

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Thayer Edward Parkinson Senator _____

Represented Clinton County from _____

1. Birthday and place 27 Nov 1832 Kindham, Maine

2. Marriage (s) date place

Delia Eliza Payne 18 Oct 1858 Orono, Vermont

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was admitted to the bar in spring 1853, president of the Iowa
Northwestern Railroad Company; member of Macdonough County Board of Supervisors

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Editor; lawyer; journalist

4. Church membership Episcopal

5. Sessions served 16th General Assembly, 1876

6. Public Offices

A. Local Macdonough County attorney 4 years; appointed Clinton postmaster in 1855 by President
Cleveland; in 1856 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Macdonough County; also president of

B. State In 1877 he was appointed trustee of the State Normal School by Governor Kirkwood,
serving on the board for several years

C. National In 1860 he was a delegate from Iowa to the Democratic National
Convention at Charleston which nominated Stephen A. Douglas for President; in 1876
delegate to Democratic National Convention of Samuel J. Tilden for President

7. Death 7 Nov 1904 Clinton, Iowa; Central Springdale Cemetery, Clinton, Iowa

8. Children Ellie Ann; Maude Eliza; Mary Frances; son (predeceased his father in death)

9. Names of parents Lodovicus and Rhoda (Penniman) Thayer

Mayer, Edward H.

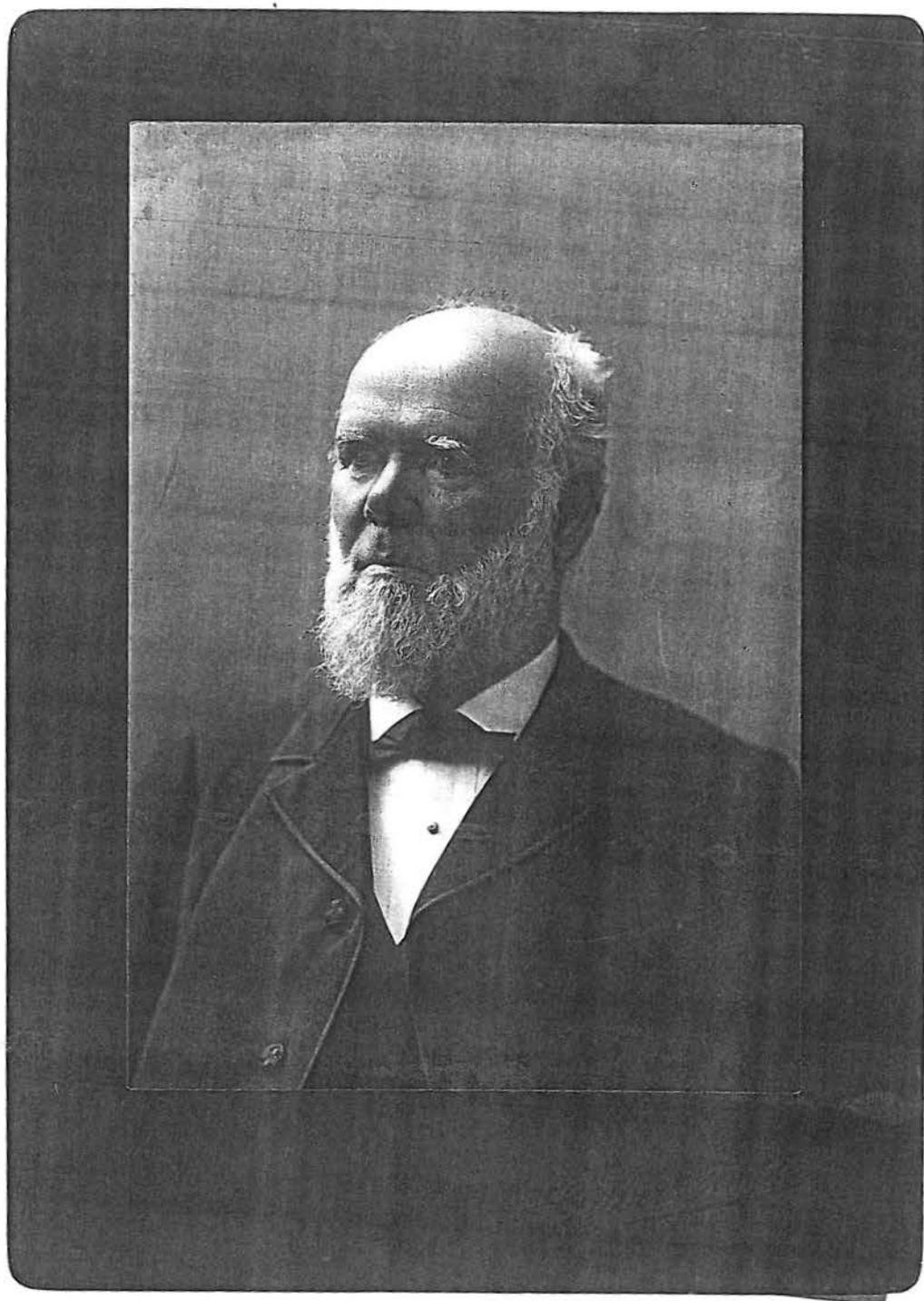
10. Education He graduated at East Corinth Academy in 1850

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information

Democrat

- He went to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1850, there he attended medical lectures and paid his way by work on the daily papers.
- He read law also. After being admitted to practice law he moved to Iowa settling at Muscatine, Iowa.
- There he began practicing law in Muscatine, Iowa.
- In 1861 he was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the 2nd district against Simon Brown, but was defeated.
- While living in Muscatine he got a taste for newspaper work. He moved to Clinton, Iowa in 1868 and established "The Clintonian" newspaper which became one of the ablest Democratic newspapers in eastern Iowa.
- In 1880 he was the Iowa member of the Mississippi River State Commission.
- In 1884 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Chicago where he was the Iowa member of the committee on resolutions and author of the tariff plank in the platform.
- He was an active promoter of numerous railroads in Iowa.
- In 1861 he had established the Muscatine Daily Courier of Muscatine, until June 1868.



PASSES TO THE WORLD BEYOND

JUDGE THAYER IS DEAD.—A BUSY
LIFE PEACEFULLY
CLOSED.

Worked to the Last.—Finished His
Labors and Answered the Call
of the Master.

At 7:20 yesterday morning after a long and busy life, Judge Thayer laid down his pen. His was a busy life, and it was the privilege of the writer to be close to him for many years. To speak of him as a man he has at all times been a leader. In fact more than a decade in advance of his time. As a writer he plunged fearlessly into the project, whatsoever it might be for the good of the city and the well fare of Iowa. He prepared and blazed the way for what was to come.

Coming to Clinton when our city was a babe in swaddling clothes Judge Thayer started the Clinton Age, then a weekly and taking up the work of building a city has never flagged nor ceased and the history of his later days is the history of Clinton, so closely is the one intertwined with the other.

Our school building now known as the Jefferson school owes its existence to Judge Thayer. It was he who made the stubborn fight for the bonds and in the course of his remarks he said, "Gentlemen we will not only build this school house but many more." How true was that prophecy, the many school buildings in this city bear testimony.

It was Judge Thayer, years ago, who in an editorial first spoke of the union of Clinton and Lyons after his work had annexed Riverside and Ringwood, a name of the former being changed to Chicago.

It was Judge Thayer's able article

preventing his continuing his journey.

