

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** Johnson, Martin Nelson **Senator** Johnson,
Martin Nelson - Represented Minnehaha County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 3 Mar. 1850 Racine County, Wisconsin

2. Marriage (s) date place

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in 1876

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Lawyer; farmer

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 16th General Assembly 1876 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 17th, 18th General Assemblies 1878, 1880 - Senator

A. Local

B. State

C. National

7. Death 21 Oct 1909 Fargo, North Dakota; buried City Cemetery, Petersburg, North Dakota

8. Children

9. Names of parents Rev. Nelson Johnson

Johnson, Martin Nelson

10. Education He was educated at home and attended
country schools

11. Degrees Graduate of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Law school in 1873

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He moved with his parents to Decorah, Iowa in 1850
- He taught for 2 years in the California Military Academy at Oakland,
California after graduating from law school
- He returned to Iowa in 1875
- After being admitted to the bar in 1876 he began practicing law in
Decorah
- He moved to the Dakota Territory in 1882 where he engaged in
agricultural pursuits

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source Non Applicable Applicable Information obtained

- Obituary - The Des Moines Public Opinion, Des Moines, Iowa,
Wed. Oct. 27, 1909, p.1, col.5
- Political Graveyard - www.bioguide.congress.gov

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SENATOR M. N. JOHNSON DEAD.

Noted North Dakota Politician and
Former Decorah Lawyer Passes
Away at Fargo, N. D.

Decorahians were greatly sur-
prised to learn on Friday of the
death the night before of Senator
Martin N. Johnson, at his hotel in
Fargo, N. D., from an attack of
acute Bright's disease. A week be-
fore he submitted to a slight opera-
tion for a nasal trouble and was
believed to be doing well, but was
suddenly attacked as above stated
and died without warning. He had
been suffering from the disease for
years, but was not supposed to be
in a serious condition.

Martin N. Johnson was born in
Racine county, Wisconsin, fifty-nine
years ago, and was the son of Rev.
Nelson Johnson. In an early day he
came to this county, and for some
years lived on Washington Prairie.
For a number of years he was a well
known lawyer in Decorah, associated
with his brother, and left here in
1882, when he moved to North Da-
kota, and devoted his attention to
farming.

Since moving to North Dakota he
has been prominent in politics. In
1889 he was a member of the con-
stitutional convention of that state.
He was a candidate for United
States Senator and received the par-
ty vote in caucus, but was defeated
in joint session in 1890. He was
sent to congress, being three times
renominated by acclamation, serving
eight years in the House of Repre-
sentatives. At the last general elec-
tion he was elected for a full term
in the Senate. He was a devoted
member of the Methodist Episcopal
church, and had been a member of
the general conference of that body.
The body was taken to his home in
Petersburg, Nelson county, for inter-
ment.

Only a few weeks ago, during the
Home Coming Festival, Senator
Johnson was in Decorah, and was
heard with great pleasure by many
old friends and neighbors who had

ACROSS IOWA IN AN AUTO.

Five Hundred Mile Trip From De-
corah to Des Moines and Re-
turn Without Accident or
Delay.

The editor returned Thursday af-
ternoon from an auto trip of about
500 miles from Decorah to Des
Moines and return in his Maxwell
touring car, in company with L. O.
Reed. It was a delightful trip in
every way. Iowa is almost always
blessed with the finest weather of
the year for autoing in the month
of October, and with splendid roads
and the beautiful scenery of this
magnificent state, the fine modern
farms with all the newest and latest
appliances, the evidences of pros-
perity and happiness, and the
highest type of agricultural advance-
ment all along the way, it was a
journey well worth taking.

The trip proved two things to our
supreme satisfaction—the efficacy
of the King drag as a road maker
and the superiority of the Maxwell
automobile for all kinds of cross-
country traveling. The people of
Iowa are fast learning and proving
that the King drag takes the lead
over everything yet proposed in the
making and keeping in condition of
roads. Perhaps a hundred miles of
the trip was made over roads made
with the King drag, and they were
hailed with delight whenever en-
countered. Mile after mile across
the central part of the state the
road is as smooth and hard as a
floor, well rounded to the center,
devoid of ruts and hummocks; the
water runs off quickly when it rains
leaving the road in splendid con-
dition. The people of northeast
Iowa have not yet learned to use
the King drag as they have further
down the state, but when they do,
we predict that it will become a
permanent fixture here, and that
one-half the expense and inconven-
ience of the present will be done

