

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Kasson, John Adam Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Rock County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 11 Jan 1822 Charlotte Vermont

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Caroline "Caro" Eliot 1 May 1850 (later divorced) Vermont.

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar in Worcester, Massachusetts; he was  
made minister to Austria; later minister to Germany; U.S. Commissioner  
of the International Congo Conference

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Statesman; diplomat; counselor

4. Church membership Episcopal

5. Sessions served 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1868, 1870

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State In 1852 Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee

C. National Elected to the Democratic Convention in 1848 as a free soffer.  
in 1860 delegate to Republican Convention; in 1863 he was sent as a delegate  
to the International Postal Congress in Paris, France

7. Death 18 May 1910 Washington, D.C.; buried Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa

8. Children \_\_\_\_\_

9. Names of parents John Steele and Nancy (Blackman) Kasson

10. Education Educated in the local schools of Charlotte, Vermont

11. Degrees L.L.B degree from Vermont University, Burlington, Vermont in 1842

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He studied law with his brother in Vermont, studied later in Virginia, and Worcester, Massachusetts
- He began his law practice at New Bedford, Massachusetts
- In 1851 he moved to St. Louis and then returned to Vermont to marry and back to St. Louis where he practiced law until 1857
- He came to Des Moines Iowa in 1857
- He was sent to the Legislature where he achieved the building of the new state house and later delivered the dedicatory address.
- In 1887 he was made president of the Commission on the Constitutional Centennial at Philadelphia
- He was made a Samoan Commissioner
- In 1877 he was made minister plenipotentiary to negotiate treaties
- In 1898 he was made the American member of the Canadian-American joint high commission for reciprocity purposes.



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## Train on Wabash Hits Cow; Bad Wreck Result

DEWITT, Mo., May 18.—The Wabash fast passenger train, No. 12, east bound, with two engines, struck a cow on a curve five miles west of here at 4 o'clock this afternoon and in the wreck that followed one man was fatally injured and three were seriously hurt. A score of passengers suffered slight injuries.

Engineer Thomas Davis was so badly scalded that he will die. Engineer Charles Greedy and Fireman George Blaine and G. W. Penick sustained dangerous injuries. All of the injured persons were brought here.

## LOVERS DEFIED COMET

### ONLY ONE DES MOINES COUPLE HAD COURAGE TO WED.

#### Frank Barnhouse and Marie Lehman 'Ain't Afraid of' Vagabond and Are Married by Judge Howe.

Frank Barnhouse and Marie Lehman, both of Des Moines, were the only people in Polk county who yesterday defied destruction at the hands, or rather the tail of Halley's comet, and were married. Judge James A. Howe of the equity division of the district court, performed the ceremony.

Up until 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the marriage license book in Clerk Joseph P. Maher's office was as bare of names as the ocean is of dust. Then Frank and Marie walked into the office.

"Ain't you afraid the comet'll get you?" queried "Cupid" Baldwin as he reached for the license book, preparatory to issuing the permit.

"Believe me, kid, we'll be on the job when the comet comes around next time," said Frank. "I suppose there is a good place around here to get married," he added as he folded the license and put it in his pocket.

"Down the hall, first door to the right," said "Cupid," pointing the way to Judge Brennan's court room.

"Col." Johnston, Judge Howe's bailiff, is the keenest matchmaker in the court house and he can sniff a pair that is matrimonially inclined farther than the ordinary eye can see. He sighted them on the way to Judge Brennan's room and was after them swifter than an arrow from Cupid's bow.

Ordinarily he would have been frank with them and said, "Do you want to get married?" Yesterday, however, he changed his method, and adopting subterfuge, said:

"Ain't you afraid the comet will get you?"

He didn't give them a chance to answer his question, but taking each lightly by the arm he led

# DEATH TAKES GREAT IOWAN, J. A. KASSON

## Veteran Statesman and Dip- lomat Dies at National Capital.

## PROMINENT IN NATION

### He Enjoyed Long and Useful Career —Settled in Des Moines Before Breaking Out of the Civil War.

BY JOHN SNURE.

Washington Bureau of  
The Register and Leader,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 18.

John A. Kasson, one of the most brilliant men Iowa ever produced, and prominent in public life for half a century, is dead. Mr. Kasson passed away at his home here after a brief illness, shortly before noon today.

Of advanced age, he had long been in feeble health but he had not been considered seriously ill, and had been confined to his home for only a few days.

It was recognized last night that there was a possibility of the bronchial trouble from which Mr. Kasson had suffered recently spreading so far as to affect his lungs. An additional nurse was called in and this morning it was thought that all immediate danger was passed.

Mr. Kasson enjoyed his breakfast, and it was just at the time that Dr. Morrow, the attending physician was paying his morning call, that the patient grew seriously worse, dying soon after.

Mr. Kasson was unmarried and had no immediate relatives. One of his nephews, though, had arrived to see him only a few days before his death.

No arrangements have been made for the local funeral service, but it has been decided that the interment of the body will be at Des Moines, where Mr. Kasson made his home for many years.

### Retired Some Years Ago.

While Mr. Kasson has for some years been out of public life he was well known to public men in Washington. His ill health since his retirement has made it impossible for him to keep as fully abreast of affairs as wished to be. He was in his eighty-ninth year and feeble.