He remained in Cleveland three years reading law in the office of Bolton, Kelly & Griswold, attending lectures of the Medical college and doing local work on the Herald and Plain Dealer, newspapers of that city. While in Cleveland the subject of this sketch learned short-hand writing, being one of the very few persons in the country who at that time was able to report speeches verbatim. In the political campaign of 1852, he reported speeches made by Stephen A. Douglas, Lewis Cass, Horace Greeley, Sam Houston and other distinguished gentlemen. He reported the speech of General Scott which was made in that city in which occurred the noted phrases "sweet German accent" and "rich Irish brogue." He accompanied the party that escorted General Scott to the Blue Lick Springs, reporting the speech made on the route of that celebrated chieftain. He also reported several speeches made by Louis Kosuth the Hungarian patriot.

In the spring of 1853 Mr. Thayer was admitted to the bar, passing the year through examination at that time made imperative by law, his certificate authorizing him to practice his profession in all the courts of the state. In May of that year he started further west, spending a week or two in Chicago. By railroad he went to Freeport, Illinois, thence by stage to Savannah, and down the river by boat to Muscatine, Iowa, where he commenced the practice of law. In 1854 he was elected county attorney on the democratic ticket. In 1856 he was elected county judge of Muscatine county, and re-elected in 1858, both times as a democrat. In 1858 he married Miss Delia E. Payne of Westport, New York, who during their 46 years of married life has been his most valuable help-mate. The fruits of his marriage were three daughters, all now residing in Clinton. In 1860 he was elected by the democratic state convention, being made the Iowa member of the committee on permanent organization, before which committee the first contest was made between the Douglas and Breckinridge factions. In that convention Judge Thayer voted

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It was Judge Thayer, years ago, who in an editorial first spoke of the union of Clinton and Lyons after his work had annexed Riverside and Kingwood, the name of the former being changed to Chancy.

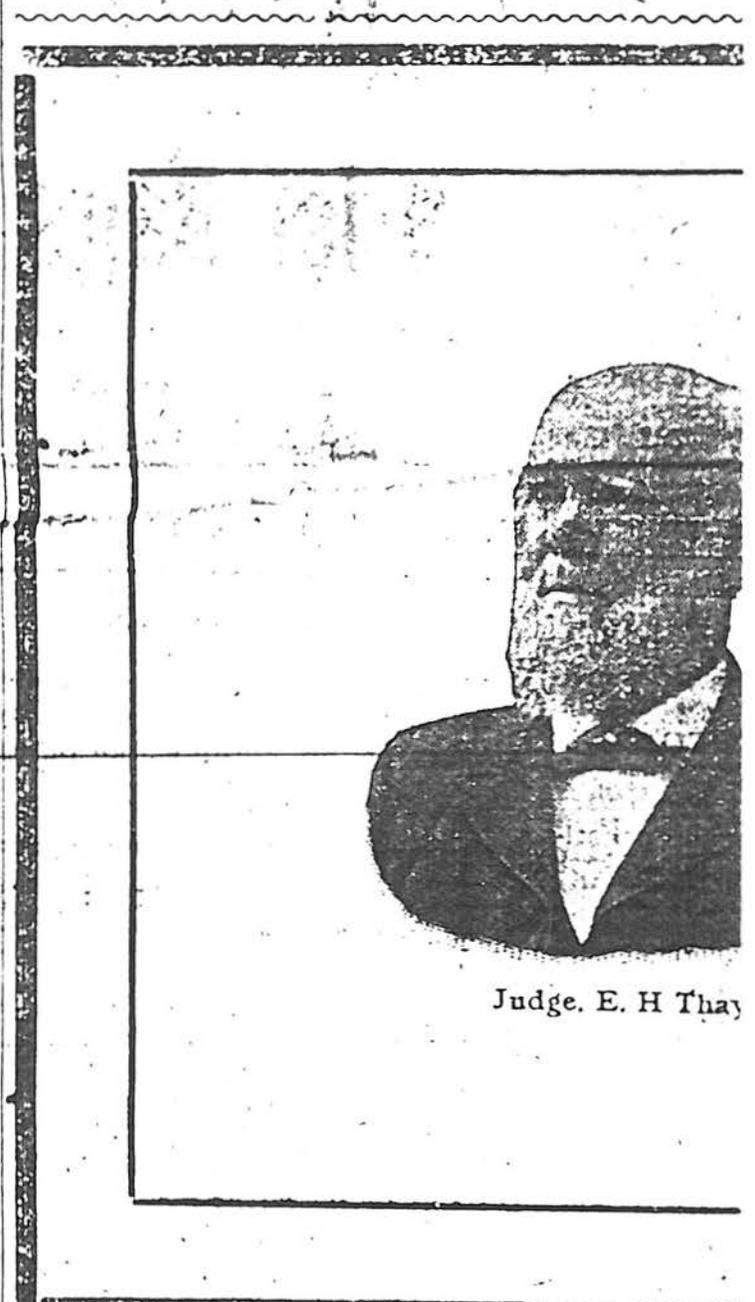
It was Judge Thayer's able article and personal work which brought to Clinton her splendid railroad facilities and almost in spite of apathy and opposition, singly and almost alone, gave to Clinton what is now known as the Rock Island branch west.

Our water works, one of the best systems in the state, was first conceived in the brain of Judge Thayer and through the medium of the Weekly Age brought before the people. Not did it stop here. Night and day he gave his earnest personal effort in organizing a company to make that idea an established fact. Not could opposition strong enough be brought to bear to discourage him in any manner. And when those personally connected with him in the enterprise grew lax and would lie down the gigantic energy of the Judge became contagious and together they worked surmounting all obstacles until they brought about the institution which has grown to its present proportions.

The same work was gone through when the subject of better lighting of the city was brought up. It was Judge Thayer who proposed it, it was he who piloted the bark safely through never tiring nor relaxing until the project was a reality.

The High bridge is another child of Judge Thayer's brain and if we were to take the files of his editorials on this subject, we believe he has written miles in support of a highway or an inlet to Clinton for the farmers of Whiteside county. Time after time bridge committees were formed, met and adjourned, grew cold in applause, and were only awakened by the spirit of improvement so much a part of the judge's makeup. His was a labor of love and everything for the good of Clinton, her manufactures, her business, was entered into with a vim and push which made it go. No obstacle was too great for him to surmount. No pessimist powerful enough to throw a shade over his optimistic nature. With him it was Clinton and the state of Iowa and I venture to say there is not a man today in our great state who has done more for her public enterprise and interests than he.

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was the democratic candidate for con- railroad
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Judge Thayer was engaged in the only ad
newspaper business and in 1868 he with ra
moved to Clinton, where he establish- and con
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The illness which resulted today in Judge Thayer's death dates back about a year. Last winter he went to southern California, in the hope that the balmy air of the semi-tropics would restore the health and vitality which was ebbing rapidly. A temporary improvement resulted, and the judge came home apparently much benefitted. But since his return he was not frequently seen at his office, though he continued to write for his paper in some small degree. A week ago he was taken seriously ill, and since then his decline had been rapid. The news of his death today did not occasion surprise on the part of those who were familiar with his condition. It was known that Mr. Thayer could not long battle with the ravages of the disease of which he had been a sufferer for so many months.

Judge Thayer is survived by his wife and three daughters, Mrs. Milo J. John, and Misses Nellie and May Thayer, all of this city. The funeral services will be held Thursday. The hour has not been announced.

Biographical Sketch.

