

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Rule, George Senator _____

Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 13 Feb 1829 Honnam Mill, Roxboroughire, Scotland

2. Marriage (s) date place

Ellen Amelia Columbus 19 Apr 1850 Delaware, Ontario, Canada

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business _____

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Miller - secured railroad rights; railroad director;
owned a gristmill in Crawford County at Des Moines, Iowa

4. Church membership Baptist

5. Sessions served 14th General Assembly 1872

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 18 Sept 1892 Des Moines, Iowa; Buried Des Moines, Iowa

8. Children William H.; Agnes Jane; John E.; George Columbus; Thomas James; Ellen Mary;
Andrew Lewis; Lincoln; Annie

9. Names of parents William D. and Jean (Hood) Rule

Rule, George

10. Education

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

- He was 6 years of age when his family settled from their Scotland home in the St. Lawrence County, New York area.
- His father was a miller and George became a miller when old enough.
- In 1854, the family moved west, settling in Clinton County, Iowa and were early pioneers of the county.
- In later years he was very active in securing the rights of railroads in the county.
- At one time he was a railroad director.
- In 1876 he moved to Dow City in Crawford County, Iowa. There he bought an interest in the gristmill of Dow and Seaves, he remodeled it and refitted it.
- In 1879 he settled on a farm where he lived until his death near Dow City, Iowa.
- His wife, Elliott Columbus, descended from Christopher Columbus.

THE
WESTERN LIFE - BOAT

AND JOURNAL OF

BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

VOL. I.

051
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EDITED BY
A. C. EDMUNDS.

DES MOINES :
WESTERN LIFE-BOAT PUBLISHING CO.
1873.

61,864

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divided and separate duties
m. Thad. Stevens and Kasson
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management of Indian tribes.
of the Committee on Weights

and Measures, he reported bills which passed the House and Senate for including and legalizing a decimal system of weights and measures, uniform throughout the United States. The report accompanying the bill is a document which will take its place with that of Thomas Jefferson and John Q. Adams on the same subjects.

In the numerous debates in general legislation, more of a business than of a political character, we find him an active participant and a clear, forcible, and influential debater.

In 1866, a combination of personal and political interests, while Mr. K. was yet engaged in his duties at Washington, defeated his re-nomination for a third term, after seventy-eight ballots in the convention. This result gave great dissatisfaction to the friends of Mr. Kasson, which soon kindled into a spirited division in the party—a disgrace in itself and one that should not be countenanced by the well wishers of good society. It is hoped that the disaffection has now seen its end.

At the close of his Congressional service, in March, 1867, he was solicited by the Postmaster General to undertake the negotiation of definitive postal treaties with various European governments. He sailed in April, of that year, on this mission, and negotiated new treaties with Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany, thus gathering in the fruits of his labors in the Postal Congress of 1863, by reducing the rates of postage to about one-half of the previous tariff.

During his absence on this duty his fellow-citizens of Polk county, nominated and elected him to the General Assembly of the State, and have ever since insisted upon re-electing him to the same office, whether he was at home or absent.

In 1870 he made an extended tour, embracing southern Europe, Egypt, the Holy Land, Syria, Turkey, and Greece. It was not a mere trip of pleasure, but was made profitable in studying the customs, manners, religion, and systems of government of the various nations which he visited, besides storing his mind with a better

knowledge of the wants and developments of his race.

In the summer of 1872 he was called upon to become a candidate for Congress, and after a sharp contest with his competitors, was nominated by the decisive majority, in the Congressional convention, of 50 against 24 votes.

Mr. Kasson is not an office seeker. In nearly every instance the office has sought the man. Twice he was nominated and elected to the Legislature, while absent, and was nominated for both his terms in Congress, while in performance of his duty at Washington.

Such is a brief record of John A. Kasson. Few men of his age have a more brilliant one, and few if any, ever held a more confidential place in the hearts of the people. In all his relations to society, he realizes that he is one of the people, and that their interests are his interests, and in their prosperity alone can he prosper. Self made and self reliant, with his nerve force and will power, he is destined to carve a niche still higher in the scroll of fame, as a worthy, well tried, and true servant of the people.

GEORGE RULE.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE.

George Rule is a native of Roseburg, Scotland, where he was born, February 13, 1829. He was brought by his parents to America in 1836. On their arrival to this country, they located in St. Lawrence county, New York, where the father engaged at his trade, being a miller, which occupation he followed all his life.