At the same time he was still able to talk interestingly about many phases of public matters. He was known in recent years best for his negotiations of the re-organization of the State Historical Society, and his administration. These were never ratified by the senate and it was a source of

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**HEAVENS.**  
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changed his method, and adopting subter-  
 fuge, said:  
 "Ain't you afraid the comet will get  
 you?"  
 He didn't give either Frank or Marie  
 a chance to answer his question, but  
 taking each lightly by the arm he led  
 them around the corridor, pointing out  
 the beauties of the building, until they  
 stopped dead in front of the door of  
 Judge Howe's court room.  
 "The judge is inside, he'll marry you  
 in a jiffy," Johnston said with the air of  
 one who has completed work well done.  
 "Going to get married?" said Judge  
 Howe as he glanced over the paper he  
 was reading. "Aren't you afraid of the  
 comet?"  
 Frank glanced knowingly at Marie and  
 Marie returned the glance. "Yes, we are  
 going to get married," he replied, "and  
 we are not afraid of the comet."  
 Walking out of the court room Marie  
 let her hand rest lightly on Frank's arm.  
 "Until I came in here I had forgotten all  
 about the comet, hadn't you, dear?"

**J. F. HOLLAND HEADS  
 TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION**

**Sharp Contest For Place as Inter-  
 national Delegates Won by R. E.  
 Brown and L. R. Page.**

J. F. Holland was elected president of  
 the Des Moines Typographical union at  
 the annual election of the local held yester-  
 day. With the exception of the candi-  
 dates for delegates to the inter-  
 national convention of the union to be  
 held in Minneapolis, all of the successful  
 candidates had practically no opposition.  
 R. E. Brown and L. R. Page were  
 elected as delegates to the international  
 convention with 84 and 77 votes respec-  
 tively. W. E. O'Brien, with 52 votes,  
 and W. P. Abel, who was a close third  
 with 71 votes, were the unsuccessful candi-  
 dates.  
 The election resulted as follows: J. F.  
 Holland, president; C. V. Davidson, vice  
 president; W. D. Ferree, financial and  
 corresponding secretary; W. G. Waters,  
 treasurer; Elizabeth E. Beck, recording  
 secretary; R. E. Brown and L. R. Page,  
 delegates to the international convention;  
 J. A. McDonald and J. W. Corbin, alter-  
 nates; Terry Cavanaugh and J. B. Nesbit,  
 delegates to the State Federation of  
 Labor; W. K. Fletcher, Albert Anderson,  
 W. H. Gruebel, F. O. Brown and J. F.  
 Cole, executive committee; George Kruk-  
 enholmer, H. A. McCaulley and Ambrose  
 Garnette, auditing committee; J. J.  
 Dwyer, sergeant at arms; F. J. Flournoy,  
 doorkeeper.  
 In the ballot taken for the election of  
 officers of the International Typographi-  
 cal union, the local chose James M.  
 Lynch of Syracuse, who received 93  
 votes, William Reilly of Dallas, the other  
 candidate for the presidency, obtained 55  
 votes. Other international officers chosen  
 by the local are as follows: George A.  
 Tracy of San Francisco, first vice presi-  
 dent; J. W. Hays of Minneapolis, secre-  
 tary-treasurer; Frank Morrison of Chi-  
 cago, Max S. Hayes of Cleveland, T. W.  
 McCullough of Omaha and Sam De Ned-  
 rey of Columbia, delegates to the Ameri-  
 can Federation of Labor; Michael Powell  
 of Ottawa, Thomas McCaffery of Colo-  
 rado Springs and William J. White of  
 San Francisco, trustees of the Union  
 Printers' home; George P. Nichols of  
 Baltimore, agent.

At the same time he was still able to  
 talk interestingly about many phases of  
 public matters. He was known in recent  
 years best for his negotiations of the re-  
 ciprocity treaties in the McKinley ad-  
 ministration. These were never ratified  
 by the senate and it was a source of  
 keen disappointment to Mr. Kasson.  
 The passing of Mr. Kasson marks the  
 end of one of the few remaining sur-  
 vivors of the Lincoln congress. He was a  
 lecturer of distinction in the history and  
 evolution of diplomacy and the author of  
 a number of works in connection with  
 his foreign service.  
 Mr. Kasson was a communicant of the  
 Episcopal church. He was a member of  
 many social and scientific bodies, among  
 others the National Geographical society,  
 the Washington Academy of Sciences,  
 the Columbia Historical society and the  
 Metropolitan club. He had been president  
 of the last two bodies.  
 Since his retirement from public life  
 he has followed literary work and has not  
 attempted anything more active than the  
 recreations of a retired but distinguished  
 public servant.