Judge Thayer was born at Windham, Maine, November 27, 1832. His father, Ludo Thayer was born in Braintree, Massachusetts in 1796, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rhoda Penniman was born at Windsor, Vermont, the same year. For many years he at-tended the district schools at Orono, state of Maine, graduating from the East Corinth Academy in 1850. That year he started for Portland, Oregon, although at that time Greeley had not given the young men that excellent ad-vice "to buy a Hoe press and go West." At Albany he took passage on a canal-boat for Buffalo, thence by lake boat to Cleveland, where he was taken sick,

joined to Baltimore, where on the first ballot Judge Douglas was placed in nomination. In 1862 Judge Thayer was the democratic candidate for con-gress but was defeated by Hiram Price. During his residence in Muscatine, Judge Thayer was engaged in the newspaper business and in 1868 he moved to Clinton, where he establish-ed the Age, which paper he had since continued to edit and manage. He at once took a prominent part in advocat-ing the construction of railroads, was director in several railroad companies, president of the Iowa Southwestern road, building a portion of that road and then operating it. He had been ac-tive through his paper in urging capi-tal to establish manufactures in Iowa, had been a leader in championing the educational interests of the state, a persistent advocate of good roads, his work in that direction running through a period of twenty years. He had made the best sugar industry a study, be-ginning the agitation of that subject in 1873 and from time to time publish-ing a vast amount of valuable informa-tion which had much to do with the establishment of beet sugar factories in this country.

In 1875 Judge Thayer was elected a member of the lower house of the general assembly of Iowa, and the fol-lowing year he was appointed by Gov. Kirkwood, a trustee of the state nor-mal school, assisting in the establish-ing of that institution, holding the of-fice of president of the board for sev-eral years, resigning in 1885 to accept the office of postmaster of Clinton, which unsolicited, was tendered him by President Cleveland. In 1876 he was chosen a delegate to the demo-cratic national convention which met in St. Louis, taking an active part in securing the nomination of S. J. Til-den. In 1884 he was elected delegate at large to the na-tional democratic convention held at Chicago, was selected as the Iowa member of the platform committee and performed valuable service in formu-lating the tariff plank.

Besides his active advocacy of good roads in the Daily Age, he inaugurated a movement for a good roads conven-tion, which met at Des Moines in Aug-ust, 1892. This was one of the largest assemblies outside of political gather-ings ever held in the state, every coun-ty and nearly every city and town sending delegates. He was elected

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chairman of the convention, making
 an address upon the subject of good
 roads, and subsequently, when the per-
 manent organization known as the
 "Iowa Road Improvement Association"
 was organized, he was elected the
 president, which position he held for a
 number of years.

In October, 1892, the first national
 convention to consider the subject of
 good roads met in music hall, Chicago.
 This convention was presided over by
 Judge Thayer, and subsequently when
 the national league of good roads was
 formed, he was made chairman of the
 executive committee. In January,
 1893, he addressed the Iowa
 Bankers' association at their
 meeting, taking for his subject:
 "Good roads, and how they
 affect our financial condition." In Oc-
 tober, 1893, he delivered two addresses
 in Chicago, one before the American
 Bankers' association at their meeting,
 being assigned the subject, "The con-
 struction of good roads as a matter of
 finance," and the other before the
 "Good Roads Congress of the World's
 Columbia Exposition," his topic being,
 "A New Departure."

In 1880 he was appointed by Govern-
 or Gear of Iowa, member of the Mis-
 sissippi River States commission, tak-
 ing a prominent part in the annual
 meetings which were held in New Or-
 leans, Memphis, St. Louis, and St.
 Paul. This committee consisted of one
 member from each state bordering on
 the Mississippi river. It served the
 public many years and until congress
 recognized the importance of its work
 by providing for the existing national
 commission.

For almost half a century Judge
 Thayer's had been a familiar face in
 democratic state conventions. He had
 often been placed on the committee on
 resolutions and he presided over the
 deliberations of the convention of 1864
 held at Des Moines.

In January 1902, the democratic
 members of the Iowa general assem-
 bly voted unanimously for Judge Thayer
 for the office of United States sena-
 tor.

For several years he was a member
 of the school board of the city of Clin-
 ton and for twenty-five years a vestry-

years was rector of St. John's Epis-
 copal church.

Friends are kindly requested not
 to send flowers.

We take the following from the
 Sioux City Journal, written some
 months ago when the judge contem-
 plated retiring from active work:

JUDGE THAYER AND HIS WORK.

Judge Edward H. Thayer, for half
 a century a leader in the democratic
 party in this state, in 1868 removed
 from Muscatine to Clinton, where he
 established the Clinton Age, with
 which newspaper he has ever since
 been connected. For some time past
 his health has been such that he
 could give little personal attention
 to the newspaper.

From the time judge Thayer open-
 ed a law office in Muscatine he has
 been prominent in Iowa democratic
 politics. For many years the party
 advanced him for its honors. He ren-
 dered faithful service in every place
 to which he was called. In 1876 he
 was appointed by Gov. Kirkwood a
 member of the board of trustees of
 the State Normal school at Cedar
 Falls, and he served in that relation,
 part of the time as president of the
 board, with great acceptability. He al-
 so had much service under appoint-
 ment in other non-political offices,
 carrying a measure of honor and no
 pay. He would have gone to congress
 from the Second district if the dem-
 ocrats had the strength to send him,
 and he did serve his county in the
 legislature. He was long a standby
 for delegate to democratic conven-
 tions, and in this relation he attain-
 ed prominence in the national coun-
 sels of his party. Following his elec-
 tion in 1884 Mr. Cleveland made him
 postmaster at Clinton.

In 1884 Judge Thayer was a member
 of the committee on resolutions in
 the national convention at Chicago.
 He is said to have written the tariff
 plank of that year. It is interesting
 to turn to that platform for an esti-
 mate of the author. "Knowing full
 well," it was said, "that legislation
 affecting the operations of the peo-
 ple should be cautious and conserva-
 tive in method, not in advance of
 public opinion, but responsive to its
 demands, the democratic party is
 pledged to revise the tariff in a spirit
 of fairness to all interests." It de-
 clared that it would not increase
 taxes. It is not proposed to injure any

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Davenport.

They have the sympathy of all in their sorrow.

The funeral will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. Irenaeus church.

OBITUARY.

The funeral services of the late Calvin H. Bingham will be held at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon and will be in charge of Gen. N. L. Baker post G. A. R.

Services will be conducted at the first Baptist church, Rev. J. F. Sanders officiating.

The deceased was born at Plattsburg, N. Y., and was 76 years of age. He came to Iowa about forty years ago, locating at Anamosa, where he made his residence for about thirty years, when he moved to Clinton, and ever since has made his home in this city.

Mr. Bingham was well known throughout the city, and the news of his death will bring a pang of sorrow to all friends. He was a veteran of the civil war, having served with credit in a California regiment.

The deceased is survived, besides his wife, by four sons and one daughter: Ralph, Charles Frank and Miss Bertha Bingham, of Clinton and Fred Bingham of Camanche.

Held Yesterday.

The funeral services of the late Mrs. John Raymond, whose death occurred Sunday afternoon from the family home, 529 Camanche, at 2:30 o'clock followed by interment at the Springdale cemetery.

Mrs. Raymond was a daughter of J. C. Young, one of Clinton's pioneer residents. She was born in 1837 at Syracuse, N. Y., and was a resident of Clinton for the past thirty-five years. The deceased is survived besides her husband by one daughter and two sons, Mrs. Jennie Ringson, of this city, Will M. Raymond, of Marshalltown, and John C. Raymond, of Montevideo, Minn.

