

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative HARPER, WILLIAM Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Des Moines County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 3 November 1819, Ross County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Harriet Ware Heizen, (8 October 1819 - 3 October 1896), 7 August 1844, Ohio

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business farmer, banker, real estate, loan and insurance

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

C. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 3d GA 1850 DM county; 13th GA 1870-72 HD2 DEs Moines Co.

6. Public Offices

A. Local Notary public; Co.Supt Schools 6 years; bd education Mediapolis  
recruiting agent for county during Civil War

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 31 December 1908, at home, Mediapolis, after short illness;  
buried Kossuth Cemetery

8. Children Lurissa Jane (Louie) (FULLER)

9. Names of parents Joab Harper (Pendleton Co [West] Virginia, ---- - 17 Sept. 1882)  
Lydia Joens (Augusta Co. Va) (died at age 74). Farmer. Strong Presbyterian.

10. Education district schools

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information

At age 19 began teaching in winter and farming rest of year. After 3 years, moved to Iowa. To Des Moines County October 1842, purchased farm in Yellow Springs Township. Taught school winter of 1843, in log church near farm. Returned to Ohio 1843, and after marriage came back to farm in YS Twp, 3 October 1844. Lived in log cabin on farm 4 years; then built substantial house. Lived there until 1877 when he moved to Mediapolis.

United with Round Prairie Pres Ch Feb. 1843; became member Yellow Springs Pres Ch. 1850 and elder and clerk 4 years later. In 1870 the two churches united. He was ruling elder and clerk. After move to Mediapolis involved in organization of Pres church there, and ruling elder for many years and elder emeritus at time of death (54 years as elder). Delegation to General Assembly of US Pres Ch, 1856 and 1876.

He and his brother taught first large school in Burlington. Was co. supt schools 6 yrs. A founder of Yellow Springs Academy, which became Yellow Springs College; he was on its bd trustees as long as it existed.

During Civil War he was appointed recruiter for Civil War servicemen, and was so successful that county avoided draft. Enlisted many hundred men.

In 1870 legislature was chair of committee on schools.

Organizer of State Bank of Mediapolis; pres. many years. In Mediapolis was realtor, involved with loans and insurance. Notary Public 1850. Did much conveyancing and drew many wills; administrator or executor of many estates.

Daughter married attorney from West Union, Iowa, who served several terms in US Congress. A niece, Nellie Heizen, came to his family as a child, and lived with him until his death.

Survived by 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, niece, two brothers.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
Mediapolis New Era News, Wed. Jan 6, 1909		x	death, bio
Stork/Clingan, Legislators		x	sessions served
House Journal, 1905		x	memorial
Portrait & Bio Album, Des Moines Co., 1888		x	bio
Yellow Springs Cemetery Records		x	Wm and wf

**MEDIAPOLIS NEW ERA-NEWS**  
 The News, established 1877  
 Consolidated March 16, 1907.  
 Wednesday and Saturday.  
**GENERAL PUBLISHER**  
 and 25 needed class matter March 6, 1907,  
 1908, at Mediapolis, Iowa, under act  
 of March 6, 1907.  
 Subscription, \$1.00 a year.  
 Advertising rates on application.  
**Official County Paper.**  
**Telephone Number 2-83**

# WILLIAM HARPER DEAD

## This aged resident passes away in his ninetieth year

Funeral Services were held Sunday afternoon and were very largely attended.

With the closing hours of the year 1908 the life of William Harper, one of the pioneer residents of Mediapolis, came to a close and Mediapolis lost one of her most prominent and influential citizens and all in the community a faithful friend.

Wm. Harper was born in Ross County, Ohio, November 3rd, 1819. He came to Des Moines County, Iowa, in October 1842, and purchased a farm in section 17, Yellow Spring township. He taught school the winter of 1843 in the log church situated a short distance east of his farm. In 1843 Mr. Harper returned to Ohio and August 7, 1844 he married Miss Harriet (Ware) Heizer. They came to Iowa by team and settled on their farm in a log cabin, October 3, 1844. The Harper and Heizer families were originally from Virginia and of German origin. February 10, 1848, Wm. Harper united by certificate with the Round Prairie Presbyterian church. April 14, 1850, William and Harriet Harper became members of the Yellow Spring Presbyterian church. On February 2, 1854, Mr. Harper was elected elder and April 8, 1854, clerk of said church.