George lived at home during his minority. At the age of sixteen he went into the mill and acquired a knowledge of the trade, which he has ever since followed. At the age of twenty years, he had charge of the St. John's Market Mills, near London, Canada West. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Miss Ellen Columbus, a Canadian and of French origin, her father being a native of France. After spending

a year and a half in Coldwater, Michigan, mostly in charge of the Crippin Coldwater Merchant Mills, he moved to Iowa. This was in 1854; when the State was comparatively new; the body of its inhabitants being contained in the river counties. For six months he worked in Muscatine and from thence he engaged in the Pine Creek Mills, in Muscatine county. In 1855 he moved to De Witt, in Clinton county, where he worked in the De Witt Mills for some three years. In 1858 he rented his father's mills at Spring Rock, Clinton county, which he run until the spring of 1863. At this time he bought the Alden Mills, in the northeast part of Hardin county. In 1864 he sold to Wm. Sherard, clearing about \$4,000 on the investment. The same year he bought a small mill at Big Rock, Scott county, which he rebuilt in 1868, on a larger scale. This mill continues in successful operation and is doing a business that promises an ample reward for the investment and the toil and care of management.

In 1869 he tried the experiment of rail-roading, and met with such encouragement as to induce a continuance in that line of business. In 1871 he was elected one of the directors of the Davenport and Saint Paul Railroad, and in 1872 was unanimously re-elected to the same position. The bonds of the road have been sold at eighty cents on the dollar, showing that confidence in the road and in its management, is far above an average of new roads. Politically he is an uncompromising radical Republican. He never consented to hold an office until the fall of 1871, when he yielded to an urgent request and became a candidate for the State Legislature, to which position he was elected by 474 majority. Although new in the harness, he proved himself to be more of a worker than talker; taking the deepest interest in every measure calculated to foster the agricultural prosperity of the State. He is one of the warmest friends of Agricultural Fairs, and is generally up to the spirit of the age in all improvements and reforms.

Socially he is a good and reliable member of society. He is a speculative Mason, having advanced to the Knight Templar's De-

gree, where we leave him, believing that in all proper places he will prove himself worthy, and well qualified.

ELISHA T. SMITH.

STATE SENATOR.

Elisha T. Smith is of Welsh descent, his ancestors having emigrated from that country to Virginia shortly after the first white settlement in that State. His grandfather, Thomas Smith, and his father, William Smith, were born in Virginia. The family left Virginia and emigrated to Ohio when that State first began to attract settlers to its broad and fertile acres. They selected for their location, a spot near Barnesville, in the county of Belmont, where Elisha T. was born. His paternal grandmother was of the old St. Clair family, whose name figures conspicuously in American history, and who lived to be over one hundred years old.

As already stated, his immediate predecessor was a Virginian by birth, but came to Ohio with his parents when quite young. His mother was of the Todd family, a name to be found among the early settlers of Georgia. His father married in Ohio, and being engaged in mercantile business, the youthful occupation of Elisha T. was given more to out door and field amusements than to anything else.

Senator E. T. Smith first saw the light of the world in May, 1828, and consequently is now in the forty-fourth year of his age, being the eldest in a family of several children. When about sixteen years of age, his father died, leaving the family in somewhat straightened circumstances—having failed in business some time previous to his death. It then became the duty of young Smith to provide for his widowed mother and his younger brothers and sisters who were unable to provide for themselves; to which work he applied himself diligently and industriously, and had the good fortune to meet with admirable success.

It will be seen that his means for receiving an education during the early portion of his life was rather limited, but having a thirst for knowledge, at the age of twenty-

one, succeeded in being admitted as a student in Mt. Pleasant College, Jefferson county, Ohio, being obliged to sell a horse that his father had given him as a present, when a colt, in order to defray the expenses of his tuition.

In December, 1849, he married Miss Lydia Clendennon, in Barnesville, Belmont county, Ohio, and as a result of this marriage, has now five children, all daughters.