One report, that the boat will not return to run between Davenport and Clinton next year has been refuted by the company officials, who state positively that the Winona will be back early next spring and will run in her regular trade out of Davenport. It has never been the desire of the company to send her south for the future and the company is at a loss to understand where such a report originated.

Judge Thayer's Funeral.

The funeral of the late Judge J. H. Thayer will be held from the residence, 415 Seventh Avenue, at 10 o'clock Thursday morning. The services will be conducted by the Rev. James Trimble of Minneapolis, who for twenty years was Rector of St. John's Episcopal church. Services will be followed by interment in Springdale cemetery.

Friends are kindly requested not to send flowers.

LOCAL NEWS.

A. R. Poller left last evening for a visit at St. Louis.

A. R. Benson of Washington, D. C., is visiting in the city.

J. Baer is up from Davenport for a short stay in this city.

C. G. Ewing left this morning for an extended trip through the East.

Charlie Myers and Earl Granger are taking in the fair at St. Louis.

Miss Alice Hallow left yesterday for a visit at the St. Louis exposition.

J. L. Clark has returned from a week's visit at the St. Louis exposition.

Miss Alice Ward left yesterday for a visit with friends and relatives in Chicago.

Miss Foster is back from a pleasant visit with friends and relatives in Davenport.

Mrs. High and daughter Bessie, of Morrison visited with friends here yesterday.

gust Quatman Hickey. These acolytes and all pants in the serv this diocese. W Archbishop Jol Dubuque, Ia. pr In it he referred the deceased w as a priest in R tion to the cons with which thos these eight and

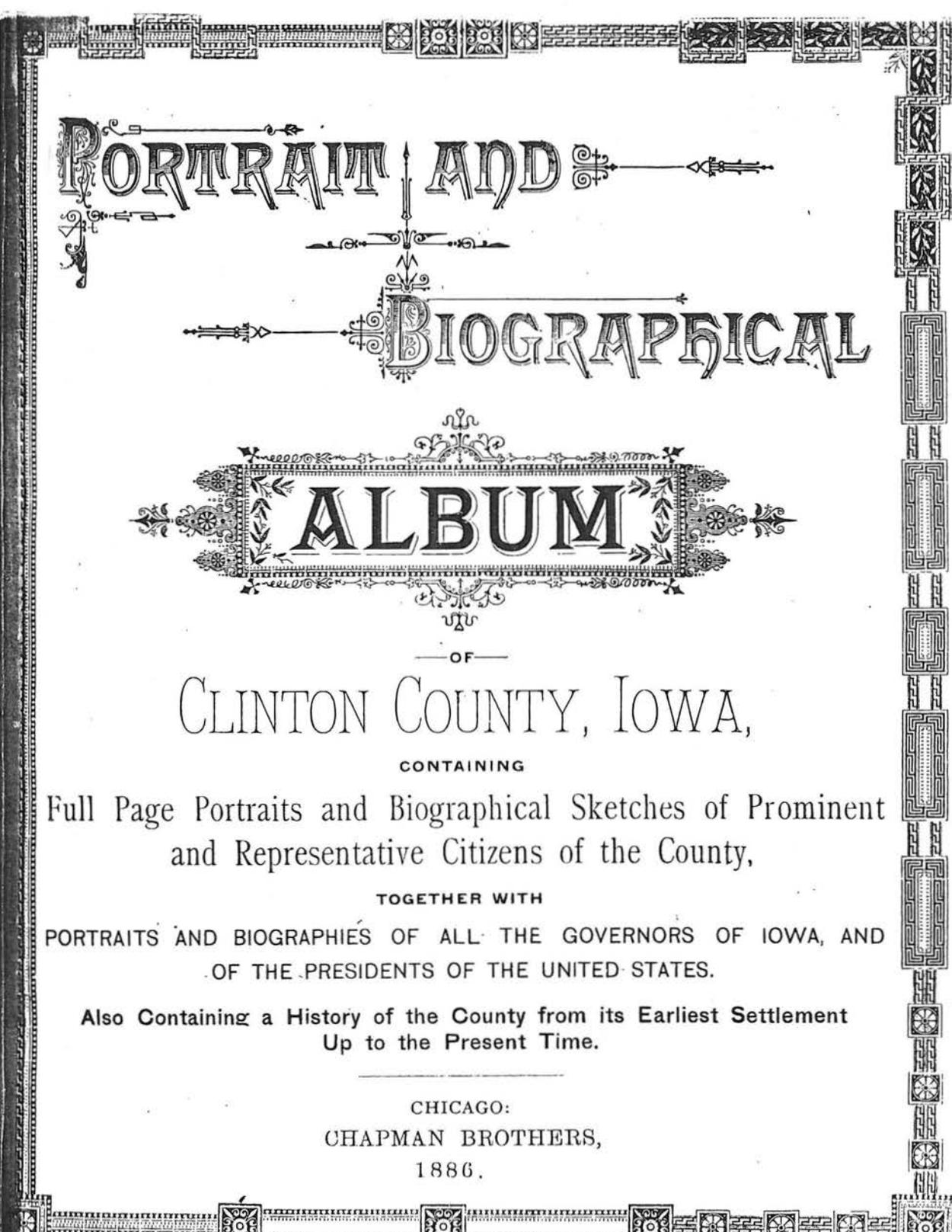
Following the solemn, absolute Gibbons, Archb. Maes, Heslin an ed by two chap the mass was dents of St. Mar the first time i complete Gregor

The procession marked with 10 communicants. bells by Catholi tutions along services at the by Archbishop Revs. Nau and

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Cleveland, O., officials have arr ers in this city made and circula Hungarian mon The officers raid the counterfeit Kerkowicz, Mich Hirvat. They w in their posses of a foreign co contributed a quantity of bo It is claimed by clais last week from this coun exchanged their through the pi supposed to be to find that it reaching Hunga the American t ter.



Portrait and
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Album

— OF —

CLINTON COUNTY, IOWA,

CONTAINING

Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent
and Representative Citizens of the County,

TOGETHER WITH

Portraits and Biographies of All the Governors of Iowa, and
of the Presidents of the United States.

Also Containing a History of the County from its Earliest Settlement
Up to the Present Time.

CHICAGO:

CHAPMAN BROTHERS,

1886.

Julia, the third daughter, married Reuben Conry; she is deceased, and Steven died also.

Mr. and Mrs. Bentley have spent a useful and companionable life together, and celebrated their fiftieth anniversary with friends and children gathered about, not long since. Many valuable presents were bestowed upon them, each being the recipient of gold-bowed spectacles. Not only were the gifts from friends and neighbors acceptable, as serving to show the spirit and feeling toward them, but the tender memories of a half century were the noblest and truest spirit that pervaded their survey of the past.

EDWARD H. THAYER, editor of the *Clinton Age*, was born in Windham, Me., Nov. 27, 1832; came to Cleveland, Ohio, in May, 1850, read law in that city, and in the fall of 1852 was admitted to practice in all the courts of that State. In May, 1853, he came to Muscatine, Iowa, and that same month was admitted to the practice of law in the district courts of the State, and a few months later was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court.

In 1855 Mr. Thayer was elected, on the Democratic ticket, Prosecuting Attorney of Muscatine County, the opposing candidate being on the Know-Nothing ticket. He was elected Judge of Muscatine County in 1857, and re-elected in 1859. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, held in Charleston and Baltimore, and as such delegate voted fifty-seven times for Stephen A. Douglas as candidate for the Presidency.

