

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Madden, William G. Senator _____
Represented Polk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 8 Apr 1825 South Carolina

2. Marriage (s) date place
① Marion Thornton 22 June 1849
② Mrs Rachel Isabelle Riddle 19 Oct 1885

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Farmer; employer of Polk Island Railroad;
bought and sold stock and grain; real estate

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 15th, 16th General Assemblies 1874, 1876

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 23 Dec 1896 Des Moines, Iowa; Buried Greenwood Cemetery, Polk County, Iowa

8. Children John; Martha Amanda (Mrs. Brown); Charles; Jessa (died in 1894);
Charity Ann (died 1904); two additional children died in infancy

9. Names of parents Charles and Feturah (Cook) Madden

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

- As an infant he moved with his family to Arkansas and at age 7 the family moved to Mexico where he grew to manhood.
- In 1852, he came to Polk County, Iowa locating in Douglas Township on Iowa Mile Creek where he amassed large fortune and perhaps the largest farm in the county.
- Later he moved into the city of Des Moines. The last years of his life were of poor fortune. There was a long and further decline in his luck and he lost much of his fortune.
- His wife, Maria, died in 1884.
- In the 1880's and 1890's he worked as a real estate salesman and other unknown business.
- Three were lost years with the death of his wife, two adult children, Jesse and Charity Jane, died in 1894 and also in this same year his daughter, Amanda, was hospitalized for epileptic insanity.

... a negro, aged 15 years, was called early this morning near depot. The killing of Suet and the negroes to madness and ar to wipe out the town to this morning the town council emergency meeting. All wo- children were ordered to re- streets after 6 o'clock to- u. ds of farmers came to this forenoon and are being assist in saving the town if commence. ock this afternoon the citizens ss meeting and organized in- anies for mutual defense he negroes.

Plows Chicago candy.
HARLAN BROS.

THINGS ABOUT TOWN.

ant Christmas present—Tick- Princeton's.

Post will have a public in- of officers the evening of Jan- eneral Josiah Given, depart- mander, will install the new

Christmas assembly Friday ev- Cycling hall. Music, Kromer 's full orchestra.

at Side school board at its at night authorized the edu- ommittee to pay not over \$20 o help the night school. Fully t Side people attend.

new appropriation ordinance wh-avs on the police force will g January 1 and the depot ill... continued in her position r year.

er of Mutual Life Underwrit- the city today to take some adion in regard to laws gov- eir business which will come ode revision this winter. ed in a body this afternoon on tCarthy to get his help in the

as been received from Wash- Philadelphia. Pittsburg and of enormous seat sale and en- for the Princeton's. J. G. o comic man, Gweer and Erd- lebes, make them a rare treat oines; to say nothing of their

stmas presents will please a e than a nice pair of slippers. hier & Co. purchased for holi- e a special line and will close tomorrow at a bargain. They make Thursday the banner ay in the history of their pop-

more news in the 4-page Pen- than in any 8-page paper.

Charles McClelland and Masters d Ralph of Dixon, Mo., are the holidays with friends in alf orthwest of the city.

th. Sears will leave tonight tsville, Ohio, called by the dan- ness of a sister, Miss Sears is e leading nurses of the city. It d that she will make Cleveland and that a prominent young man of that city will before nths lead her to the altar/ se Curver has been told in 15

Station.

**Dancers at the Kimball Stop
the Germau to Look
at Him.**

**Refuses to Reduce the Value of
His Lecture by In-
terviews.**

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—William J. Bryan arrived here at 11 o'clock last night. An immense crowd was waiting to greet him. There were cries for a speech and a rush for him when he stepped from the train, but he was hurried into a carriage and driven to the Kimball house. The crowd followed him there and insisted on a speech. A german was being danced in the ball room by one of the swell clubs. Before he knew what was happening, he was surrounded by the fair dancers in evening dress. The german was abandoned for the time and the band played on.

In response to continued cries for a speech, Mr. Bryan appeared on the first arcade and spoke very briefly, thanking his friends for their welcome to him.

Mr. Bryan came from Chicago direct. He did not want demonstrations, and came by a line other than the one over which he was looked for. He declined to discuss the Cuban question.

In Chattanooga, in the course of a speech, he said that he would do all he could to make the silver cause stronger in 1900 than it is now. Mr. Bryan will speak here tonight and will leave for home tomorrow morning.

Skates cheap. Dawson's hardware. 22-3

NEW POOL

**Billet Manufacturers Fix the
Price at \$1.55.**

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 23.—It was definitely learned today that the billet manufacturers at their meeting last week in New York City fixed up a pool on the allotment basis. The price of \$1.55 was reaffirmed, and orders were partitioned.

