherless at the age of 12 years and began life for himself. Going to Christiania, as a hard-working apprentice he learned the copper-smith's trade, at which he worked as long as he remained in Norway. At Christiania, on March 9, 1852, he was married to Anna M. Nelson who was a little more than two years his senior, and who survives him. It may almost be said that the bridal journey of Mr. and Mrs. Rustad was the voyage across the Atlantic, for on May 1, 1852, they left Christiania for this country, going first to Rock Prairie, Wis., where they arrived on July 10th and remained until the spring of 1854, when they started by team for Iowa. They arrived in Worth county in June following, and "took up government land," settling on the northwest quarter of section 31, Northwood township, making there a home which they never changed, or wished to change, till they should change it for the heavenly. Their home and estate was beautiful for situation, and there they toiled and prospered. There as the many years rolled by, eight of their nine children were born to them, and those eight—five sons and three daughters, still survive. Betsy, the eldest child, born January 23, 1843, in Rock county, Wisconsin, died the wife of Mr. J. M. Henderson, November 15, 1881. Mr. Rustad's life in Worth county covered almost its entire history, and he was from first to last an important factor therein. Being a man who liked public business and who won the confidence and respect of his neighbors and acquaintances, he was early initiated into the public service, holding such minor offices as township clerk, justice of the peace, school director, and in turn almost every other local office of his township, being efficient in every position and true to every trust. In 1886 and '87 he represented the Worth-Winnebago-and-Hancock district in the State Legislature, and by his sterling qualities of moral, level-headed sense he won the respect and esteem of all whose esteem



FOR MEMORIAL DAY.

Decoration Day with all its sacred memories will be duly observed in Northwood, as it should be everywhere throughout this broad land. Here, the first or preparatory service will be a union Memorial meeting in the Methodist Episcopal church, the chief address on that occasion being made by Rev. M. J. Sigler, a prominent and eloquent Baptist divine of Waterloo. On Wednesday, May 30th, Post Rendall, the band, Northwood Lodge, No. 280, A. O. U. W. and such other societies and bodies as purpose taking part in the procession, will assemble in their respective places at 1:30 p. m. The procession will form on Main street at 2 p. m. and march to the cemetery where the graves of our honored dead will be wreathed with flowers. There will be appropriate singing, and the Grand Army's beautiful ritual. After the march back to town the concluding services will be held at Northwood Park, as follows:

Music—Medley War Songs. Northwood Cor. Band
Reading of Order. Adjutant I. M. Bolton
Music—Dirge: "Memories of the Dead". Band
Prayer. Rev. J. G. Johnson
Music—"Jesus Lover of My soul".

Double Quartette
Address of Welcome. Commander L. Fletcher
Music—"Oh for a Thousand Tongues".

Double Quartette
Address. Rev. J. B. Smith
Music—"Wake the Song". Double Quartette
Benediction. Rev. J. G. Johnson
Music—"Randall Post, No. 112". Band

THE PARK CONCERT.

Below we give the program for the band concert in the park next Saturday evening:

1. March: "W. M. B."—Hall.
2. Waltz: "New York Prize Baby"—Brooke.
3. Shottische: "Darkie's Dream"—Lansing.
4. "Danse Characteristic"—Perkins.
5. Selection: "College Potpourri"—Bebe.
6. March: "Manhattan Beach"—Souza.

KENSETT KOININGS.

Quite a change in the weather from last week.

Bert Butler came home from Forest City Saturday.

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e of her brother, Squire
she will make a good
visit in this part of
age.

William Todd of Bris-
topped briefly in North-
and coming from Cedar
stin, where they spent
ol days from Thursday
relatives.

owe returned yesterday
Nora Springs where she
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ell is one who has made
chool of experience, but
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it now of Brownsville,
was a pleasant caller
t week. He came over
of bringing home his
r, Mrs. R. Wiggins of
o had been staying with
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erson and Matt Fran-
latter's brother-in-law,
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ell & Bros are pre-
small-sized ship canals,
nd dispatch. See their
rein.