Following the Star of Empire westward, he emigrated to Iowa, in April, 1853, and settled upon a farm in Warren county. Here he met with a great misfortune, having been completely burned out in the winter of 1854-5, but being possessed with that true courage so requisite to contend against the ups and downs of western life, he immediately set to work and replaced the home he had lost by the fire. In the spring of 1857, he changed his location by moving to Taylor county, where he opened a new farm, on which he had erected a very fine house. Just as he had his farm all fenced and everything fixed up to make life comfortable, again he was pursued and overtaken by the fiery demon and once more all his worldly goods perished in the flames. By perseverance, good management, and industry he again succeeded in overcoming this great misfortune, and during the war, although not in the army, had so far recovered from his loss as to donate largely, in money and goods, for the benefit of the needy wives and mothers whose sons and husbands were fighting for the glory of our flag, the honor of our country and the perpetuation of the Union.

Although a southerner by birth and parentage, Senator Smith has always been a thorough and steadfast republican in politics, and strong in the principles of anti-slavery. In 1858 he was elected clerk of the District Court of Taylor county, which position he held for twelve consecutive years, having been elected to the position six times in succession. In 1870 he established the Taylor County Bank, of which he is now President. In all enterprises for the public good he has always taken an active part, and was

chiefly instrumental in the establishment of Burlington, which he has since the tract.

Official public life of the Philanthropist. As a fur the people a popular Senator of Taylor sent the the 14th Iowa, for Mr. S feet two one hundred and grand

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HISTORY
OF
CLINTON COUNTY,
IOWA,

CONTAINING
A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.,

Biographical Sketches of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers
in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits
of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the
Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Clinton
County, Constitution of the United States,
Miscellaneous Matters, &c., &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1879.

WITHDRAWN

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

June 30, 1807, in York Co., Me.; in 1822, moved with parents, John and Sarah Randall, to Penobscot Co.; while there, followed farming and lumbering; in the fall of 1838, emigrated to Iowa, locating in Montpelier Township, Muscatine Co. An incident here in his life, never to be forgotten, occurred on the 5th of June, 1844; while he was absent from home his vicinity was visited by a terrible cyclone which destroyed his residence with all its contents, killing his mother and severely injuring his wife, children and brother. In the spring of 1847, he moved into Liberty Township, of this county, and in 1851, came on to his present farm. Married Miss Almira Tourtellotte, July 6, 1828; she was born May 27, 1812, in Maine; have four children living—Eliza J., George W., Richard H., Jr., and Ephraim L. and lost eight—Sarah, Esther, John, Henry C., James, Thomas, Elmira and Elizabeth. Mr. R. now owns forty acres of land of the value of \$2,500; he makes a specialty of bee-raising; is a member of the Universalist Church; Republican. Richard H., Jr., was born September 22, 1848, in Clinton Co., Iowa; while in attendance at school, in Galesburg, Ill., he enlisted, January 29, 1865, in Co. F, of the 148th Ill. Inf.; was mustered out in September, 1865; on his return, went to Fort Dodge and commenced learning the blacksmith trade; in the spring of 1873, opened a shop at Pomeroy, Calhoun Co., Iowa, and in 1874, moved to Coon Rapids; in January, 1876, opened up his present shop in Big Rock. Married Harriet J. Merritt, September 21, 1870; she was born August 31, 1851, in Medina Co., Ohio; have three children—Pearl E., Richard H., and Manly B. Republican.

GEORGE RIEDESEL, farmer, Sec. 10; P. O. Wheatland; owns 200 acres of land, valued at \$55 per acre; son of Ludwig and Flora Riedesel; born January 12, 1825, in Germany. In 1845, emigrated to Crawford Co., Ohio; in 1850, came to Iowa, and entered the land upon which he now lives; in the spring of 1870, moved his family from Ohio, and located on his farm. Married Miss Elizabeth Gerhardt in February, 1860; she was born in Crawford Co., Ohio, in 1834; have six children living—Mary J., Anna M., Elizabeth S., Louisa L., John E., Louis T.; lost one, John F. Members of German Reformed Church.

JOHN RIEDESEL, farmer, Sec. 3; P. O. Wheatland; owns 160 acres of land, valued at \$50 per acre, son of Ludwig and Flora Riedesel; born March 31, 1829, in Germany; in 1845, emigrated with parents to Crawford Co., Ohio; in 1853, came to Clinton Co., Iowa, and entered his land from Government, after which he returned to Ohio, remaining till the spring of 1857, when he returned to Iowa. Married Miss Elizabeth Knoche, July 7, 1869; she was born in Germany, in 1839; have six children—Diana, Ferdinand, Emma, Kate, Ann and an infant son not named. Member of the German Reformed Church; Democrat.