Signed by the President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The president has approved the general pension and urgent deficiency appropriation bills.

DEATHS.

MADDEN—At 4:30 this morning at his home, 944 Seventeenth street, W. G. Madden, aged 68 years.

Mr. Madden was for many years connected with the State Insurance company, but of late had retired from active business. The funeral will be held at 2:30 p. m. tomorrow.

Princeton University Glee banjo and mandolin clubs, Dec. 30 at Central Walnut. 23-7t

Richard Polson, at the head of the Chicago agency, and Robert M. Hall, clerk in the New York agency.

In addition to these he leaves his farm at Ponkapog, valued at \$100,000, and \$200,000 in cash to Thomas Dudley Adrich, the novelist, who was his personal friend and who wrote his novels at Ponkapog. He also gives 400 acres of valuable land in Milton to the Boston park commission. Among the public bequests are the following:

To each of the five Protestant and Catholic societies in Dorchester, \$3,000; to town of Stoughton, his birthplace, \$25,000 for books for free library to Harvard college, Massachusetts general hospital, institute of technology, Boston museum of fine arts, Massachusetts homeopathic hospital, \$50,000; to the Massachusetts charitable eye and ear infirmary, society for collegiate instruction of women in Cambridge, Boston children's hospital, Perkins's institution for the blind, Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, New England hospital for women and children, Boston lying-in hospital, consumptive home at Dorchester, home for aged women, home for aged men, home for aged couples, \$20,000 each; to the home for aged colored women and the Massachusetts commandery of the Loyal Legion \$5,000 each.

After bequeathing \$2,500,000 to relatives, the will provides that the residue be divided equally among the museums of fine arts, the president and fellows of Harvard college, the Massachusetts general hospital, the Massachusetts institute of technology and the Massachusetts homeopathic hospital.

Mr. Pierce's estate is appraised at more than \$5,000,000. He was assessed on \$36,000 Boston real estate and \$450,000 personal property, but his main holdings were in the corporation which paid a tax to the state.

Skates sharpened. Dawson's hardware. 22-3

SMITH-HARTUNG

**Prominent East Siders to be
Married Tonight.**

The marriage of Miss Grace E. Smith and Mr. Renwick J. Hartung will take place this evening at 8 o'clock at the home of the bride's brother, Mr. L. W. Smith of Pennsylvania avenue. The wedding will be a quiet one. Rev. D. H. Kooker will perform the ceremony at 8 o'clock in the presence of about thirty-five relatives and friends. Miss Smith will wear a simple gown of white, organdy with chiffon and ribbon trimmings and will carry bridal roses. The house will be beautifully decorated and following the ceremony a wedding supper will be served. The bride and groom will go immediately to their new home, 1221 Pennsylvania avenue. Miss Smith is well known in Des Moines as a charming young woman. For four years she has been a teacher in the East Side schools. Both she and Mr. Hartung were raised in Des Moines. The groom is a graduate of Annapolis and is a retired naval officer, having left the service some time ago on account of ill health. He was taken seriously ill with fever while on a southern cruise with the White Squadron and his long illness forced his retirement. Both he and his bride have many friends to wish them future happiness.

Married in Paris.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The marriage of Count Luis Dandigne of Paris to Mrs. Frederick May of California was celebrated in this city at noon today.

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page 1: 34, William never worked for the Rock
Island Railroad; it was his son, John, who did. See also below.

page 1, 2, "marriage" - There was a third marriage,
his earliest; The wife's ~~name~~ family name was (I think)
something like Hollingsworth or Hollingshead. There was
no issue from this brief union.

page 1, 34: - another of William's employers after he
left farming was The Des Moines Marble and Mantel Co.

page 1, 9 - parentage - I don't believe William's
parentage has ever been firmly established. Charles
Madden is probably correct, but for his (William's)
~~mother~~ mother I have also seen Charity Spencer.

Pitt.

This is the text of an obituary of William G. Madden (1825 – 1896), with commentary in italics by Philip G. Hockett. Its source has not been found in the holdings of SHSI Des Moines, and its authorship is unknown.