**SKETCH OF CAREER.**

**His Was Remarkably Brilliant and  
 Distinguished Record.**

Mr. Kasson probably attained more dis-  
 tinguished places in diplomacy than any  
 other Iowan. He was honored by both  
 State and nation.  
 He was born in Charlotte, Vt., Jan. 11,  
 1822.  
 He graduated from Vermont university  
 at Burlington in 1842 with the degree  
 L. B., having worked his way through.  
 He studied law in his brother's office in  
 Vermont, then in Virginia and later in  
 Worcester, Mass., where he was ad-  
 mitted to the bar.  
 He began practice at New Bedford,  
 Mass., and was elected to the democratic  
 convention of 1848 as a free soiler.  
 In 1851 he came to St. Louis, returned  
 to Vermont and married, and practiced  
 law at St. Louis until 1857.  
 He came to Des Moines in 1857.  
 In 1858 he was chairman of the republi-  
 can state central committee.  
 In 1860 he was sent as a delegate to the  
 Lincoln convention. He was one of a  
 committee of three, with Horace Greeley  
 as another, to write the resolutions.  
 Greeley afterwards gave him credit for  
 being the author of the platform.  
 In 1863 he was sent as a delegate to the  
 International Postal congress at Paris.  
 He was elected to the national con-  
 gress from this district in 1865. He was  
 defeated for a third term.  
 He was again sent to the postal con-  
 gress, and returning, was sent to the  
 legislature, where he achieved the build-  
 ing of the new state house. Later he was  
 invited to deliver the dedicatory address.  
 In 1873 he was sent to congress again  
 for two terms. He declined a third term,  
 but President Hayes made him minister  
 to Austria. He was then elected to con-  
 gress again for two terms.  
 In 1884 President Arthur made him min-  
 ister to Germany. He resigned after a  
 year, but was made United States com-  
 missioner at the international Congo con-  
 ference. He helped make Congo a free  
 state.  
 In 1887 he was made president of the  
 commission on the constitutional centen-  
 nial at Philadelphia.  
 He was made one of the Samoan com-  
 missioners by President Cleveland. After  
 several conferences the American demand  
 for Samoan autonomy was granted.  
 In 1897 Mr. Kasson was made plenipotentiary to negotiate reciprocity  
 treaties. William McKinley, president.

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

the brightness of Morshouse's ring. "What or more than ng stars simi- the last two d to see the believe that to c" the earth n. ngphere al. hary and e. in the midst watched the ough the tele- that indicate net's fall. were notice- lo not believe y the comet. be so prom- he stars would of the comet htness as the d into obscur- the moon. where abso- th's passage an be secured ng is in the the Pacific there at the of the moon sely watched. w as a dark sun. I have ble to see the for a short nset."

### HEAVENS.

### St. Paul's Church

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## NEBRASKAN WINS CONTEST

### Cotner School Man Victor in Prohibi- tion Oratorical.

OSKALOOSA, Ia., May 18.—Special: Clyde Cordner of Cotner university, Lin- coln, Neb., won the central interstate prohibition oratorical contest, contesting with representatives of six other states— Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, South Da- kota, Kansas and Texas. His subject was "The Passing of Alcoholism." John A. Shields of Ottawa university, Ottawa, Kas., with an oration entitled "A Plea for United Action," was awarded second place and Frank P. Johnson of Morning- side college, Sioux City, was third, his oration being entitled, "The Young Men of Today—Their Mission."

## EVERP PASSENGER RESCUED

### Steamer Hit a Sandbar Near Kansas City and Afterwards Capsized.

KANSAS CITY, May 18.—Panic-stricken by the realization that they were on a sinking steamer, 150 passengers, men, wo- men and children, struggled and fought madly to escape from the excursion steamer Uncle Sam when it struck a sand- bar and capsized in the Missouri river near here this afternoon. Only the coolness of the boat's crew prevented great loss of life. The acci- dent occurred in midstream where the river is wide and deep.

at Burlington in 1842 with the degree L. L. B., having worked his way through.

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He was made one of the Samoan com- missioners by President Cleveland. After several conferences the American demand for Samoan autonomy was granted.

In 1897 Mr. Kasson was made minister plenipotentiary to negotiate reciprocity treaties. William McKinley, president, conferred this extraordinary honor upon him.

In 1898 he was made the American member of the Canadian-American joint high commission for reciprocity pur- poses.

Mr. Kasson wrote "The Evolution of the United States Courts," and "A His- tory of the Monroe Doctrine."

## NEWS REACHES CITY.

### Simon Casady Received Wire at 1 O'clock Yesterday.

Information of the death of Mr. Kasson was received in the city yesterday at 1 o'clock by Mr. Simon Casady, a life long friend. Mr. Kasson had not visited in this city for several years and had not resided here for a quarter of a cen- tury or more. But his career had been so distinguished and his fame so great that the news of his death was a distinct shock in the community which he had so long honored and whose people, whether personally acquainted with him or not, had long appreciated his greatness.

In Des Moines he lived for many years in a house on Seventh street above Grand avenue, and during late years had visited friends here and at Adel. About five or six years ago he had to undergo several operations from which he never fully recovered.

He has two living relatives, his nephews, John K. Howe of Albany, N. Y., and J. H. Weed of Brookline, Mass.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1865.

Reported for the Daily Herald.