DALLAS D. RORICK, attorney at law, Notary Public, collecting agent, etc.; P. O. Wheatland; son of Cornelius and Julia (nee Kimball) Rorick; born June 18, 1846, in Franklin Co., Ohio; in 1854, his parents moved to Henry Co., Ind.; in the spring of 1859, emigrated to Jones Co., Iowa; in the summer of 1864, engaged in the employ of his brother, G. H. Rorick, a merchant of Loudon, Iowa, which he continued most of the time till 1867, when he moved to Toronto, engaging first at carpenter and joiner work, and subsequently at railroad bridge-building, after which he engaged in the grain business; in 1874, commenced the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1878; removed from Toronto to this place a few weeks ago. Married Miss Mattie J. Hammond Feb. 17, 1865; she was born in December, 1846, in Delaware Co., Ohio. Mr. R. has served as Justice of the Peace at Toronto, and other offices; is at present Notary Public; Democrat.

WM. D. L. RULE, farmer, Sec. 31; P. O. Big Rock, Scott Co.; owns 240 acres of land, valued at \$40 per acre; born Feb. 26, 1811, in Roxburyshire, Scotland; in 1834, emigrated to the United States, locating in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.; was engaged in the milling business there and in Canada till 1852, when he came to La Grange Co., Ind., engaging in the same business; in the summer of 1854, came to Clinton Co., and, the following year, built the Granite Mills, below Big Rock, which he owned till 1865, when he moved to De Witt, where he remained till the fall of 1878.

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SPRING ROCK TOWNSHIP.

*uncertain of
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1839*

when he came to where he now lives. Married Miss Jane Wood, of Scotland, in 1832; she died at De Witt May 3, 1874. He again married Mrs. Rhoda Hopkins (nee Parr), Sept. 4, 1878; have three children living—George, William D. L., Jr., and Jennette; lost one son—John. Member Presbyterian Church; Republican.

JOHN H. SCHNEIDER, farmer, Sec. 20; P. O. Wheatland; owns 124 acres of land, valued at \$40 per acre; son of John G. and Louisa F. Schneider; born Jan. 6, 1843, in Prussia, Germany; in 1848, parents emigrated to Crawford Co., Ohio, and, in the spring of 1852, came to Clinton Co. and located upon the land upon which he is now living, his father having died Sept. 13, 1861; mother still living with him. Married Catharine Keller, Nov. 30, 1868; she was born Sept. 23, 1843, in Prussia, Germany; have four children—Anna, Joseph, Emil and Rudolph; lost one son—Edward. Member German Reformed Church; Democrat.

WILLIAM SEMPER, farmer; P. O. Calamus; owns 455 acres of land, valued at \$25 per acre; born Dec. 5, 1826, in Lincolnshire, England. In the spring of 1851, he emigrated to the United States, stopping in the vicinity of Schenectady, N. Y. In 1853, he came to Rock Island Co., Ill.; was there engaged in running the ferry at Haupton, above Moline, one year, and as engineer in a steam saw-mill for three years. In 1854, came out and purchased a part of his present farm; in the spring of 1857, moved onto his present farm, and had been here about three weeks, when a Mr. Monroe Warren was hung by what were known as the Regulators, within half a mile of his house, this Warren's house having been a harboring-place for horse-thieves, counterfeiters, etc. Married Miss Johana Schable Aug. 16, 1852; she was born in Germany March 11, 1828, her parents coming to the United States the same year, stopping first in Maryland, and next in Westmoreland Co., Penn., and lastly in Rock Island Co., Ill.; have six children living—Charlotte C., Henrietta, George W., Harvey J., Ida E. and Phedora E.; lost two—Barbara J. and Harriet. Republican.

JESSE STINE, attorney at law and collection agent, Wheatland; son of Michael and Hannah Stine; born April 4, 1825, in Waynesburg, Greene Co., Penn.; in 1827, emigrated with his parents to Monroe Co., Ohio, where his boyhood and youthful days were spent; in the spring of 1846, he went to Bolivar, Miss., and in February, 1847, went to New Orleans; in June, of the same year, came to this county, locating at Toronto. In the fall of 1847, commenced reading law under the instruction of a Mr. E. Graham, of De Witt; was admitted to the bar in 1851; in the spring of 1862, removed to Wheatland, where he still resides. Married Miss Phoebe Shriver March 19, 1854; she was born May 3, 1832, in Morgan Co., Ohio; lost three children—Silas W., Lovica P. and an infant not named. Mr. Stine has filled several official positions in his township, and has also been on the Board of Supervisors two years, and is at present attorney for the town; is also a member of Zerodatia, No. 184, A., F. & A. M.; Republican.