In 1870 under the plan of union adopted by the General Assemblies the Round Prairie and Yellow

Spring churches were largely instrumental in the organization of the State Bank Mediapolis and for many years was its president. He was commissioned a Notary Public by George Winstead in 1860 and for many years he did most of the conveyancing and drawing of wills for the people in the northern part of the county. In probate matters he was an expert, and probably has been administrator and executor of more estates than any other man in the state.

In 1877 he removed to Mediapolis where he very successfully carried on a real estate, loan and insurance business.

It will be seen from this brief sketch that Mr. Harper has been an active and successful man in the northern half of Des Moines county and it would only be true to state that he was its leading citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Harper had only one child, Lurissa Jane, who was always known in this community as Louie. She married William E. Fuller, of West Union, Iowa, January 1st, 1868, and was the mother of nine children. William Harper is survived by seven grand children and nine great-grand-children. Miss Nellie Heizer, a niece, became a member of Mr. and Mrs. Harper's family when a child and has continuously lived with them since to the time of his death and is considered and known as a member of the family.

He leaves two brothers, John, of this place, and Robert, of Manhattan, Kansas, to mourn his death.

Mr. Harper was a man of great faith. He loved people, especially the young. At least three generations in this community have looked to him for advice and words of encouragement as they were about to enter life's contest. He has not lived in vain. Hundreds reverence him better for his life. He was altruistic.



scribe at this office for the  
 nggg Hawk-Eye.  
 at wonderful achievements  
 people think they would do if  
 were only some one else. The  
 big thing is for every one to do  
 what he can with what he has,  
 or little, and not waste his  
 in idle dreaming about the  
 possible.  
 at an encouragement to oth-  
 ere in a kind word or  
 and when this is a followed up  
 is necessary by a kind act it  
 is many a man safely overcome  
 erty and puts new heart into  
 ple song of peace, joy and  
 will during the Christmas sea-  
 son that was well. But now  
 the season is gone does it mean  
 some that the Christmas spirit  
 is also not to reappear for an-  
 twelve months? If so then the  
 val as kept by such people was a  
 deal of a sham and they failed  
 to learn the Christmas lesson aright.  
 Only he who has properly kept Christ-  
 who takes with him through-  
 out the 365 days of the year the  
 spirit that Christmas was designed  
 to plant in the human breast.  
 Five course New Years dinner  
 served at the well appointed  
 home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bloom-  
 on route 3. The guests were  
 composed of near neighbors and  
 friends, including Rev. Laure and  
 family. The services were laid for 32.  
 The attempt to give the menu  
 would be imposing on the gener-  
 of the editor to consume so much  
 space. To say that Mrs. Bloomberg  
 daughters have attained per-  
 son in culinary art, would be  
 saying it mildly. After dinner we  
 entertained with instrumental

1909

NEW

15 per cent  
overshoes  
sandall.

In mens  
the prices  
for 48; 50c

We will  
leather boots  
Men's size  
\$3.50  
\$3.25  
\$3.00  
Boy's size  
\$2.

In shoes  
If you  
they are

In groceries  
complete.  
Marshal  
Quill Flour  
Produce

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...re obtained with instrumental  
aid vocal music of high order. Cur-  
rent events was discussed and all  
old rather optimistic views of the  
new year. The guests, in departing  
it they had been highly entertain-  
ed and had started the new year  
right.

It is stated that the large catalog-  
houses experienced a shrinking  
business the past year amounting  
to \$10,000,000. This was mainly  
due to the great activity and system-  
atic efforts put forth by the retail  
men and their trade journals all  
over the country. This is gratifying  
to the retail trade and indicates one  
of the most effective ways of com-  
peting the catalogue houses and of  
keeping trade at home. If the re-  
tail merchants would realize more  
of them do that what the  
catalogue is to the mail houses, that  
the home papers are to local mer-  
chants the business of mail order  
houses would show a still further de-  
cline to the great gain of the home  
trade and the property of the home  
owner. Business firms have tried all  
kinds of advertising, but experience  
proves that the most profitable is  
attractive and liberal advertising in  
a local paper or papers.