## THE KASSON DIVORCE CASE.

### Adultery, Exposure, Confession and Divorce.

### The Trials of a Congressman's Wife.

The institution of a suit of divorce by Mrs. John A. Kasson against her husband and their final separation, has excited some attention during the past three weeks, but still has not received that attention from the press which its importance would seem to demand. The prominence of Mr. Kasson, his well known ability and influence in the councils of the nation, which all concede, and the length of time he has been before the public in high official position, together with the amiability, beauty, and lovely disposition of his wife, all conspire to make it a case of more than ordinary moment. The facts have not yet been published in full, and now since the parties have agreed to an amicable separation it is doubtful if they ever see the light further than they are now known. For this reason, we collect such as have been made public and present them in a continuous narrative, though of course not able to give so full an account as presence in the town where they reside would afford.

Mr. and Mrs. Kasson have been married, we are told, about fifteen years. He is, we believe, a native of Alabama, certainly of some Southern state, but moved from there many years ago. He has spent a good deal of time in Washington, where he became acquainted with and married his wife. Her maiden name was Caroline Elliott; her mother still resides in Washington unless lately removed. Mrs. K. has a brother who is a Unitarian clergyman, residing in St. Louis, where he is pastor of a church. This marriage has never been blessed with any children, and it is believed that in this fact is to be found, remotely or directly, no small part of the cause of the present trouble.

Mr. Kasson, during the first part of Mr. Lincoln's term, was First Assistant Postmaster to Mr. Blair, but he resigned the place in 1862 when he was elected to Congress from the Fifth District of this state. He had made it his home at Des Moines for several years, where he has a pleasant little homestead. His wife had usually accompanied him to Washington, but this winter she did not go for some unexplained reason. It would appear, however, that at his departure he had no suspicion of her, nor if he was guilty, did he suspect that she had any knowledge of it, for he left much the largest part of his ready money with her.

While he was absent in Washington this winter, Mrs. Kasson, not only heard, but it would seem obtained evidence that he was guilty of violating his marital vows. Who with, however, when or where is not known, and probably will not be made public. It is said, however, that the lady in question was indiscreet enough to write him a letter that contained a good many things a friendly epistle should not contain, and this of course was miscarried and finally came into Mrs. Kasson's possession, and it is presumed that this contained the evidence of his sin. Be this as it may, she considered her wrongs too grievous to be borne, and with a full knowledge of the law, she determined to institute proceedings, and a petition for divorce was drawn up, but we cannot learn that

## THE THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, March 6.

Mr. Ramsay, of Minn., introduced a joint resolution for establishing of quarantine regulations to prevent the spread of Asiatic cholera, which was referred to the committee on commerce.

Mr. Morrill, from the committee on commerce, reported a bill to establish telegraphic communication between New York and the West Indies.

Mr. Conness, of California, moved to take up the bill to extend the time for withdrawing goods from public stores.

Mr. Brown, of Mo., desired to call up the bill for the reimbursement of the State of Missouri for expenses in equipping and paying the militia of that State.

Mr. Conness appealed to Mr. Brown to let the bill named by him be called up.

Mr. Brown said he would do so if it would not lead to discussion.

Mr. Sprague, of R. I., said he intended to discuss the bill named by Mr. Conness.

The bill named by Mr. Brown was taken up and passed.

The bill to extend the time for the withdrawal of goods from public stores was taken up, the pending motion being to reconsider the vote by which it was passed.

At the expiration of the morning hour the joint resolution to amend the constitution, on the subject of representation, was taken up.

Mr. Saulsbury, of Del., addressed the Senate in opposition to it.

Mr. Ramsay introduced the following joint resolution, which was referred to the committee on commerce:

*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War, with the co-operation of the Secretary of the Navy, whose concurrent action shall be directed by the commander-in-chief of the army, to cause a rigid quarantine against the introduction into this country of the Asiatic cholera, through its ports of entry, whenever the same may be known to be prevalent in countries which have direct commercial intercourse with the U. S. 2d. That he shall also enforce the establishment of sanitary cordons to prevent the spread of said disease from infected districts adjacent to or within the limits of the United States. 3d. That said secretaries are hereby authorized to use the means at their command to carry out the foreign provisions. 4th. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to open a correspondence with foreign powers whose proximity to us shall endanger the introduction of Asiatic cholera into this country through other ports and territories, soliciting their co-operation with government in efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of said disease.

### HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Love, the Senate bill granting land to aid in the construction

to be offered. Mr. Schenck's was 189 years, nays 39. The bill was passed.

The Speaker presented a report of the President in relation to the assassination of President Lincoln. The table and ordered to be printed.

Also, a letter from the President transmitting report from Secretary of State in answer to resolution of House in relation to provisional government of state.

Also, report from State Department to cost of printing and advertising that department for 1865.

Mr. Morrill moved to postpone orders in order to take up House bill regulating trade with the British American Provinces, which was

The House then went into conference of the whole, Mr. Raymond in the chair and proceeded to the consideration of a bill regulating trade with the North American Provinces.

Mr. Morrill addressed the committee in support of the bill.

Mr. Pike accorded with the general objects of the bill.

Mr. Washburne also approved the bill, particularly the section abolishing fishing bounties.