JOHN S. STOWRS, attorney at law and conveyancer, Wheatland; son of Samuel and Patience (nee Phinney) Stowrs; born May 13, 1823, in Washington City, D. C.; his mother was a teacher of select schools there, and his father was Superintendent of a stage line running between Washington City and Florida; when about 7 years old, went to Florida, and spent two years visiting with relatives; was a frequent visitor in the halls of Congress; quite familiar with the faces of many of the prominent statesmen of that day. In 1833, came with his parents to Jefferson Co., N. Y.; in 1836, came to Chicago, then a small town with only five stores; he engaged as a clerk in one of them, for Messrs. Hall & Lewis. In 1837, went to Elgin to clerk for his father, who had gone there in 1836 and opened the first store of that town. In 1838, returned to New York; went to Newport, R. I., and attended school there; in 1839, went with his brother-in-law, S. G. Dodge, attorney, to Gouverneur, N. Y., and commenced the study of law under him, and, in 1840, came to Terre Haute, Ind.; followed farming a short time, when he again resumed the study of law under Gov. Whitcomb, of Indiana, and was admitted to the bar in 1843. In 1844, came to Davenport, Iowa, and was admitted to the bar there; Sept. 11, 1844, came to De Witt, of this county, first commencing the practice of law there, and teaching school in the winter.




BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY


OF

Crawford, Ida ^{AND} Sac
Counties, Iowa.

Containing Portraits of all the Presidents of the United States, with accompanying Biographies; a Condensed History of Iowa, with Portraits and Biographies of the Governors of the State; Engravings of Prominent Citizens of the Counties, with Personal Histories of many of the Early Settlers and Leading Families.



“Biography is the only true history.”—*Emerson.*



CHICAGO:
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1893.



widow and two children. John, unmarried, died at the old home. Mary Agnes, wife of Dr. Beatty, died in Dow City, Iowa.

Andrew Bell was reared on a farm, and for a number of years was in the railroad employ. He was foreman of a fence gang for a time. For five years he was section foreman of the Northwestern railroad, a portion of that time living at Council Bluffs. He was foreman on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road ten years. During his railroad experience he never lost more than three weeks' time. In 1891 he settled on his present farm, which is well improved and kept in good order. His cottage home is 14 x 30 feet, with a kitchen, 8 x 20 feet. It is nicely located and surrounded by a grove and orchard of two acres; is conveniently near school and the town of Bell.

Mr. Bell was married in this county in 1883, to Christena Glucksteadt, a native of Germany. Her father, Peter Glucksteadt, came to Crawford county in 1881, is foreman on the section force of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, at Aspinwall, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have two children: Henry and Andrew Beatty.

Mr. Bell is frank and jovial with all and is well known as a man of strict integrity. Politically, he affiliates with the Democratic party.

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**W**ILLIAM H. RULE, who resides in Paradise township, Crawford county, his post office address being Bell, is one of the well-known and influential men of his community. As a representative citizen and farmer of the township he is entitled to some personal mention in this work, and it is with pleasure we present the following sketch of his life:

William H. Rule was born in Canada, November 8, 1851. His father, George Rule, was born in Scotland in 1829, son of William and Jean (Wood) Rule, both natives of Scotland, and was six years old when the family came to this country and settled in St. Lawrence county, New York. Both William and his son George were millers by trade. In 1854 the Rules came West and settled in Clinton county, Iowa, being among the early pioneers of the county. Grandfather Rule had extensive milling interests there for many years. He lived to be eighty-one years old and died in Clinton county. Grandmother Rule passed away at the age of seventy-six. Both were worthy members of the Presbyterian Church. They had four children: George, John, William and Jeanette, wife of Captain Hall.