The youngest senator of Oklahoma  
is the honor of being the youngest  
member of the upper house in years.  
Senator Gore just passed his 38th  
birthday. Next to him in youth is  
Senator Guggenham, of Colorado,  
who will be 41 years old on Decem-  
ber 30. Senator Burkett of Nebras-  
ka was 41 on December 1. Senator  
Overidge, of Indian, who was once  
known as "boy orator of the senate,"  
is actually older than nine other sena-  
tors, being 47 his next birthday.  
The greatest disparity in age be-  
tween two senators from the same  
state is that of Senator Teller, of  
Colorado, who is more than 37 years  
older than his colleague, Senator  
Guggenham. Mr. Teller will be 79  
years old his next birthday. Four  
states have senators of the same  
age. Long and Curris of Kansas  
both were born in 1860. Smoot and  
utherland of Utah in 1862. Dilling-  
ham and Page of Vermont in 1843,  
and Simmons and Overman of North  
Carolina in 1854.—Capital.

Spring churches united and became  
the First Presbyterian church of  
Kossuth. In this organization Mr.  
Harper continued as Ruling Elder  
and Clerk of Session.

In 1877 he moved to Mediapolis  
and was active in the organization  
of the First Presbyterian church of  
Mediapolis (a part of the Kossuth  
church) where he continued as Rul-  
ing Elder for many years until age  
compelled him to withdraw from  
active work. He was retired and  
made Elder Emeritus and contin-  
ued until the end—wise in council,  
fervent in spirit.

He was an Elder continuously for  
fifty-four years. He was sent by  
the "Presbytery of Iowa" in 1856 and  
again in 1876 as a delegate by the  
Synod of Iowa to the General As-  
sembly of the United States. For  
seventy years he was an active  
member of the church, always ready  
to devote his talents and means for  
the advancement of Christianity.

William Harper devoted much  
time to the development of educa-  
tion. He was a teacher at the early  
age of nineteen years. He and his  
brother taught the first large select  
school in the city of Burlington.  
For six years he served as County  
Superintendent of schools in Des  
Moines county. He was one of  
the founders of Jefferson Academy,  
afterwards Yellow Spring College  
and was president of the Board of  
Trustees during the existence of the  
college. He also has been a mem-  
ber of the board of education at  
Mediapolis. During the war of the  
rebellion it looked as if there would  
be a draft in this county. He was  
appointed recruiting agent and en-  
listed many hundred men and the  
draft was avoided.

William Harper, ever since he  
came to Des Moines county, has  
been considered a representative  
man. In 1850 he was elected a  
member of the Third General As-  
sembly. In 1870 he again was elect-  
ed to the Legislature and was one  
of the leading members, serving on  
many committees and was chairman  
of the committee on schools.

He was our friend and brother.  
William Harper died in his nine-  
tieth year in his home Thursday  
December 31, 1908, about 5 o'clock  
p. m., after a short illness.

Funeral services were held in the  
Presbyterian church at 2 o'clock P.  
m. January 3, 1909, in charge of  
Rev. G. G. Bruce, his pastor and  
assisted by Rev. M. E. Reusch, of  
the Methodist church, Rev. M. J.  
Laure, of the Swedish Lutheran  
church and Rev. Samuel Olleren-  
shaw, of the Presbyterian church of  
Kossuth.

Rev. Ollerenshaw, in a few brief  
words, paid a beautiful tribute to  
the life and character of the deceas-  
ed. The sermon by the pastor was  
taken from I Cor. 15: 35, "With what  
body do they come," a favorite  
theme upon which Mr. Harper de-  
lighted to converse. The discourse  
was listened to by the audience with  
close attention, the speaker intro-  
ducing many quotations as he had  
heard them from the lips of Mr.  
Harper.

He was buried in the family lot in  
the Kossuth cemetery beside his  
wife, who passed away several years  
ago. The casket was covered with  
beautiful flowers from friends,  
among which was a floral wreath  
from his associates in the State  
Bank.