A long debate ensued, partly by Washburne and Pike.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Mar

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution which was adopted, instructing the committee on the Judiciary to inquire what action is necessary to protect officers of the army from arrest and prosecution in civil courts for acts done in obedience to orders from superior officers while in U. S. service.

Mr. Sprague offered a resolution which was adopted, instructing the committee on Foreign Affairs to report a bill for the appointment of a commission of special officers—one from the army and one from the navy—to examine the sul cholera preventive, and to attend to the cholera Congress in Europe.

Mr. Davis called up a resolution introduced by him a few days ago, calling on the committee to investigate cotton duties. He now offered a substitute for his proposition, providing for a special committee of the Senate on the subject of abuses of the powers of which a majority shall be composed of opposition Senators.

Mr. Trumbull caused to be read a letter from Gen. Brayman in reply to resolutions of official corruption made by him in a letter from Wm. Burnham Cincinnati, alleging Burnett to have been guilty of frauds at Natchez, and for a full investigation of the matter.

At one o'clock the constitutional amendment was taken up. Sumner took the floor in opposition to it, and spent a great length against the proposition.

Mr. Doolittle addressed the Senate in reasonable length in favor of the proposition according to the number of votes.

Mr. Ramsey moved that the bill be taken up for the admission of Colorado.

On motion of Mr. Love, the bill was taken up and read a second time, and made a

term, was First Assistant Postmaster to Mr. Blair, but he resigned the place in 1862 when he was elected to Congress from the Fifth District of this state. He had made it his home at Des Moines for several years, where he has a pleasant little homestead. His wife had usually accompanied him to Washington, but this winter she did not go for some unexplained reason. It would appear, however, that at his departure he had no suspicion of her, nor if he was guilty, did he suspect that she had any knowledge of it, for he left much the largest part of his ready money with her.

While he was absent in Washington this winter, Mrs. Kasson not only heard, but it would seem obtained evidence that he was guilty of violating his marital vows. Who with, however, when or where is not known, and probably will not be made public. It is said, however, that the lady in question was indiscreet enough to write him a letter that contained a good many things a friendly epistle should not contain, and this of course was miscarried and finally came into Mrs. Kasson's possession, and it is presumed that this contained the evidence of his sin. Be this as it may, she considered her wrongs too grievous to be borne, and with a full knowledge of all she and he both must sacrifice, she determined to institute proceedings, and a petition for divorce was drawn up, but we cannot learn that it was ever filed. This was about the middle of February. Of course, it would not long be kept a secret, and when once started it traveled fast. Its first public announcement we think was contained in our Des Moines dispatch, published on the morning of February 20. Mr. Kasson was at once informed of the state of affairs and started for home. It will be recollected he was charged in some of the papers with dodging on some of the important votes taken that week in Congress, but it now appears he was speeding away for Iowa as fast as possible in a matter that affected him much more deeply and nearly than the matters he was leaving behind, important as they were.

The result is already announced. He arrived at home, had an interview with his wife, it is said acknowledged his guilt, she laid down her terms, he agreed to them, they resolved upon an amicable separation, legal proceedings, if any had been instituted, were dropped, and he is now on his return to Washington. The lovers of scandal and those eager for the prurient development of such divorce cases are disappointed, and in a short time the whole thing will have passed from the public mind.

This is the prevalent view. Mr. Kasson of course has many and warm friends who do not and cannot believe these things true of him, and they allege that his enemies in his own party who are offended at his public action, and especially those who are jealous of his power and popularity, have operated upon Mrs. K. and magnified what, perhaps, were only slight indiscretions into great wrongs until they have goaded her on to do what she has done. How this supposition will be made to hinge with his action while on his visit to Des Moines does not appear. One account says he appeared in open court in Warren county, and plead guilty to the allegations of infidelity, whereupon a decree was entered in accordance with the prayer of Mrs. Kasson's petition, but this is doubtless an error.

It is said that Mr. and Mrs. Kasson had always manifested a remarkable affection for each other. They were attentive and considerate of each other as lovers; she was proud of his talents, his open address, and high position; while he was proud of the kind, gentle, womanly and fine social and mental qualities of his wife. He was a fine man, much superior to the common run, and she was worthy of him. Their letters up to within a very recent period were such as would only be expected from a high minded and honorable companionship. But so it is. This unfortunate denouement has shown to the world the skeleton of the closet, smiles and caresses have ended in tears and distress.

DEATH OF W. W. HAMILTON.—A dispatch was received in town on Thursday morning, the

the commander-in-chief of the army, to cause a rigid quarantine against the introduction into this country of the Asiatic cholera, through its ports of entry, whenever the same may be known to be prevalent in countries which have direct commercial intercourse with the U. S. 2d. That he shall also enforce the establishment of sanitary cordons to prevent the spread of said disease from infected districts adjacent to or within the limits of the United States. 3d. That said secretaries are hereby authorized to use the means at their command to carry out the foreign provisions. 4th. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to open a correspondence with foreign powers whose proximity to us shall endanger the introduction of Asiatic cholera into this country through other ports and territories, soliciting their co-operation with government in efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of said disease.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, March 6.