. Ramstad, a pleasant,
man, who hails from
me down with the cold
e of last week for a
John Nelson and wife,
aw and sister. He is
enressée, where he will
of bargains offered
Johnson and report to
riends on whose behalf
he makes the journey

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

ture, and by his sterling qualities of
faithfulness, diligence, zeal and practical,
level-headed sense he won the respect
and esteem of all whose esteem was
worth the having. In the summer of
1889 Mr. Rustad had the unanimous
support of the Republicans of Worth
county as their candidate for the State
Senate, and his character, coupled with
his splendid services in previous cam-
paigns, should have secured him the
nomination in the Senatorial conven-
tion, but he was defeated by a single
vote. He was always most loyally Re-
publican but his politics, like his char-
acter, was of the logical and reasoning,
rather than of the aggressive order.
His fitness for position made him
prominent in church and business re-
lations as well as in political affairs.
For many years he was president and
secretary of the first creamery estab-
lished in Northwood, serving until
released at his own request. He was
first president of the Farmers' Mutual
Insurance Association, and was re-
elected to the position for term after
term, until he actually refused to serve
longer. He was also one of the pillars
of the Lutheran Conference church,
and a trusted leader in its councils.
About a quarter of a century ago he
was foremost in the organization of
the Shell Rock Lutheran Conference,
to which he donated the site of that
church (which was so crowded yester-
day with his sorrowing relatives and
friends and fellow citizens), and the
grounds for the beautiful cemetery
where his worn-out body sleeps the
sleep that knows no waking.

It seems almost unnecessary to speak
of the character of Mr. Rustad, after
even so brief and imperfect a sketch as
that above, of what he had achieved
and accomplished. He was essentially
a self-made man. But few people com-
mence the battle of life so young and
with so little of the equipment of the
schools, yet the subject of this notice
was a well-read student, a man of much
general information and of most excel-
lent judgment. He knew the value of
education, as such men invariably do,
and his thirst for knowledge prompted
him to gather up all the fragments of
time and apply them to the best advan-
tage; but, having to work hard for
what he acquired, he doubtless appre-
ciated it the more and put it to the bet-
ter use.

Mr. Rustad suffered long and severely,
in his last sickness, but bore all with
Christian fortitude. He died as he had
lived, calmly and philosophically, only
solicitous for the dear ones he left
behind. His funeral services, held
yesterday p. m., were most impressive
and were attended by crowds of people
from far and near. Business houses in
Northwood were closed in honor of the

The burden of life is approaching

change in the weather from
last week.

Bert Butler came home from Forest
City Saturday.

Dentist Steinhart made his usual
business call Friday.

T. E. and O. E. Thoen came home
from Cedar Rapids, Saturday night.

Mr. McMasters has a fine livery
barn and sample room nearly complet-
ed.

H. A. Bjorgo is greatly improving
his residence by raising the kitchen
another story.

Now that the rotary wheel has re-
moved we hope for the removal of the
pupils to their duties.

John Johanson, formerly of Minne-
apolis, is doing some neat painting on
Tom Elverum's new house.

Some of Northwood's young people
have been making the most of life by
coming down and riding the hobby-
horses.

Mr. Wolf and family will leave this
place and locate at Plymouth. They
are sociable people and will be greatly
missed.

A number from neighboring towns
attended the lecture here Thursday
night. As to their characteristics we
are not prepared to say.

The wind and rain so badly shatter-
ed Messrs. Drinkwater & Co.'s tent
Thursday night, that Friday and
Saturday were spent in repairing
damages.

Mrs. Fitch, while going home from
the school-house during the rain, slip-
ped and fell, breaking the fibula and
dislocating the ankle joint. Dr. Hurd
was called on account of the absence of
Dr. Fatland. The patient is now do-
ing as well as could be expected.