George Rule was also extensively engaged in milling in Clinton county. He was a leading politician there, and was elected to the State Legislature of the Fourteenth General Assembly. He was one of the most active workers in securing the right of railroads in the county. At one time he was a railroad director. In 1876 he came to Dow City and bought an interest in the gristmill of Dow & Graves, and remodeled and refitted the same. He did a large business in it for some years. In 1879 he settled on a farm, where he died September 18, 1892. He was married in Canada to Miss Ellen A. Columbus, a daughter of William Columbus who was descended from the discover of our country. Her mother, *nee* Nancy McCarty, was born in Ireland and reared and educated in Canada. Her parents both died in Canada. They had a family of two sons, Isaac and James; and four daughters, Ellen M., Martha, Anna and Elisabeth. George Rule and his wife have had nine children, eight of whom are living, viz.: William

H., whose name appears at the head of this article; Agnes J. Goddard, of Dow City; John E., of Arizona; George C., who is in a commission house in Omaha; Thomas J., at home; Ellen M., at home; Andrew L., of Charter Oak, Iowa; Lincoln A., a conductor on the Northwestern railroad. George Rule is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

William H. Rule, like his father and grandfather before him, learned the trade of a miller in his youth. He received a good education, and was for a time successfully engaged in teaching. Previous to his coming to Crawford county, in 1879, he was engaged in milling in Clinton county. After locating here he clerked awhile for L. E. Hardy, of Dow City. He then ran the Dunlap Mills for four years and a half, after which he was bookkeeper in the Eagle Mills at Petersburg, Illinois, one year. Returning to this county at the end of that time, he settled on his present farm of 120 acres of fine land in Paradise township. This was in 1892. His two-story residence is 20 x 36 feet in dimensions, and is located on a natural building site. His barn, cribs, fences, etc., are all in good order and indicate the owner to be a thrifty and prosperous farmer.

Mr. Rule was married at Big Rock, Iowa, November 29, 1877, to Helen Bates, a native of Hampshire county, Massachusetts, and a lady of culture and refinement, who, previous to her marriage, was successfully engaged in teaching. Her father, Clark Bates, was born in the same county, son of Henry Bates, a member of a prominent family of Massachusetts. Her mother, *nee* Lucy Brewster, also a native of Massachusetts, was a daughter of Honorable E. H. Brewster and Sophrona (Kingnan) Brewster. Mrs. Rule's father died when she was seven years old, and her mother was subsequently married to F. J.

Parsons, of Clinton county, Iowa. She died in that county. Mr. and Mrs. Rule have six children, *viz.*: George Clark, born at Silver Creek Mills, Clinton county, Iowa, December 19, 1878; James Garfield, at Dow City, November 28, 1880; Emma Jeannette, at Dow City, September 23, 1882; William H., at Dow City, August 20, 1884; Fred Andrew, at Dunlap Mills, Dunlap, Iowa, December 5, 1886; and Thomas Winthrop, at Petersburg, Illinois, March 26, 1891.

Mr. Rule affiliates with the Republican party, and is now serving as Township Clerk. Socially, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church.



**H**ON. E. B. BAIRD, one of the prominent citizens of Ida county, Iowa, was born in Onondaga county, New York, November 6, 1837. His father, Andrew W. Baird, was born in Schoharie county, New York, son of Andrew Baird, a native of Scotland. His mother, whose maiden name was Harriet Bramhall, was born in Onondaga county, New York, daughter of Edmund Bramhall, a descendant of English ancestry. She died when the subject of our sketch was four years old, leaving two children E., B. and Charles. The latter is now a resident of Syracuse, New York. After her death the father married her sister, Jane Bramhall, and they had one child, Willard. The father died in Onondaga county, New York, at the age of seventy-five years. He was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation, in politics a Democrat, and in religion a Baptist.

E. B. Baird was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools and in the Monroe Collegiate Institute in

# A HISTORY OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, IOWA



**The First Crawford County Courthouse**

**Sponsored as a Community Service Project by  
The Denison Newspapers  
Richard Knowles, Publisher — 1987**

extensive milling interests there for many years. He lived to be 81 years old and died in Clinton County, Grandmother Rule passed away at the age of 76. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church. They had four children: George, John, William, and Jeanette, the wife of Captain William Hall.

George Rule was also engaged in milling in Clinton County. He was elected to the State Legislature of the Fourteenth General Assembly. He was very active in securing the rights of railroads in the county. At one time he was a railroad director. In 1876, he came to Dow City and bought an interest in the gristmill of Dow and Graves, remodeled and refitted the same.