On motion of Mr. Love, the Senate bill granting land to aid in the construction of a railroad telegraph line from the states of Missouri and Arkansas to the Pacific coast, was taken from the Speaker's table, read twice and referred to the committee on the Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Boutwell, from the joint committee on reconstruction, reported in part the evidence relating to the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama, and asked that it be printed. It was so ordered.

Mr. Kelley, of Virginia, introduced a bill allowing compensation to maimed soldiers and sailors, who are entitled by law to artificial limbs, in lieu of such artificial limbs, which was read thrice and referred to the committee on military affairs.

The House reconsidered its order in reference to the military academy bill, so that Mr. Schenck might offer again his amendment, which he did, as follows:

And provided further, That no part of the money appropriated by this or any other act shall be applied to pay or support any cadet from any state declared to be in rebellion against the government of the United States, appointed after the 1st day of January, 1866, until such state shall have been returned to its original relations to the Union, under and by an act or joint resolution of Congress for that case made and provided.

Mr. Blaine, of Maine, opposed the amendment, and sent up to the clerk's desk and had read a substitute which he proposed to offer to the amendment, as follows:

That no part of the money hereby appropriated shall be applied to the support or pay of any cadets hereafter appointed not in conformity with the express provisions of the law regulating the appointment of a cadet at that academy.

Mr. Blaine stated that his substitute was taken from West Point appropriation bill, approved April 30th, 1864, designed to cure the evils of foisting upon the Southern districts boys from Northern States. 38 or 40 Northern boys had been sent to West Point, colonized as if appointed from Southern districts, sent there in violation of law. There were not vacancies now for one-third of the

ed by him a few days ago, called committee to investigate cotton. He now offered a substitute for a proposition, providing for a committee of the Senate on the abuses of the powers of which shall be composed of opposition.

Mr. Trumbull caused to be read from Gen. Brayman in resolutions of official corruption made him in a letter from Wm. B. Cincinnati, alleging Burnett to guilty of frauds at Natchez, a for a full investigation of the matter.

At one o'clock the constitutionment was taken up. Sumner floor in opposition to it, and great length against the proposition.

Mr. Doolittle addressed the reasonable length in favor of reconstruction according to the number of soldiers.

Mr. Ramsey moved that they take up the bill for the admission of Colorado.

After debate the bill was taken up a second time, and made order for Monday next.

Senate, at 5 o'clock, adjourned.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 6.  
HOUSE.

To-day, on motion of Mr. Seligman, a joint resolution appropriating \$15,000 to reimburse Miss Clark for money expended by her to prosecute the case of the missing soldiers, was by unanimous vote taken from the speaker's table, times and passed.

Mr. Boutwell, from the joint committee on reconstruction, presented the minority report, himself and Mr. Wilson of Ill., in regard to the admission of Missouri, which was ordered to be printed.

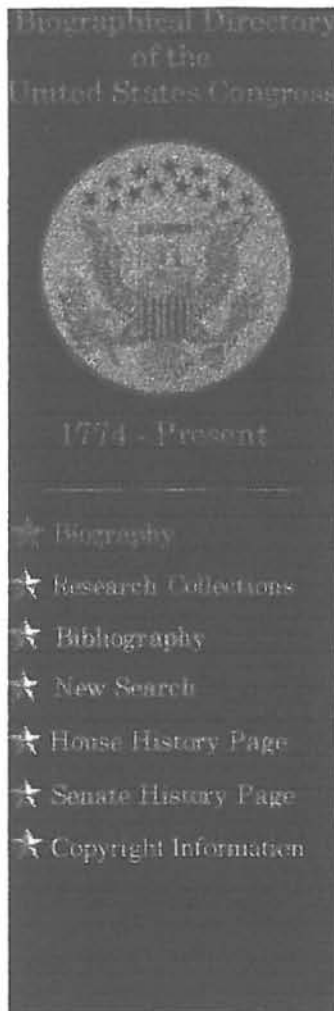
Mr. Higby asked leave to introduce a bill granting the right of way and canal owners in California public lands. It was read twice and referred to the committee on mining.

Mr. Elliot offered a resolution which was adopted, directing the Secretary of War to communicate to the Interior orders issued from time to time to the commissioner and assistant commissioner of the freedmen's bureau.

The judiciary committee began on for reports in the morning by Mr. Wilson, from that committee, back with an amendment that they bill to facilitate commercial, political and military communication among the States.

Mr. Wilson explained that which had passed the House and the Senate, from which it was referred to amend it, that it should be construed to allow payment to grant railroads for services done for the government. The amendment reported is in these terms, providing this act shall not affect any stipulations between the government of the States and the railroad companies for transportation without compensation impair no charge. The condition imposed by the terms of any act granting lands to any such company to aid in the construction of a railroad, of Mr. Canning. The bill went to





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## KASSON, John Adam, 1822-1910

