

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Capt. J. Fitch, Senator

William Harrison — Represented Hamilton, Hebron, Jay, Humboldt, Calhoun,
Pocahontas, Palo Alto, Dickinson, Clay and Boone West's Counties Iowa

1. Birthday and place 25 Mars 1840 Swanton, Franklin County, Vermont

2. Marriage (s) date place
Sarah E. Lindsey 1866

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities GAR

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 14th, 15th General Assemblies 1872, 1874

6. Public Offices

A. Local Elected Clerk of the District Court 1866-1873

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 27 July 1907 Lake City, Iowa; Cottonwood Cemetery Lake City, Calhoun County, Iowa

8. Children Lora A. (Mrs. E. A. Loebe); John

9. Names of parents Mason and Sally (Aseltine) Fitch

10. Education Educated in the public schools of New York as well as St. Lawrence Academy

11. Degrees St. Lawrence University

12. Other applicable information

- At age 10, his parents moved to Canton, St. Lawrence County, New York
- After the Civil War the family moved to Hoodstock, McHenry County, Illinois. His father died in 1880 and his mother moved to Lake City, Iowa.
- Military service - Civil War - Co A 6th New York Volunteer Infantry, attaining the rank of Captain
- After the war he returned to his old home in New York, but by fall 1865 he made his way to Fremont, Nebraska where the Union Pacific Railroad was being constructed, expecting to enter the civil engineering department.
- He then went to Lake City, Iowa and taught school at Lake City
- He later bought a farm southwest of Lake City where he farmed until 1887.
- In 1887 he moved to Lake City where he engaged in merchandising as proprietor of a store

immediately following the engagement at Missionary Ridge. He was a member of Company A, Sixtieth New York Volunteer Infantry, of which

York City.

In the public schools of New York Captain Fitch obtained his education and in St. Lawrence Academy and St. Lawrence University. He was pursuing a course of civil engineering when the war broke out, and in July, 1861, at Canton, New York, he offered his services to the government. On the organization of Company A, Sixtieth New York Infantry, he was appointed corporal, soon afterward was made orderly sergeant and for meritorious and gallant service was commissioned first lieutenant at Chancellorsville, while a short time afterward he was made captain. He participated in the many battles of the Shenandoah valley, including Harpers Ferry, Port Royal, Winchester and others of lesser importance. He then joined the Army of the Potomac and participated in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Later his regiment was transferred to the Army of the West, commencing operations at Wauhatchie, which was followed by the battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Ringgold, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek and Atlanta, being continuously under fire until he reached the last named place. For a time the command was stationed at Stevenson, Alabama, guarding railroads, and was with Sherman from Atlanta to Savannah, thus participating in the celebrated march to the sea. Captain

seen on the continent. He had re-enlisted as a veteran soon after the battle of Lookout Mountain and was honorably discharged at Alexandria, Virginia, in July 1865. He saw much hard service. Three times the colors of his regiment were shot down at Lookout Mountain. General Walthall's sword was there captured by his regiment, which also captured a Confederate flag. Captain Fitch was wounded at Chancellorsville in the right leg by a minie ball and several times had his hat and clothing perforated by Rebel bullets. He was also ill with typhoid fever for a time, but during the greater part of his military service he was in active duty, and his own gallantry and bravery inspired his men to deeds of valor. He served as inspector on the staffs of General Greene, Garey, Mendall and Bartlett for six months, and at the close of the war he held a commission as lieutenant colonel. He was in every engagement from Lookout Mountain until Sherman's army reached the sea, including forty battles and skirmishes.

At the close of the war Captain Fitch returned to his old home in New York, but after a short time came to the west in the fall of 1865, making his way to Chicago, thence to Omaha by way of the Missouri river and on to Fremont, Nebraska, where the Union Pacific Railroad was being constructed, expecting to enter the civil engineering department. He next proceeded to Ft. Dodge by way of Lake City by stage, and that winter was employed to teach the school at Lake City. He taught through the winter and is now one of the oldest school teachers in this part of the state. Subsequently he purchased a farm southwest of the town and carried on agricultural pursuits there until 1887, when he removed to Lake City, where he was engaged in merchandising as proprietor of a store, in partnership with J. J. Hutchison for four years.

Mr. Fitch has been honored with a number of public offices. In 1866 he was elected clerk of the district court and filled that position until 1873, when he was elected to represent his district in the state senate, in which he served for four years or until 1876, leaving the impress of his individuality upon the legislation enacted during that period. He was a member at the time the capitol was built and served as a member of the building committee. For six years years he also held the office of supervisor, and in his political views he has always been a republican, strongly endorsing the principles of the party and doing all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success.

The Captain was married in 1866, to Miss Sarah E. Lindsey of Lake



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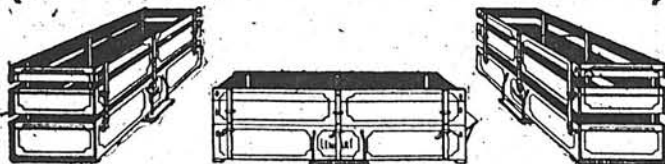
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