MANLY MUSINGS,

Mr. George Holden drove to North-
wood, yesterday, on business.

Manly is enjoying a piping time of
peace and business tranquility.

A probable deserter from Coxey's
army was one of our most recent callers.

Mrs. O. D. Eno and Miss Feeney of
Northwood were recent welcome visit-
ors.

Dr. and Mrs. Dakin, of Mason City,
attended the Miss Safford meeting
here.

Rev. Charles Pickford will remove
from Manly this week. May success
attend him.

Messrs. J. M. and Geo. Inman trans-
acted business at the county court
yesterday p. m.

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HISTORY
OF
Mitchell and Worth Counties,
IOWA,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF THEIR TOWNS, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL,
CIVIL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROM-
INENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF
REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

HISTORY OF IOWA,

EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, AND A BRIEF REVIEW
OF ITS CIVIL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

ILLUSTRATED.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1884.

On the first, second and third days of March of that year Mrs. H. L. Washington, of Keokuk, gave a series of lectures on the subject of temperance and total abstinence. Every evening the church where the meetings were held was crowded, and at the close of the lectures a pledge was circulated and obtained some 270 signers, among them nearly all the best men in the community.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Simon Rustad settled on the northeast quarter of section 31, Northwood township, Worth Co., Iowa, in June, 1854, where he still resides. He was among the pioneers of the county, and is an enterprising farmer. He was born at Lillehammer, in Norway, Jan. 9, 1826. In March, 1852, he was married to Anne Magdalene Eliasdather. She was born Sept. 8, 1823, in Frederikshald. Soon after marriage they emigrated to the United States, first settling for a short time in Rock Prairie, Rock Co., Wis., coming in 1854, to Worth Co., Iowa. He at first built a log cabin, 14x18 feet, with punch-eon floor, the roof being covered with straw. The first year he broke three acres of land, and has continued year by year to open his farm, until now he has a well cultivated farm of 480 acres, good residence and beautiful home. His land is valued at \$25 per acre. Mr. and Mrs. Rustad have had nine children—Betsy, born in Rock Co., Wis., Jan. 23, 1853, and died Nov. 15, 1881; Sehm, born July 14, 1854; Randine, born May 11, 1856; Edward, born April 19, 1858; Henry, born April 10, 1860; Christian, born April 4, 1862; Anna Elizabeth, born Sept. 3, 1864; Oscar, born Aug. 23, 1866, and Maria Charlotte Eugenie, born March 11,

1871. The parents are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Rustad is a republican, has held the office of justice of the peace, and other local offices.

Chester Wright was born in Otsego Co., N. Y., Feb. 9, 1840. He is a son of Jonathan and Polly (Cummings,) Wright, natives of New York State, where they were married. In 1843, they removed to Boone Co., Ill., and afterward moved to Worth Co., Iowa, locating in Hartland township. After remaining about fifteen years, they went to Whiteside Co., Ill., where the mother died, and where the father still lives. They had a family of twelve children. Chester is the third child. He came to Worth county, Brookfield township, with his uncle, Edmond Wright, in 1855, from Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa, and afterwards moved to Hartland township, where he resided until 1875, when he moved to Northwood township. His farm contains 480 acres. He is also engaged in stock raising. Mr. Wright was married May 18, 1862, to Helen D. Rendell, born in Westra Isles, Scotland, Oct. 6, 1842. When about fourteen years of age she came with his parents to Worth county, and settled in Silver Lake township. They now live at Northwood. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have six children—Mary E., Wallace I., James C., Eddie D., Effie M. and Nellie M. Mr. Wright is a republican and has held local offices. He enlisted in company H, 7th Iowa Volunteers in 1864, serving until the close of the war. He was on the Sioux campaign in Dakota.