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KASSON, John Adam, a Representative from Iowa; born in Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vt., January 11, 1822; attended the local school; was graduated from the University of Vermont at Burlington in 1842; studied law; was admitted to the bar and practiced in St. Louis, Mo., until 1857; moved to Des Moines, Iowa, and resumed the practice of law; delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860; First Assistant Postmaster General in President Lincoln's administration in 1861 and resigned in 1862; United States commissioner to the International Postal Congress at Paris in 1863; elected as a Republican to the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Congresses (March 4, 1863-March 3, 1867); chairman, Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures (Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Congresses); unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1866; commissioner from the United States in 1867 to negotiate postal conventions with Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy; member of the State house of representatives 1868-1872; elected to the Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congresses (March 4, 1873-March 3, 1877); was not a candidate for renomination in 1876; appointed Minister to Austria-Hungary October 17, 1877, and served until 1881; elected to the Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth Congresses and served from March 4, 1881, until his resignation on July 13, 1884; appointed Minister to Germany July 4, 1884, and served one year; special envoy to

the Congo International Conference at Berlin in 1885 and to the Samoan International Conference in 1889; United States special commissioner plenipotentiary to negotiate reciprocity treaties in 1897; member of the United States and British Joint High Commission in 1898 to adjust differences with Canada; died in Washington, D.C., May 18, 1910; interment in Woodland Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa.

### Bibliography

*DAB*; Schoonover, Thomas. "John A. Kasson's Opposition to the Lincoln Administration's Mexican Policy." *Annals of Iowa* 40 (1971): 584-93; Younger, Edward. *John A. Kasson; Politics and Diplomacy from Lincoln to McKinley*. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1955.

## JOHN A. KASSON

John A. Kasson was born January 11, 1822 in Charlotte, Vermont. His father died when he was only six years old and he had to struggle to secure an education. He graduated second in his class from the University of Vermont, and practiced law in Massachusetts and St. Louis. He married Caroline (Cara) Eliot in 1850, at her father's home in Washington. John was the youngest child in a family of five, Cara the youngest in a family of six.

The Kasson's arrived in Iowa in 1857, John embarking on a political career, and identifying with the newborn Republican party. He was appointed special examiner of several departments of state. He was named to a delegate to the Chicago Convention that nominated Lincoln in 1860. Kasson was chairman of the Republican State Committee and had much to do in the selection of a representative delegation. He was a member of the Committee of Resolutions and of the sub-committee that drafted the convention's historic platform. He was appointed by President Lincoln, First Assistant Postmaster General and represented Iowa in the first International Postal Congress. He served three years in the Iowa General Assembly and sponsored appropriation for the state house. He served six different terms in Congress and was considered a brilliant orator, an excellent debater with faultless pronunciation, and a "peer" to all his political contemporaries.

In 1863, he was appointed postal commissioner to Europe and a delegate to the first International Postal Congress. In 1868, he became a member of the Iowa House, with the single purpose in mind, namely to secure for Iowa, a state capitol. In 1873, he was a member of the House of Representatives.

John's wife, Cara, was in some respects a strait-laced Puritan and in others a woman of the world. John and her differed in politics and on the home-front and admits a scandal, headlined in many a newspaper, divorced. Cara was to remarry within three years to a wealthy banker-manufacturer of St. Louis. The divorce hurt John, politically and there was serious doubt that he could ever piece together the shattered fragments of his career and rise again. His membership in the legislature, where he was warmly received, was to be the base for his fight back. He was to secure a firm place for himself in Iowa legislative history on the basis mostly of his work in connection with the new state capital appropriation, the revision of the Iowa Code, and railroad legislation. Kasson originally secured an amendment to the bankrupt laws saving the head of the family of the debtor a homestead. He secured uniform and cheaper postage with foreign countries and negotiated postal treaties with chief nations of Europe. Kasson secured a building for a permanent State House and was the Minister to the Austro-Hungarian.

JOHN A. KASSON

PAGE 2

Another two terms in Congress and in 1884, he was appointed minister plenipotentiary to Germany. He also served as his government's representative to the Congo Conference in Berlin. In 1887 he was president of the Interstate Centennial Commission at Philadelphia. He was sent in 1889 as a special envoy to the Samoan Conference in Berlin and chairman of the United States commissioners. In 1899 President McKinley appointed him special commissioner plenipotentiary for the negotiation of commercial treaties and a member of the British-American Joint high commission for the settlement of differences with Canada. John negotiated reciprocal treaties with many foreign nations in the interest of our commerce and wrote the "History of Diplomacy."

John died at the age of eighty-eight on May 18, 1910, in Washington, D.C., from a chronic bronchial infection. His estate was worth more than \$100,000. Most of it was in railroad stock, of which he contributed \$10,000 to the Church Orphanage of St. John's Episcopal Parish in Washington, and another \$10,00 going to Simon Casady for the sick and needy of Des Moines. He was buried in the Simon Casady Vault in Woodland Cemetery in accordance with his wishes. "In constructive effort he surpassed many in both state and nation who held higher office than he."