“Wm. G. Madden died at his home in Des Moines December 23, 1896. His death was sudden an[d] wholly unexpected. He was born in North Carolina April 27, 1833 [*The place and date are both incorrect and should read South Carolina, April 8, 1825*]. His family removed to Indiana when he was an infant, and when he was 7 years of age they removed to Illinois where he grew to manhood. In 1854 [*1852 according to his own brief statement in an autobiographical document requested by the Secretary of State*] he came to Polk County, Iowa, and located in Douglass[sic] township, on Four Mile Creek, where he amassed a large fortune and became the owner of perhaps the largest farm in the county. Later he removed to the city of Des Moines and during the last years of his life was not attended with the good fortune which marked his earlier business career [*This sentence sums up a long and bitter decline in William Madden's luck, starting apparently in the late 1870s. In 1880 he was said to own 70 acres of farm land, but if true this would have represented a drop of perhaps 500 acres in the extent of his property at its peak. By the early 1880s he appears to have sold off what remained and moved to Des Moines. His wife, who had died in 1884, was a Thornton, and there are brief mentions of William G. Madden in the Thornton family papers in SHSI's Des Moines holdings; he is there remarked to have "lost his money and died a poor man," but no cause is stated and no further information about what might have happened has come down in the family. He may have been ruined in one of the periodic financial panics of the 19th century, or he may have had investments, for example in railroad stock, that went sour. In the 1880s and early 1890s he worked as a salesman of real estate among other things. The two remaining years of his family life were catastrophic. Two of his adult children, Jesse and Charity Jane, died in 1894, and in the same year his daughter Amanda began a series of hospitalizations for what was then referred to as "epileptic insanity." In the absence of effective treatment and medication, the Madden family was helpless as her condition worsened inexorably.*]. He married Miss Marie [*elsewhere Maria*] Thornton in Vermilion County, Illinois, June 28, 1856 [*The date should read 1849; their oldest son, John, was born in 1850*], and to them five children [*seven; two did not survive infancy*] were born. Of the five but one survives him, Mr. John Madden [*There was at least one other survivor, Marietta Amanda Madden Plowman, who died as late as 1923 in the Montgomery County home in Red Oak. A son, Charles, born in 1855, may also have survived.*]. The wife passed away in 1884 and a few years ago [*on October 29, 1885*] Mr. Madden was married to Mrs. Little [*Rachael Isabelle Riddle*], who survives him. Mr. John Madden is a trusted employee of the Rock Island Railroad. Mr. Madden was elected as Polk County representative in the state legislature in 1874 with Mr. Isaac Brandt and they served through the Fifteenth General Assembly together. In 1876 Mr. Madden was re-elected and served through the Sixteenth General Assembly with Mr. Josiah Given, now of the supreme bench. The following year he was a candidate for Congress before the Republican convention and again in 1886. It was while he was a member of the legislature that he removed to Des Moines. He had gotten together and owned a magnificent farm of perhaps 600 acres in Douglass[sic] township in the Justice neighborhood [*The Justices were a prosperous farming family with properties in southern Douglas and northern Delaware townships. Two of the oldest extant private dwellings in Polk County were both associated with the Justice family. William Madden's home and some outbuildings survived, approximately a mile and a half southeast of Ankeny at the intersection of northeast 78th street and Berwick Drive, until about 1990, but they had been uninhabited for some time*], known for years as the richest community in this section of the state. He went into the business of buying and selling stock and grain and undoubtedly handled more than any other one man ever engaged in the business here. From 1865 his shipments were enormous and his success in business was phenomenal. [*An additional source of biographical information on William G. Madden is The History of Polk County, Iowa, containing a History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c., published by the Union Historical Company in 1880. Its chronologies must be used with some caution, but its writer made a point of remarking of William Madden that "His hospitality is also worthy of special mention as he is always ready to feed the hungry and furnish rest to the weary."*] J

Submitted by Philip G. Hockett, February, 2006



Residence of William J. Madden (1825-1896),
Representative from Poek County in The state
legislatures in 1873 and 1875.

Photos were taken in c. 1979; house and barn
were both demolished around 1990 after
the land was sold for development. They
stood at the present intersection of NE 78th
Street and Berwick Drive, about 1 1/2 miles
southeast of Ankeny. The original house
and barn are pictured in the 1875 Andrew
Atlas. They were probably built between
1865 and 1870.

Photographs by Philip C. Hockett

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- *ID:* I28125
- *Name:* William G Madden
- *Sex:* M
- *Change Date:* 17 AUG 2004
- *Birth:* 08 APR 1825
- *Death:* 23 DEC 1896

Father: [Charles Madden](#)*Mother:* [Keturah Cook](#)*Marriage 1* [Maria Thornton](#) b: 27 APR 1823 in Ohio

- *Married:* 28 JUN 1849

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