William Hunter, one of Northwood's enterprising business men, came to Northwood, Worth Co., Iowa, in 1868. He was

THE
SEMI-CENTENNIAL
SOUVENIR
OF
NORTHWOOD, IOWA

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Platting of the City

1907

THE CHARMING CITY OF NORTHWOOD, IOWA

A GROUP OF STURDY PIONEERS

In this prosperous age with land soaring toward the \$100 per acre point, we can hardly realize the fact that a man could be the possessor of thousands of acres of fertile soil and yet actually suffer for the necessaries of life. Yet this often happened to the sturdy pioneers whose lives and faces are sketched below. With the nearest market 120 miles away with almost impassable swamps intervening it was not infrequent for corn pone to be the only diet. To the children and grand children of these pioneers have come the fruits of their early planting. Nearly every considerable fortune in Worth county today can be traced to the point of some brave pioneer, who with a stout heart and noble courage, went forth to conquer the wilderness. They suffered that others might prosper. They withstood the depression of awful solitude that others might enjoy the blessings of society. They braved the dangers of indian massacres that others might dwell in peace and safety. We cannot heap too high the measure of praise which we bestow unto this departing generation.

MR. AND MRS. G. O. MELLEM
Worth County's First Settlers



G. O. MELLEM, DECEASED

Their son, Ole Mellem, was born in 1853, being the first white child born in Worth county.

G. O. Mellem was born in Hollingdal, Norway Nov. 13, 1829. He came to America in 1849 and spent one year in Rock county, Wisconsin, after which he worked for a time as a raftsman on the Mississippi river. He was married to Caroline Evanson in 1852.

Mr. and Mrs. Mellem were alone in Worth county at the

G. O. Mellem and wife were the first pioneers of Northwood and Worth county. They settled on a claim which now comprises the southwest corner of the city of Northwood in the summer of 1853. For the first year the nearest white neighbor was 18 miles away.



MRS. G. O. MELLEM, DECEASED

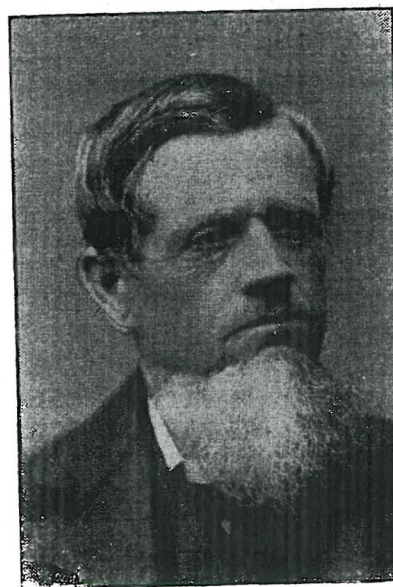
time of the indian massacre at Blue Earth, Minn. The indians invaded the lone cabin and for a time it looked as though the family would be wiped out, but they finally departed, having done nothing more serious than to make some grewsome demonstrations.

The Mellem home was the nucleus around which the first settlement was built. New comers were generally from their native Norwegian province or from Rock county, Wisconsin, where they had formerly lived. If the settlers were able to build all well and good, if not they were welcome to dwell in the Mellem home. And the fact that little ones came to bless that home at least every other year, did not abate the cheerful hospitality of these big hearted pioneers.

Mr. Mellem died on the 31st day of August, 1891, and Mrs. Mellem on the 14th day of September, 1904.

There were 10 children as follows: O. G. Mellem, Chas. Mellem, Lewis Mellem, Mrs. G. A. Lee, Mrs. T. C. Rone, all of Northwood; Andrew Mellem, St. Paul, Minn.; Minnie Mellem, Minneapolis, Minn.; E. G. Mellem, Glenwood, Minn.; Gus Mellem, Wynmire, N. D.; Mrs. H. A. Frycelie, Flasher, N. D.

SIMON RUSTAD, DECEASED



Simon Rustad was the second man to permanently settle in Worth county. His farm lay just west of the farm of G. O. Mellem. He came in June 1854 and remained until his death.