In 1861 Mr. Thayer established the *Muscatine Daily Courier*, and in June, 1868, moved to Clinton, Iowa, and commenced the publication of the *Clinton Age*, which paper he has continued to edit and publish to the present time. Through the *Age* and personally he has taken a conspicuous part in advancing the local interests of Clinton. He was largely instrumental in the removal of the county seat to that city, being Chairman of the committee on removal, and was active in the organization of the Midland Railroad Company. He also originated the so-called Southwestern Railroad project, a road now operated from Clinton via Iowa City to the What Cheer coal fields; the building of that road also brought to Clinton the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

In 1876 Mr. Thayer was appointed Receiver of the Southwestern road, and as Receiver he built the road from a junction with the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad to Iowa City. He was an industrious and energetic worker in

securing the Clinton water-works system, and for several years was Secretary of the company. In 1875 he was elected a member of the lower house of the Sixteenth General Assembly, and the following year was appointed by Gov. Kirkwood a Director of the State Normal School, located at Cedar Falls, which school he assisted to organize; for ten years he served as Director, and for four years was President of the Board. In 1876 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, held at Saint Louis, and took an active part in the nomination of Samuel J. Tilden for the Presidency. In 1884 he was elected a Delegate-at-Large to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago, and used his influence in favor of the nomination of Grover Cleveland; and was the Iowa member of the committee that framed the Democratic National Platform of that year.

In September, 1885, Mr. Thayer was appointed, by President Cleveland, Postmaster of Clinton, entering upon the duties of the office on the 1st of March following.

On the 18th of October, 1858, Mr. Thayer was married to Miss Delia E. Payne, of Essex County, N. Y., the issue of that union being three daughters—Nellie, Maude and May.

The history of Mr. Thayer presents the record of an exceptionally busy life, the result of an active mind and energetic disposition, and he has always discharged the duties assigned to him by the confidence of his fellow-citizens with credit and fidelity.

HANS P. CHRISTENSEN is a general farmer residing on section 30, Brookfield Township. He was born in Denmark, Nov. 28, 1856, and is the son of Ole and Inger (Frederickson) Christensen, both born and reared in Denmark. He received a practical farm education in this country, and was by profession a carpenter. Both of these occupations he followed, and also is a musician of no mean ability and a telegraph operator. The father of Mr. Christensen was born Feb. 9, 1820, and his mother July 11, 1819. They came to America in 1869, and landed at Castle Garden, N. Y., May 5. They almost immediately emigrated West and purchased eighty acres of land of John Twist. This was nearly all uncultivated and unproductive until improved and cultivated by its owner.

Mr. Ole Christensen has three children living and one deceased. They are as follows: Jens P., born Sept. 2, 1844, who married Miss Sidsel M. Nielsen. His twin brother died at the age of four years.

THE
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD
OF
CLINTON COUNTY,
IOWA.

ILLUSTRATED.

The people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations."—MACAULAY.

CHICAGO:
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1901

WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

pends entirely upon individual ability, Dr. Fairchild has won distinction and to-day is one of the most prominent representatives of his chosen calling in this state. Endowed by nature with strong mentality, he has closely applied himself to the mastery of the principles of medical science and has carried his investigations far and wide into the realms of medical knowledge, not only following the leadership of others but leading in the advance movement that has brought new truths and principles to light, proving of great value in the healing art.

JUDGE EDWARD H. THAYER,

Editor and one of the proprietors of the Clinton (Iowa) Morning Age, was born at Windham, Maine, November 27, 1832. His father, Ludo Thayer, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1796, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rhoda Penniman, was born in Windsor, Vermont, the same year. For many years he attended the district schools at Orono, state of Maine, graduating from the East Corinth Academy in 1850. That year he started for Portland, Oregon, although at that time Greeley had not given the young men that excellent advice "to buy a Hoe press and go West." At Albany he took passage on a canal boat for Buffalo, thence by lake boat to Cleveland, where he was taken sick, preventing his continuing his journey.

He remained in Cleveland three years reading law in the office of Bolton, Kelley & Griswold, attending lectures of the medical college and doing local work on the Herald and Plain Dealer, newspapers of that city. While in Cleveland, the subject

of this sketch learned shorthand writing, being one of the very few persons in the country who at that time was able to report speeches verbatim. In the political campaign of 1852 he reported speeches made by Stephen A. Douglas, Lewis Cass, Horace Greeley, Sam Houston and other distinguished gentlemen. He reported the speech of General Scott which was made in that city, in which occurred the noted phases "sweet German accent" and "rich Irish brogue." He accompanied the party that escorted General Scott to the Blue Lick Springs, reporting the speeches made on the route of that celebrated chieftain. He also reported several speeches made by Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot.

In the spring of 1853 Mr. Thayer was admitted to the bar, passing the very thorough examination at that time made imperative by law, his certificate authorizing him to practice his profession in all the courts of the state. In May of that year he started further West, spending a week or two in Chicago. By railroad he went to Freeport, Illinois, thence by stage to Savannah, and down the river by boat to Muscatine, Iowa, where he commenced the practice of law. In 1854 he was elected county attorney on the Democratic ticket. In 1856 he was elected county judge of Muscatine county, and re-elected in 1858, both times as a Democrat. In 1858 he married Miss Delia E. Payne, of Westport, New York, who during their 43 years of married life has been his most valuable helpmate. The fruits of this marriage were three daughters, all now residing in Clinton. In 1860 he was elected by the Democratic state convention as a delegate to the Charleston convention, being made the Iowa member of the committee on permanent organization, before which committee the first contest was

made between the Douglas and Breckenridge factions. In that convention Judge Thayer voted fifty-six times for Stephen A. Douglas for candidate as president. The convention without selecting a candidate adjourned to Baltimore, where on the first ballot Judge Douglas was placed in nomination. In 1862 Judge Thayer was the Democratic candidate for congress, but was defeated by Hiram Price. During his residence in Musatine, Judge Thayer was engaged in the newspaper business, and in 1868 he moved to Clinton, where he established the Age, which paper he has since continued to edit and manage. He at once took a prominent part in advocating the construction of railroads, was director in several railroad companies, president of the Iowa Southwestern road, building a portion of that road and then operating it. He has been active through his paper in urging capital to establish manufactures in Iowa, has been a leader in championing the educational interests of the state, a persistent advocate of good roads, his work in that direction running through a period of twenty years. He has made the beet sugar industry a study, beginning the agitation of that subject in 1873 and from time to time publishing a vast amount of valuable information which has had much to do with the establishment of beet sugar factories in this country, and he is now a firm believer in the practicability of growing sugar beets and manufacturing beet sugar in Iowa.

In 1875 Judge Thayer was elected a member of the lower house of the General Assembly of Iowa, and the following year he was appointed by Governor Kirkwood, a trustee of the state normal school, assisting in the establishment of that institution, holding the office of president of the board for several years, resigning in 1885 to ac-

cept the office of postmaster of Clinton, which unsolicited, was tendered him by President Cleveland. In 1876 he was chosen a delegate to the Democratic national convention which met in St. Louis, taking an active part in securing the nomination of Samuel J. Tilden. In 1884 he was elected delegate at large to the Democratic national convention held at Chicago, was selected as the Iowa member of the platform committee and performed valuable service in formulating the tariff plank.

Besides his active advocacy of good roads in the Daily Age he inaugurated a movement for a good roads convention, which met at Des Moines in August, 1892. This was one of the largest assemblies, outside of political gatherings, ever held in the state, every county and nearly every city and town sending delegates. He was elected chairman of the convention, making an address upon the subject of good roads, and subsequently, when the permanent organization known as the "Iowa Road Improvement Association" was organized, he was elected the president, which position he held for a number of years.