William Harper was a positive  
character yet his convictions were  
tempered with conservatism. He  
approached all questions with de-  
liberation. He was a peace maker  
and when called upon to arbitrate  
he had an eye to the most absolute  
justice. Religion permeated his life;  
he carried it into his transactions;  
it was manifest in his kindly greet-  
ing; he was ever ready to speak a  
word for the master, and point the  
way that leadeth unto eternal life.

What Country Dwellers Need.  
A third of our population is urban;  
the rest is more or less rural. What  
the country dwellers need to make  
them happy are religion, education  
and material prosperity. The farms  
cannot employ as many laborers per  
acre as they did before the coming of  
agricultural machinery. Therefore  
they must either raise fewer children  
or export some of their population to  
the cities.—Harper's Weekly.

Charles Youngman and  
were up from West Bur-  
over Sunday.

At a meeting of the Muto-  
phone Company held yester-  
day following officers were re-  
elected: President, Henry Broder.  
Vice-President, Herman  
Secretary, J. L. Jones.  
Treasurer, A. E. Miller.

To Hunters and Trespassers  
You are hereby notified  
that hunting nor trespassing is  
permitted on our farms. We will je-  
nerally prosecute any  
found on our farms.

ORLANDO JACOB  
WM. BRENNAN  
S. C. DODDS.  
E. L. SMITH.

### Closing Out Public Sale

Having sold my farm ad-  
joining the state, I will sell at  
public auction adjoining the city of  
Mediapolis on the east on

SATURDAY, JANUARY  
at 10 o'clock a. m. sharp, the  
following property:

6 HEAD OF HORSES AND  
—Black mare 4 year old, pure  
stock, weight 1500 lbs., brood  
bred, 3 years old, weight 1200  
gray mare in foal, 10 years  
weight 1250, family brood  
driving horse, 3 years old, weight  
sorrell draft colt 1 year old,  
1150, sorrell spring draft colt

12 HEAD OF CATTLE—  
including 8 milk cows 4 of which  
full blood Jerseys, balance  
are grade Jersey. 5 of the  
will be fresh soon, 2 yearling  
Jersey heifers, 1 Jersey bull 1  
old.

90 HEAD OF PIGS—30 pure  
Duroc Jersey gilts bred to  
April 5 recorded fall yearling  
Jersey brood sows bred to  
April 1 recorded Duroc Jersey  
pig, 6 pedigreed Poland Chi-  
pig, 50 fall pigs.

100 WYANDOTTE CHICKENS  
FARM IMPLEMENTS,  
Deere Disc, Busy Bee culti-  
fram wagons, buggy, set  
ness, bob sled, 1 ton baled  
some baled oat straw.

HOUSEHOLD AND  
FURNITURE—Refrigerator  
room set, and many other  
too numerous to mention.

TERMS—All sums of \$10  
der cash, over \$10 a credit  
year, purchaser giving  
approved security. 5 per cent  
for cash. E. D. Trostle, Auctioneer  
E. B. CONE

record shows, he has been actively employed in railroad work for twenty years, and with the exception of about two years, has been with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Company, or with the original companies since incorporated into that great system. His experience has been varied, and he has served in many different capacities. That the duties devolving upon him have been discharged with ability and fidelity is well attested by his long continuance in the service of a company whose policy has always been to retain faithful and competent men in their employ as long as possible.

**H**ON. WILLIAM HARPER, of Mediapolis, Des Moines Co., Iowa, is numbered among the pioneers of 1842. He is a native of Ross County, Ohio, born Nov. 3, 1819. His father, Joab Harper, was a native of Pendleton County, Va., now West Virginia, while his mother, Lydia (Jones) Harper, was a native of Augusta County, Va. His paternal grandfather, Adam Harper, was also a native of Pendleton County, but of German descent. By occupation he was a farmer, as was his son Joab. The latter was a very conservative man, yet strong in his convictions of right. A member of the Presbyterian Church, he was a strong believer in the doctrinal teachings of that body, and continued firm in the faith until his death, which occurred Sept. 17, 1882, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven. His wife preceded him to the eternal world several years, dying at the age of seventy-four. They reared a family of six children, of whom five are yet living: William, the subject of this sketch; John, a resident farmer of Yellow Spring Township, Des Moines Co., Iowa; Robert J., of Manhattan, Kan., is now Clerk of the Court of Riley County, and was formerly Judge of the Probate Court; Joab, a furniture dealer at Great Bend, Kan.; Anna, wife of Edward Heizer, of Yellow Spring Township; Adam, who died at the age of seventeen years.