The best recommendation for our
Maxwell automobile is the fact that

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in Iowa. 0 men and 200 harvesting the Waverly sugar and the factory employed this held men. When slice beets and wll be several mployed. to welgh beets r took in sixty the evening of taken in 500 coming by rail. s to get about s for this cam- It is estimated receive 16,000 r. urt up to make v. 1. od of Clear ised 400 acres ils factory; at 200 acres; at Cresco 200 ac- 300 acres, and ock Island Ry. e places have crec next year. s any acres 1910 as they for the 1909

farming. Since moving to North Dakota he has been prominent in politics. In 1889 he was a member of the constitutional convention of that state. He was a candidate for United States Senator and received the party vote in caucus, but was defeated in joint session in 1890. He was sent to congress, being three times renominated by acclamation, serving eight years in the House of Representatives. At the last general election he was elected for a full term in the Senate. He was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and had been a member of the general conference of that body. The body was taken to his home in Petersburg, Nelson county, for interment.

Only a few weeks ago, during the Home Coming Festival, Senator Johnson came to Decorah, and was heard with great pleasure by many old friends and neighbors who had known him during his residence here. He revisited the scenes of his boyhood and early manhood, and seemed to enjoy immensely the recounting of his experiences in pioneer days. His death comes as a shock to our people as it does to North Dakota. He was held here in the highest esteem, a man of sterling character, of ability, and of great promise for the future. As in the recent death of Governor Johnson of Minnesota Decorah mourned the demise of a former citizen, so in the passing of North Dakota's Senator, Decorah and Winneshiak county is again called upon to sympathize with all who mourn his loss.

The vacancy in the Senatorship caused by his death leaves a somewhat peculiar situation in the political circles of North Dakota. Governor Burke, who is a democrat, will appoint his successor, the appointment to stand until the next general election, when U. S. Senators will be elected for both the long and short terms, as Senator McCumber's term expires in 1911.

They're All Getting Rich.

Iowa are fast learning and proving that the King drag takes the lead over everything yet proposed in the making and keeping in condition of roads. Perhaps a hundred miles of the trip was made over roads made with the King drag, and they were hailed with delight whenever encountered. Mile after mile across the central part of the state the road is as smooth and hard as a floor, well rounded to the center, devoid of ruts and hummocks; the water runs off quickly when it rains leaving the road in splendid condition. The people of northeast Iowa have not yet learned to use the King drag as they have further down the state, but when they do, we predict that it will become a permanent fixture here, and that one-half the expense and inconvenience of the present will be done away with.


The best recommendation for our Maxwell automobile is the fact that the entire trip was made without accident or delay, without a puncture or blow-out, and without the necessity of repairs to any part of the car except the tightening of a bolt in the frame which showed signs of loosening. The machine gave the best of satisfaction throughout, the engine seeming to run better the longer it was kept going.

Cold Storage of Apples.

By far the larger part of the apples grown in Iowa are of the fall varieties. These do not keep well in ordinary storage. As a result the market is glutted during the fall, while when winter comes apples must be shipped in at high prices. For several years the Horticultural Section of the Iowa Experiment Station has been experimenting with different methods of handling apples in cold storage. These experiments have shown that fall apples when handled properly can be kept all winter in cold storage. The cost of cold storage is not very high, and by this means the season for home grown apples may be extended until well along toward spring. The

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

Biographical Directory
of the
United States Congress



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JOHNSON, Martin Nelson, 1850-1909

Senate Years of Service: 1909-1909

Party: Republican



JOHNSON, Martin

Nelson, a Representative and a Senator from North Dakota; born in Racine County, Wis., March 3, 1850; moved with his parents to Decorah, Iowa, the same year; was taught at home and attended the country schools; was

graduated from the law department of the University of Iowa at Iowa City in 1873; taught two years in the California Military Academy at Oakland, Calif.; returned to Iowa in 1875; was admitted to the bar in 1876 and commenced practice in Decorah; member, State house of representatives 1877; member, State senate 1878-1882; presidential elector on the Republican ticket 1876; moved to Dakota Territory in 1882; engaged in agricultural pursuits; prosecuting attorney of Nelson County 1886-1890; member of the constitutional convention of North Dakota in 1889; unsuccessful Republican candidate for election to the United States Senate in 1889; elected as a Republican to the Fifty-second and to the three succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1891-March 3, 1899); was not a candidate for renomination in 1898, having become a candidate for Senator; unsuccessful candidate for election to the United States Senate in 1899; elected as a Republican to the United States Senate and served from March 4,

1909, until his death in Fargo, N.Dak., October 21, 1909; chairman, Committee to Investigate Trespassers Upon Indian Lands (Sixty-first Congress); interment in the City Cemetery, Petersburg, N.Dak.

Bibliography

U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 61st Cong., 2nd sess., 1910. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1910.