In October, 1892, the first national convention to consider the subject of good roads met in Music Hall, Chicago. This convention was presided over by Judge Thayer, and subsequently when the national league of good roads was organized, he was made chairman of the executive committee, which office he now holds. In January, 1893, he read a paper on "good roads" before a convention of the National League for Good Roads, held at Washington, D. C. In May, 1893, he addressed the Iowa Bankers' Association at their annual meeting, taking for his subject "Good Roads and how they affect our financial condition." In October, 1893, he delivered two ad-

dresses in Chicago; one before the American Bankers' Association, at their annual meeting, being assigned the subject, "The construction of good roads as a matter of finance," and the other before the "Good Roads Congress of the World's Columbian Exposition," his topic being "A New Departure."

In 1880 he was appointed by Governor Gear the Iowa member of the Mississippi River States Commission, taking a prominent part in the annual meetings which were held in New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis and St. Paul. This committee consisted of one member from each state bordering on the Mississippi river. It served the public many years and until congress recognized the importance of its work by providing for the existing national commission.

For almost half a century Judge Thayer has been a familiar face in Democratic state conventions. He has often been placed on the committees on resolutions and he presided over the deliberations of the convention of 1864 held at Des Moines.

For several years he was a member of the school board of the city of Clinton and for twenty-five years a vestryman in St. John's Episcopal church. In local matters the *Age*, under the direction of its editor, has been active in advocating and urging forward the material interests of the city. At an early day, realizing the fact that railroads were essential to the growth, prosperity and welfare of the state, the *Age* zealously and untiringly, not only advocated gridironing the state with railroads, but discountenanced and condemned the spirit of antagonism toward railroads which at times prevailed on the part of some of the people and some of the law makers.

J. ALEXANDER SMITH.

Prominent among the successful agriculturists of Clinton county is J. Alexander Smith, who now makes his home in DeWitt. He was born in Morgan county, Ohio, September 18, 1835, and is a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of that state, being a grandson of John I. Smith, who was one of the first settlers of Belmont county and later made his home in Morgan county.

Our subject's father, William Smith, was also a native of the Buckeye state, and spent his early life in Morgan county, where in the midst of the dense forest he cleared and improved a farm. He married Miss Sarah Beal, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Asa Beal, also an early settler of that state, living first in Harrison and later in Morgan counties. She died in 1848 and he subsequently married again, and had children by both unions. He continued to reside in his native state until 1863, when he removed to Clinton county, Iowa, and purchased a farm in DeWitt township, where he made his home for some years, but his last days were spent in the village of DeWitt, where he passed away July 14, 1899, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. His second wife still survives him.

Mr. Smith, of this review, who is one of the children born of the first marriage, grew to manhood in the county of his nativity and acquired his education in its common schools. He remained with his father until twenty-two years of age, and was then married in Morgan county, November 13, 1856, to Miss Ursula Mummey, also a native of that county, and a daughter of Joshua Mummey, who was a soldier in the war of

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HISTORY OF IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FOUR VOLUMES

By BENJAMIN F. GUE

*Illustrated with Photographic Views of the Natural Scenery of
the State, Public Buildings, Pioneer Life, Etc.*

WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN OF IOWA

VOLUME IV
IOWA BIOGRAPHY



SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA

7864

THE CENTURY HISTORY COMPANY
42 LAFAYETTE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

EDWARD H. THAYER, journalist, was born in Windham, Maine, November 27, 1832. He graduated at East Corinth Academy in 1850 and came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended medical lectures and paid his way by work on the daily papers. He read law and in the spring of 1853 was admitted to the bar. Coming to Iowa he located at Muscatine and began the practice of his profession and served four years as county attorney. In 1860 he was a delegate from Iowa to the Democratic National Convention at Charleston which nominated Stephen A. Douglas for President. In 1862 Judge Thayer was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Second District against Hiram Price, but was defeated. While in Muscatine Judge Thayer acquired a taste for newspaper work and removing to Clinton in 1868 established the *Clinton Age*, which soon became one of the ablest Democratic journals in eastern Iowa. In 1875 Judge Thayer was elected Representative in the House of the Sixteenth General Assembly and in the following year was appointed by Governor Kirkwood trustee of the State Normal School where he served several years as president of the board. In 1876 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention and an earnest supporter of the nomination of Samuel J. Tilden for President. In 1880 he was the Iowa member of the Mississippi River States Commission and took an active part in the work of that body. In 1884 Judge Thayer was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago where he was the Iowa member of the committee on resolutions and author of the tariff plank in the platform. In 1885 he was appointed postmaster at Clinton by President Cleveland. Judge Thayer has been an active promoter of numerous railroads and was for a time president of the Iowa Southwestern Railroad Company. For nearly half a century he has been one of the most influential leaders of the Democratic party in Iowa, helping to formulate its platforms and often presiding over its State Conventions.

LOT THOMAS was born on the 17th of October, 1843, on a farm in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He received a liberal education and in 1868 he came to Iowa. He taught school near New Virginia, in Warren County, and during the time procured books and began to read law. In 1870 he entered the Law Department of the State University, graduated and was admitted to the bar. He took up his residence at Storm Lake and entered upon the practice of law. In 1884 he was elected Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District, serving by reelections until August, 1898, when he resigned to accept the Republican nomination for Congress in the Eleventh District. He was elected by a large majority and reelected at the close of his first term.

JAMES K. P. THOMPSON was born near Cary, Ohio, August 21, 1845. His education was carefully guided by his mother who was a promi-

Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

Belonging to the First and Second
Generations, with Anecdotes and
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

By

EDWARD H. STILES

For many years a member of the Iowa Bar; member of its House of Representatives, 1863-1864; member of its Senate, 1865-1866; Reporter of its Supreme Court, 1867-1875; author of Complete Digest of its Decisions from the earliest Territorial period to the 56th Iowa Reports.

"In old age alone we are masters of a treasure of which we cannot be deprived, the only treasure we can call our own. The pleasures of memory and the retrospect of the varied images which in an active life have floated before the mind, compensate, and more than compensate, for the alternate pleasures and cares of active life."—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

"Personal anecdotes, when characteristic, greatly enliven the pages of a biography."—SAMUEL SMILES.

signed, as stated. While he and Carskaddan were partners, they had a large and very important practice, and both as a lawyer and judge, Richman displayed very high qualities. His wife's maiden name was Mary Berdine, from whom the son, Irving B., evidently takes his middle name. This son, as we have seen, became a partner of his father, after the dissolution of the firm of Richman & Carskaddan. The family mantle seemed to fall upon him, for he attained distinction as a lawyer, legislator, public speaker and literateur. He served two terms in the State Legislature, where he proved himself a fine debater; a Presidential elector in 1892, in the course of which he made a notable canvass. As an author he has contributed meritorious articles to the Atlantic Monthly, The Political Science Quarterly, and The Magazine of American History. To the domain of state history, he has given us "John Brown in Iowa," "Mormonism in Iowa," "The Spirit Lake Massacre," "The Indian Chiefs, Keokuk and Black Hawk," "John Brown among the Quakers and Other Sketches," and additional publications. In 1893 he was appointed by President Harrison, Consul General at St. Gall, Switzerland, succeeding Colonel S. H. M. Byers. His subsequent history or whether he is still living, I am unable to state.