He was born at Lillehammer, Norway, Jan. 9, 1826. In March 1852, he married Miss Anne Eliasdatter and soon after they emigrated to America, stopping for a time in Rock

county, Wis., and coming from there to Worth county. Mr. Rustad's first log house had a straw roof and all the primitive hardships of pioneer life were his. In spite of privations he reared a family of nine children and at the time of his death had gained a considerable degree of wealth. His son, Samuel Rustad, was the second white child born in Worth county. This event took place on July 14, 1854.

Mr. Rustad is survived by eight children, Schm, Randle, Edward, Henry, Christian, Anna, Oscar and Maria. His death occurred May 30, 1894.



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Simon Simensen Rustad

Birth **9 Jan 1826** in [Faaberg, Guldhraandalen, Norway](#)

Death **20 May 1894** in [Northwood, Worth, Iowa](#)

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Media Gallery

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

Timeline [\(View details \)](#)

1826
9 Jan [Birth](#)
[Faaberg, Guldhraandalen, Norway](#)

1852
9 Mar [Marriage to Anne Magdalene Eliassdatter Nelsson](#)
Age: 26 [Lutheran Valley Norwegian Church, Rock Prairie, Rock, Wisconsin](#)

1894
20 May [Death](#)
Age: 68 [Northwood, Worth, Iowa](#)

[Burial](#)
[South Shell Rock Lutheran Cemetery, Northwood, Iowa](#)

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

[Add a comment](#)

Family Members

Parents

[Simen Siverson Rustad](#)
1801 – 1835

[Ragnild Olasdatter Overjorstad](#)
1793 – 1884

[Show siblings](#)

Spouse & Children

[Anne Magdalene Eliassdatter Nelsson](#)
1823 – 1903

[Bergette Simonsdatter Rustad](#)
1853 – 1881

[Sahm Simonsen Rustad](#)
1854 – 1936

[Randine Simonsdatter Rustad](#)
1856 – 1937

[Edward Rustad](#)
1858 – 1909

[Henry Rustad](#)
1861 –

[Christian Rustad](#)
1862 – 1930

[Ann Elisebeth Rustad](#)
1864 – 1916

[Oscar Simonsen Rustad](#)
1866 – 1948

[Maria Charlotte Eugenia Rustad](#)
1872 – 1898

[Julia Rustad](#)
1876 –

[Family group sheet](#)

Source Information

No source citations have been added yet.

Web Links

There are no weblinks available for this person.

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- [Northwood](#)
- [Worth County](#)
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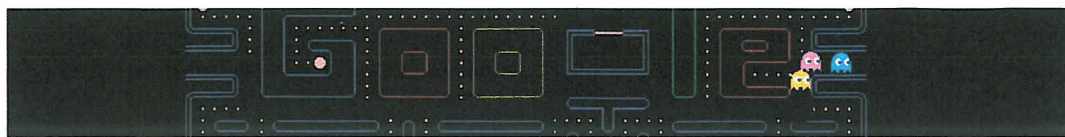
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Citi
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Simon Rustad

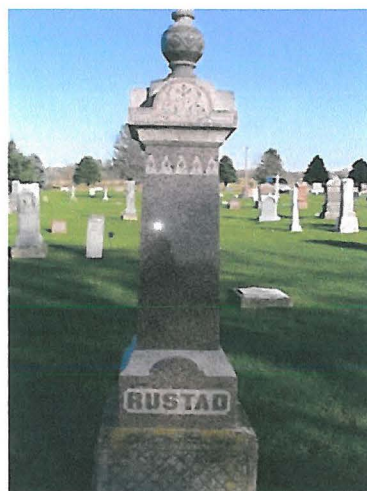
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Birth: Jan. 9, 1826
Death: May 20, 1894

Burial:
[South Shell Rock Cemetery](#)
Northwood
Worth County
Iowa, USA

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Record added: Sep 18, 2007
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