Blk 17G, Lot 00118 (Phineas) Casady Private Vault

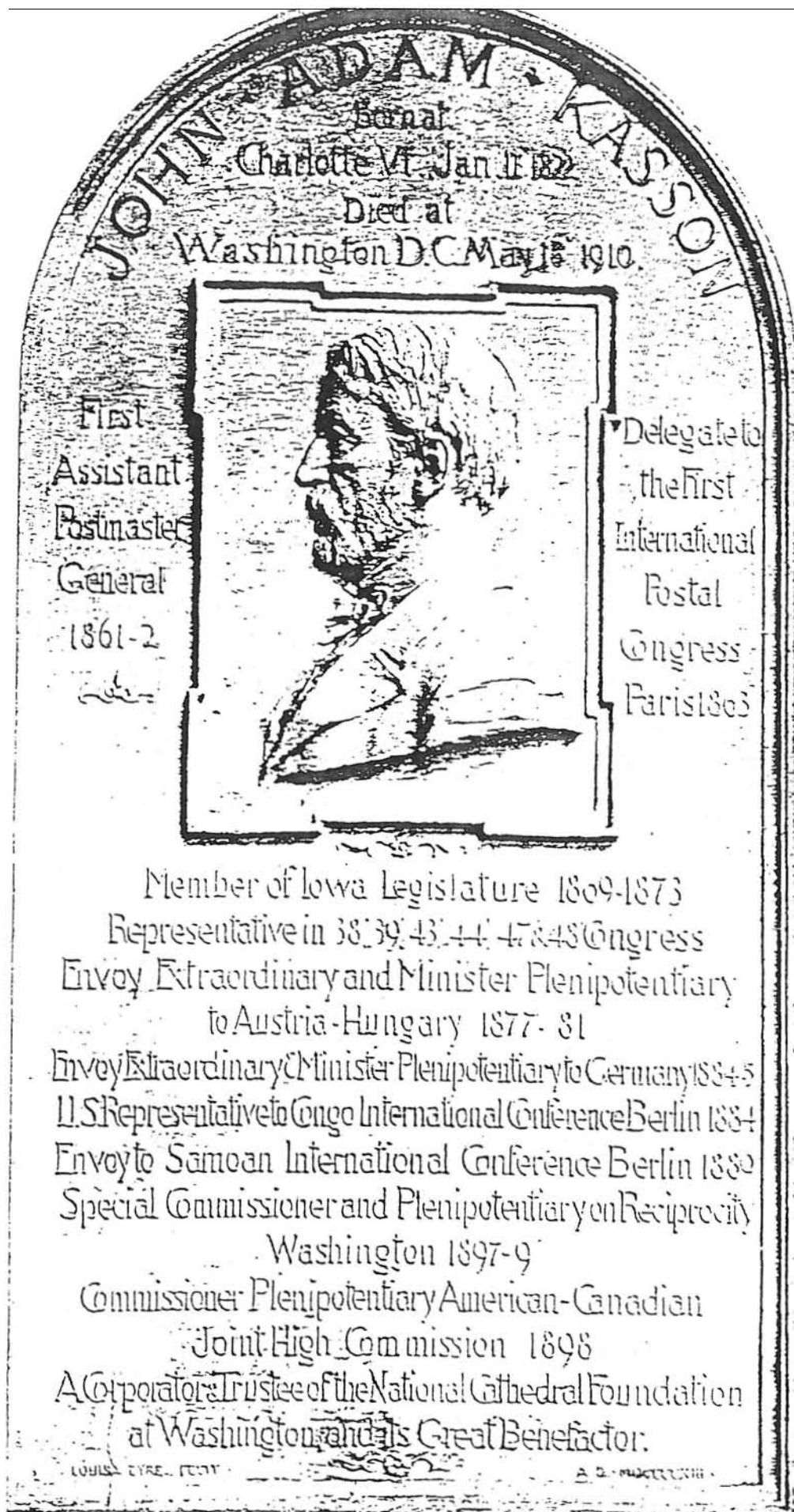
John A. Kasson, died May 18, 1910, Washington D.C.; buried 22 May 1910, 88 years

Des Moines and Polk Co. IA. Brigham, Vol 1.

pg. 274,1873- The republican county convention in the Des Moines district in July, renominated John A. Kasson for Congress against the vigorous opposition of the State "Register" and a number of influential republican. After a bitter contest in the convention, Mr. Kasson was nominated on the first ballot by a vote of 47, as against 10 for Colonel Cummings and 12 for Mr. Dashiell.

The election of Mr. Kasson over the combined democratic, anti-monopoly and disaffected republican opposition, by a majority of nearly 2000, was remarkable in view of the adverse influences arrayed against the candidate at the outset.

1875-The suit of John A. Kasson against J.C. Savery, R.P. Clarkson and J.S. Clarkson for alleged libel and damages in the sum of \$50,000, was the November event in the District court. Judge Leonard presiding. The case was called November 17. Mr. Kasson was charged with having received, while a member of the Iowa Legislature, a large sum of money from the Rock Island Railroad Company, or from its agent, and that the money was coerced from said agent by him under the pretense of its being a fee for legal services; but in fact, with the understanding that his vote as a member of the General Assembly should be given in a particular manner in consideration of the money paid; in other words, that Mr. Kasson demanded and received a bribe for his vote. Mr. Kasson's attorney's withdrew the suit and paid the court costs. To all appearances, the plaintiff in the case came out more or less damaged in reputation; but Mr. Kasson's subsequent career as a candidate for his former seat in Congress evinces a remarkably quick recovery!



*Historical Dept., Des Moines*

BRONZE PLAQUE IN CASADY VAULT AT  
WOODLAND CEMETERY, DES MOINES