The following is the sketch of Mr. Thayer, referred to in the letter of Judge Carskaddan:

Hon. Edward H. Thayer was born at Windham, Maine, November 27, 1832, and lived in his native State until 1850, when he came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained about three years, engaged in studying law, and in newspaper work. He settled at Muscatine, Iowa, in the spring of 1853, and began the practice of the law. He soon after formed a co-partnership with J. Carskaddan, which continued until Mr. Thayer was elected County Judge of Muscatine County. In 1854, Mr. Thayer was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Muscatine County, and County Judge in 1857, and was re-elected to the latter office in 1859.

At that time a county judge in Iowa was literally king of the county. He was Probate Judge, and was also clothed with all the power and authority now vested in the County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Thayer's sterling common sense and good judgment enabled him to discharge the various and onerous duties of his office with admirable skill and success. In politics he was a strenuous Democrat and an ardent admirer and supporter of Stephen A. Douglas in the conflict between the Douglas and Breckenridge factions of the party in the Charleston Convention of 1860, to which he was a delegate from Iowa. In 1862, he was the Democratic candidate for Congress in his Congressional District, but failed of election.

During the latter part of the Civil War, and for a while afterwards, he edited a Democratic paper at Muscatine, and in 1868, he removed to Clinton, Iowa, and established the Clinton Age, which he soon made a leading Democratic newspaper of Iowa, and which he managed and edited until his death in 1904.

Mr. Thayer was an earnest and efficient advocate of principles, policies and measures which his judgment approved. He was repeatedly called upon by his political associates to represent them in places of trust and honor. In 1875, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of Iowa, and was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis in 1876, and in 1884 was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago. In 1885, he was appointed postmaster at Clinton. He was a great advocate of good roads, and presided over and addressed several conventions and meetings on that subject. He assisted in establishing the State Normal School and was President of the Board

several years. He was also, by appointment of the Republican Governor Gear, the Iowa Member of the Mississippi States Commission, and devoted much time and labor to the work of that commission.

He was vestryman of St. John's Episcopal Church of Clinton for about thirty years. In 1858, he was married to Miss Delia E. Payne, of Westport, New York, who is still living.

Mr. Thayer was a man who, in an eminent degree, had "the courage of his convictions," and never hesitated to express his faith, whether it was or was not in agreement with current popular thought.

Henry O'Connor and David C. Cloud.

Both of these men were Attorney-Generals of the State. David C. Cloud was the first one after the creation of that office in 1853 and served for two terms, as did Mr. O'Connor from 1866, when he was first elected.

Henry O'Connor was an Irishman, having been born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1820; he died at the Soldiers' Home, Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1900. He gained his early education at Tullow under private instructions from the Monks, who kept a free school. He came to this country when twenty years of age and learned the tailor's trade in New York City, where he worked at it for several years. From there he went to Cincinnati where he studied law while still working at his trade. He was admitted to the bar there, and in 1849 came to Muscatine. His marked talents and great brilliancy as an orator soon made him known throughout the State. He was probably its most popular political orator, and the announcement that he was to speak always drew a crowd to hear him. He was alike eloquent at the bar and it was not long before he acquired an enviable general practice. He was originally an anti-slavery Whig, and a Republican after the formation of that party. He was a Presidential elector and supported General Winfield Scott for President in 1852. In 1856 he was again a candidate for President elector in the Fremont-Buchanan Presidential campaign. In 1858 he was elected District Attorney for his district and officiated in that capacity until the commencement of the Civil War. He enlisted as a private in Company A, First Iowa Infantry. He participated in the Battle of Wilson's Creek, where General Lyon was killed. In many of the towns through which his regiment passed, receptions were given and the duty of responding to speeches of welcome was always placed upon "Private O'Connor." Upon the return of his regiment, he was appointed by Governor Kirkwood, Major of the 35th Regiment of Iowa Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war.

I knew Major O'Connor intimately. We were much together. He became Attorney-General of the State the year following that in which I became Reporter of the Supreme Court. It was made our duty to attend its semi-annual sessions at Des Moines, Davenport and Dubuque. In this wise we became closely associated. We were always seated at the table with the judges. His presence was a perpetual source of good feeling. He brimmed with the playful wit of his native land; his



You searched for **Edward H. Thayer** in **Iowa**

1870 United States Federal Census

Name:	Edward H Thayer	
Birth Year:	abt 1831	
Age in 1870:	39	
Birthplace:	Maine	
Home in 1870:	Clinton Ward 3, Clinton, Iowa	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Value of real estate:	View image	
Post Office:	Lyons	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Edward H Thayer	39
	Delia E Thayer	32
	Nellie Thayer	10
	Maud Thayer	7
	Mary Thayer	5
	Eliza Watts	50
	Henry Coggins	22
	Chas Coggins	18

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Clinton Ward 3, Clinton, Iowa; Roll M593_384; Page: 152A; Image: 308; Family History Library Film: 545883.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data:

- 1870 U.S. census, population schedules, NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
- Minnesota census schedules for 1870, NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Edward H. Thayer** in **Iowa**

1880 United States Federal Census

Name:	Edward H. Thayer	
Home in 1880:	Clinton, Clinton, Iowa	
Age:	47	
Estimated birth year:	abt 1833	
Birthplace:	Maine	
Relation to Head of Household:	Self (Head)	
Spouse's name:	Delia E.	
Father's birthplace:	Vermont	
Mother's birthplace:	Vermont	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Occupation:	Editor & Publisher	
Marital Status:	Married	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Cannot read/write:		
Blind:	View image	
Deaf and dumb:		
Otherwise disabled:		
Idiotic or insane:		
Household Members:		
	Name	Age
	Edward H. Thayer	47
	Delia E. Thayer	45
	Nellie I. Thayer	20
	Maude E. Thayer	16
	May F. Thayer	15
	Mary Cleary	24

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Clinton, Clinton, Iowa; Roll: T9_334; Family History Film: 1254334; Page: 183,3000; Enumeration District: 290; Image: 0367.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2003. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1880. T9. 1,454 rolls.

Description:
This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1880 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

You searched for **Edward H. Thayer** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name: **Edward H Thayer**
Census Date: **1905**
Residence State: **Iowa**
Residence County: **Clinton**
Locality: **Clinton**
Roll: **IA_82**
Line: **540**
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)
Household Name: Age
Members: **Edward H Thayer**

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.

Description:

This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration. [Learn more...](#)

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Individual Record

FamilySearch™ Pedigree Resource File

Edward Hankinson Thayer Compact Disc #138 Pin #489650 Pedigree
Sex: M

Event(s)

Birth: 27 Nov 1832
Windham, ME
Death: 11 May 1904
Clinton, IA

Parents

Father: Lodovicus Thayer Disc #138 Pin #488999
Mother: Rhoda Penniman Disc #138 Pin #488996

Marriage(s)

Spouse: Delia Eliza Payne Disc #138 Pin #489651
Marriage:

Notes and Sources

Notes: None
Sources: None

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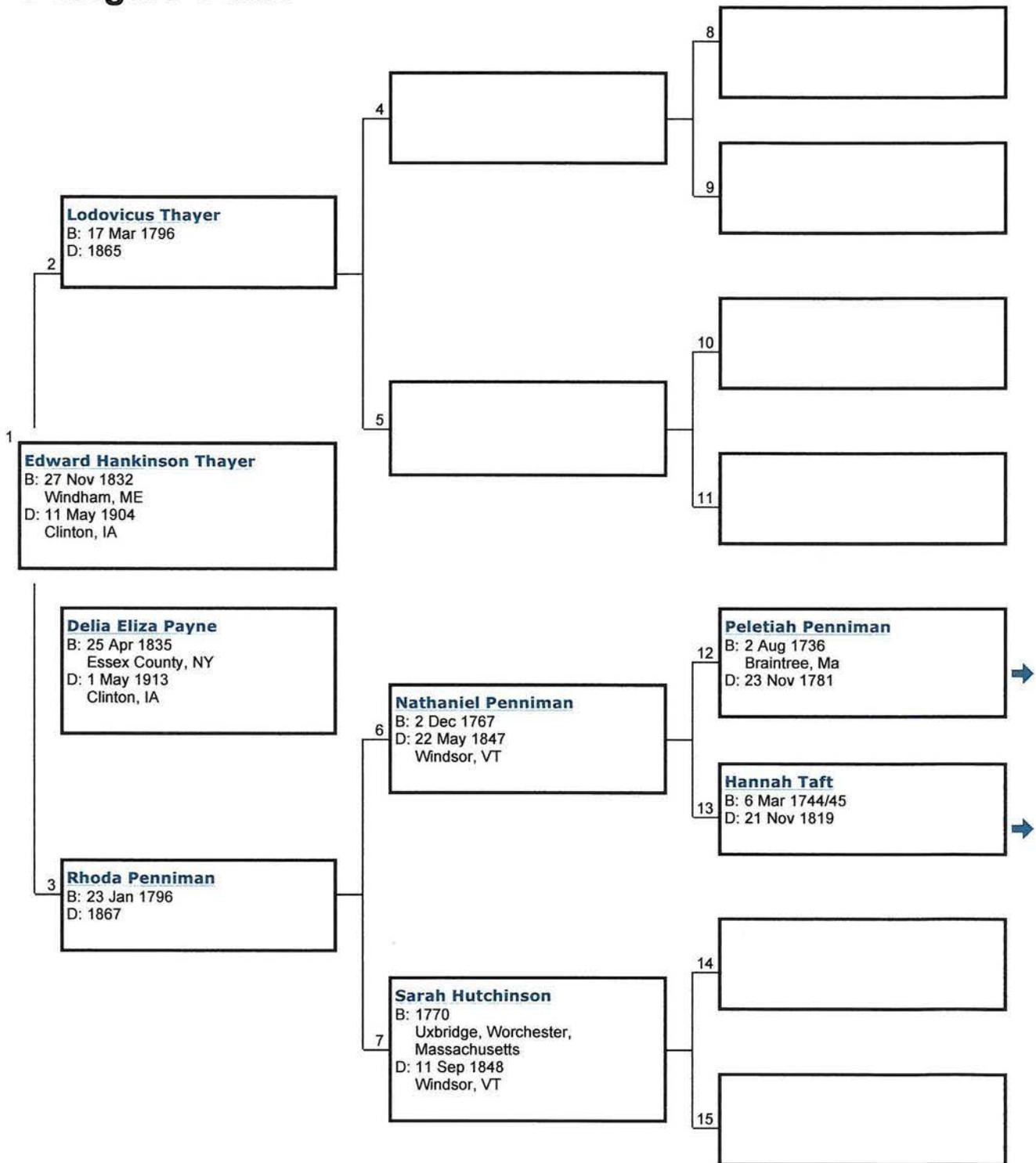
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ID: I1918
Name: Edward H. THAYER
Sex: M
Title: Honorable
Birth: 27 NOV 1832 in Orono, VT
Death: in Tama City, IA
Occupation: Lawyer
Note: Server as Judge of the Iowa Courts for 5 years.

Ancestry Hints for Edward H. THAYER

3 possible historical record matches

Father: Lodovius THAYER b: 17 MAR 1796 in Braintree, MA
Mother: Rhoda PENNIMAN b: in Windsor, VT.

Marriage 1 Della E. PAYNE b: 25 JUN 1835 in Orono, VT
Married: 18 OCT 1858 in Orono, VT

Children

Nellie Iowa THAYER b: 19 SEP 1859
Maud Eliza THAYER b: 15 JUL 1863
May Frances THAYER b: 22 NOV 1864

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You are here: Trees > OneWorldTree[®] > Edward Hankinson Thayer

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Edward Hankinson Thayer
Born: 27 Nov 1832
Windham, [county], Maine, USA
Died: 11 May 1904
Clinton, [county], Iowa, USA
 View person's info

Lodovicus Thayer
Rhoda Penniman

See Pedigree View

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- Elizabeth B Faxon
- Nathaniel Penniman
- Sarah Hutchinson

Alternates

Family **Historical Records** Family Facts

Family Groups

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Spouse

Delia Eliza Payne
Born: 25 Apr 1835 in [city], Essex, New York, USA
Died: 1 May 1913 in Clinton, [county], Iowa, USA

Marriage: 18 Oct 1858 in Orono, [county], Vermont, USA

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Children

Sex Birth

Son Thayer	M	19 Sep 1859 in Muscatine, [county], Iowa, USA
Nellie Iowa Thayer	F	19 Sep 1859 in Muscatine, [county], Iowa, USA
Maude Eliza Thayer	F	15 Jul 1863 in Muscatine, [county], Iowa, USA
May Frances Thayer	F	22 Nov 1864 in Muscatine, [county], Iowa, USA

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Edward Hankinson Thayer

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Birth: Nov. 27, 1832
Cumberland County
Maine, USA

Death: Nov. 7, 1904
Clinton
Clinton County
Iowa, USA

Parents

Father: Lodovicus Thayer
Mother: Rhoda (Penniman) Thayer
Husband of: Delia Eliza (Payne) Thayer

From: Iowa History Project, Gue, Benjamin F.
History of Iowa Vol. IV; New York City: 1903

EDWARD H. THAYER, journalist, was born in Windham, Maine, November 27, 1832. He graduated at East Corinth Academy in 1850 and came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended medical lectures and paid his way by work on the daily papers. He read law and in the spring of 1853 was admitted to the bar. Coming to Iowa he located at Muscatine and began the practice of his profession and served four years as county attorney. In 1860 he was a delegate from Iowa to the Democratic National Convention at Charleston which nominated Stephen A. Douglas for President. In 1862 Judge Thayer was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Second District against Hiram Price, but was defeated. While in Muscatine Judge Thayer acquired a taste for newspaper work and removing to Clinton in 1868 established the Clinton Age, which soon became one of the ablest Democratic journals in eastern Iowa. In 1875 Judge Thayer was elected Representative in the House of the Sixteenth General Assembly and in the following year was appointed by Governor Kirkwood trustee of the State Normal School where he served several years as president of the board. In 1876 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention and an earnest supporter of the nomination of Samuel J. Tilden for President. In 1880 he was the Iowa member of the Mississippi River States Commission and took an active part in the work of that body. In 1884 Judge Thayer was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago where he was the Iowa member of the committee on resolutions and author of the tariff plank in the platform. In 1885 he was appointed postmaster at Clinton by President Cleveland. Judge Thayer has been an active promoter of numerous railroads and was for a time president of the Iowa Southwestern Railroad Company. For nearly half a century he has been one of the most influential leaders of the Democratic party in Iowa, helping to formulate its platforms and often presiding over its State Conventions.



Cemetery Photo

Added by: Mike & Robbie

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Rest in Peace -Anonymous

Added: Nov. 28, 2008

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Delia Eliza *Payne* Thayer (1835 - 1913)

Burial:

Springdale Cemetery

Clinton

Clinton County

Iowa, USA

Created by: Marc Thayer, III

Record added: Nov 28, 2008

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