In 1879 George settled on a farm where he died September 18, 1892. He was married to Ellen A. Columbus in Canada, a daughter of William Columbus, who was descended from the discoverer of our country. Her mother, Nancy McCarty, was born in Ireland and reared and educated in Canada. William and Nancy Columbus had a family of two sons and four daughters: James, Isaac, Ellen A., Martha, Ann, and Elizabeth.

George Rule and his wife, who were my grandparents, had nine children: William H. (my father), Agnes Goddard, John, George C., Thomas, Ellen, Andrew, and Lincoln.

William H., like his father and grandfather before him, learned the trade of a miller in his youth. He received a good education and for a time was successfully engaged in teaching. He was born in Canada on November 8, 1851. The Rules came to the United States when William H. was two years old, coming first to Michigan and later to Clinton County where they joined other Rules who had settled there in 1854.

On November 28, 1877, William H. married Helen Brewster Bates at Big Rock, Iowa. She was a native of Hampshire County, Massachusetts. After her father's death, her mother married Frank Parsons. Helen was seven at the time of her father's death. Her education was in the Clinton County schools. She became a teacher in the rural school there. Her mother, Lucy Brewster was a native of Massachusetts and was the daughter of the Hon. E.H. Brewster and Sophronia (Kingman) Brewster, she was a direct descendant of Elder Brewster of the Plymouth Rock Massachusetts settlers. Helen's mother passed away when Helen was nine years of age.

William H., his wife, and young son arrived in Dow City in 1879. When he first came, he worked as a clerk in L.E. Hardy's General Store; the payment being \$25. a month. Later he became a rural school teacher for a few years, then returned to his millers' trade. He ran a mill at Dunlap, Iowa for four years and was also a miller at Charter Oak and Arion and was bookkeeper for Eagle Mills at Petersburg, Illinois. When he returned to Clinton County, he and his family moved on to his farm north of Dow City. For a time, he was a mail carrier out of Dow City. In bad weather, he often finished his route on foot.

Mr. and Mrs. Rule had nine children: George, Garfield, Jeanette, Mrs. George M. Maltcott; Howard, Fred, Thomas, who passed away at age three; Raymond, Vernon, and Helen, Mrs. Lester Cue of Dow City. Of the nine children, Helen is the only one still living. Mrs. Rule passed away September 25, 1938; Mr. Rule on August 10, 1941 at the age of 89 years, nine months, and two days.

Helen married Lester G. Cue on October 8, 1919. To this union was born twin sons, Keith L. and Kenneth F.; Glenn B., Marion H., Mrs. Robert Gibson; Fern B., Mrs. Jensen of Corvallis, Oregon; and Richard D. The Cues have lived in Dow City since 1921. For several years they were in the trucking business, selling out in 1949. Mr. Cue drove a gravel truck for two years for Weed and Wright, then drove a school bus for the Dow City School until he retired in 1963.

Lester passed away June 16, 1985 at the age of 88 years, five months, and 25 days.

Their children were all born and raised at Dow City and received their education in the Dow City School. Keith, Kenneth, and Glenn all worked for the Illinois Central Railroad but are now retired. Keith and wife, Elaine, live at Osage, Iowa; Kenneth and wife, Olivine, live at Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Glenn and wife, Marie, live at Webster City, Iowa. Marion H. Gibson is the City Clerk; Fern Cue Jensen, school nurse for the Corvallis School System; Richard and wife, Sharon, live on their farm northwest of Dow City. He also works for Crawford County.

by Helen Cue

## RYAN, THOMAS

F514



Thomas Ryan, first citizen of Vail, Iowa.

In 1852, Thomas Ryan came from Tipperary, Ireland to the United States and became the first citizen of Vail, Iowa in 1867 in the employment of the Northwestern Railroad. He had charge of the section in this area and lived in the section house built at the place where it was hoped by the railroad to build a town. It was given the name of "Vail" in honor of a Northwestern Railroad official. The only house in Vail was the one Thomas Ryan and his family lived in. He helped the surveyors lay out the town of Vail.

He had eight children and lost his wife, Margaret (Reynolds) Ryan, during childbirth

in 1885. After the loss of his mother, Thomas, son, John Ryan, 1884-1951, was raised by his aunt, Mrs. Martin Dugan. The other children, all deceased, were: Mary, Mrs. Dennis O'Leary; Katherine, Mrs. Anthony Ruddy; Martin; Margaret, Mrs. Jim Larkins; Thomas, Emma, Mrs. Tom Sheridan; and Julia.

John Ryan married Agnes Kral whose parents, Joe and Katherine Kral were early settlers in Milford Township. Agnes continued to live alone in Vail after the death of her husband until she was 93 years old. Since that time she has been a resident at the St. Anthony's Nursing Home in Carroll, Iowa and celebrated her 104th birthday on November 3, 1985. She died on March 18, 1986.

John and Agnes Ryan had four children. A son Anthony died in infancy. Francis (Charles) 1911-1957, married Rhea Fritz who still resides in Vail. They had seven children: Patricia, Mrs. Robert Loew; Kathleen, Mrs. William Kenelly; Martin; Carol, Mrs. Dick Smith; Kevin; John; and Joe.

Fabian Ryan 1913-1976 married Anita Harrington and they had four children: Diane, Mrs. Dan Grosse; Denise, Mrs. Don Odendahl; Michael Ryan; and Tim Ryan.

Clare Ryan married Thomas Fahey and they have five children: Mary Ann, Mrs. Michael Keegan; Michael; John; Margaret, Mrs. Stephen Fox; and Theresa, Mrs. Brad Burger.

Thomas Ryan of this review remarried in 1891. His second wife was Mary McLaughlin. He preceded her in death; both are buried in St. Ann's Cemetery in Vail, Iowa.

Thomas Ryan was a large, powerful man and prided himself that he could lift a barrel of salt. He was genial and erect with hardly a wrinkle on his face.

by Clare Fahey

## SAGGAU, HUGO

F515



Mr. Hugo Saggau.

# State of Iowa

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

Des Moines, Nov. 8th, 1871.

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

Iowa.

DEAR SIR:

It has been the custom of each House, at the commencement of every session of the General Assembly, to cause to be prepared and published, a table, showing certain statistics in connection with the names of the members thereof. This is usually done in much haste, hence is frequently incorrect; especially in the orthography of names. In order to prevent errors of this kind, and to have the table in print at the commencement of the session, I transmit you this circular, with a request that you will fill up the blanks found below, and return to this office as soon as practical. You will please give the first name in full, and write plainly.

Name..... *George B. Rule*  
P. O. Address..... *Wheatland*  
County..... *Clinton*  
Occupation..... *Milling*  
Nativity..... *Scotland*  
Married or Single..... *Married*  
Religion..... *Baptist*  
If in the Service; regiment and rank.....  
Years in Iowa..... *about 18*  
Age..... *43*  
Weight..... *201 pounds*

I send herewith a copy of the rules of last Session of the General Assembly, in which you will see the table above referred to.

Yours truly,

ED WRIGHT,

SECRETARY OF STATE.



You searched for **George Rule** in Iowa

**Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925**

Name: **Geo Rule**

Birth Year: **abt 1829**

Birth Place: **Scotland**

Gender: **Male**

Marital Status: **Married**

Census Date: **1856**

Residence State: **Iowa**

Residence County: **Clinton**

Locality: **De Witt**

Roll: **IA\_51**

Line: **32**

Family Number: **114**

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

| Household | Name                         | Age |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----|
| Members:  | <a href="#">Geo Rule</a>     | 27  |
|           | <a href="#">Mrs. Rule</a>    | 27  |
|           | <a href="#">Wm Rule</a>      | 4   |
|           | <a href="#">Agnes J Rule</a> | 3   |
|           | <a href="#">John Rule</a>    | 1   |

**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.  
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# George Rule

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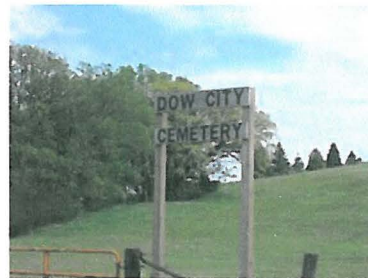
Birth: Feb. 13, 1829  
Death: Sep. 18, 1892

Family links:  
Spouse:  
Ellen A Rule (1829 - 1915)\*

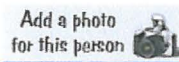
[\\*Point here for explanation](#)

Burial:  
[Dow City Cemetery](#)  
Dow City  
Crawford County  
Iowa, USA

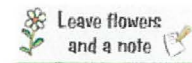
Created by: [cara konopa](#)  
Record added: Nov 14, 2007  
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Cemetery Photo  
Added by: [Josh & Renee](#)



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