William Harper, of whom we now write, like the great majority of able men in the country, was reared upon a farm and was early made acquainted with a life of toil. In the district schools of his

native State he received the rudiments of an English education, and at the age of nineteen made teaching his occupation in the winter time, working upon a farm in the summer. For three years he continued thus alternately to employ his time, and then resolved to go West. The fame of Iowa, "the beautiful land," so named by the Indians that had for years inhabited this favored region, had spread abroad, and he resolved to there abide and make for himself a home. In October, 1842, he first crossed the "Father of Waters," making his way to North Prairie, in what is now Yellow Spring Township, where he determined to locate. The winter following his arrival he taught a term of school in a log cabin church, and in February, 1843, made his first purchase of land, being ninety-five acres on section 17, Yellow Spring Township. On the land was a small cabin, which had been erected but a short time, while five acres of the ground had been broken. Soon after making his purchase he returned to Ohio, and on the 7th day of August, 1844, was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Heizer, a native of Ross County, Ohio, and daughter of Samuel and Polly Heizer, who were natives of Virginia, but of German descent. Soon after their marriage the young couple started with a team to their prairie home, arriving here Oct. 3, 1844. Moving into the cabin, they lived in frontier style for four years, when Mr. Harper erected the commodious dwelling-house which yet stands upon the place, and in which the family lived until 1877, when they moved to the village of Mediapolis. To his original purchase Mr. Harper added other lands, until he had a fine farm of 210 acres, which he still owns. In 1877 he built a handsome residence in Mediapolis, which he now occupies. One child blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harper, Lurissa Jane, who was educated at the State University, and is now the wife of Hon. William E. Fuller, of West Union, Iowa, an attorney-at-law, who is now serving his second term as Member of Congress, representing the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Fuller is a man of fine ability, and is fast making a record as one of the leading men of the State.

Like his father before him, William Harper is a man of strong convictions. When once his mind is made up it will require overwhelming proof that

he is wrong before he can be changed. but on no question of public interest does he hastily come to a conclusion. but believes in investigating thoroughly every subject. In early life. and until he reached middle age. he was a staunch Democrat. and by that party was elected a member of the House of Representatives of the Third General Assembly of the State, in which position he served in a creditable manner and to the satisfaction of his constituents. In educational matters he always took great interest. his experience as a teacher giving him an insight as to the needs of the school system. Knowing his interest in such matters, his party placed him in nomination for the office of County Superintendent of public schools, to which position he was elected and re-elected, serving in all six years. While acting with the Democratic party, he was always strongly opposed to slavery, and when, as he thought, the question could no longer be evaded, he severed his connection with the Democratic party and became just as ardent an advocate of the principles of the Republican party. As a Republican, Mr. Harper was elected in 1870 a member of the Thirteenth General Assembly and served one term, since which time he has held no political office, though still retaining his interest in political affairs. It is due him, however, to state that he was never an aspirant for political favors, and that his preference has always been to live in private. His service in official stations has always been through the earnest solicitations of friends.

The religious faith of Mr. Harper's father was inherited, and in his advocacy of the cardinal points of Presbyterianism he is energetic and well grounded in "the hope set before him." Becoming a member of the church at an early age, he has at all times been an ardent worker in the cause of his Master, the church and the Sabbath-school being to him an ark of refuge. For thirty-three years he has served as a Ruling Elder, and in that office has shown rare gifts of one who "ruleth well," and who has a love both for the cause and those who advocate it. Twice has he been sent by the Presbytery of Iowa as a delegate to the General Assembly of the United States, the first time in 1856 at New York City, and again in 1876, at Brooklyn, N. Y. This is an honor of which he may well be proud, especially as he

was chosen among many who would have been pleased to attend, and who were well qualified to discharge the duties of a delegate. Mr. Harper became a member of the first Presbyterian Church organized in his locality, the old Round Prairie Church, with which he was connected for some years, transferring his membership to the Yellow Spring Presbyterian Church at the time when a large number of the two bodies united in a new organization, on account of the slavery question. When the church at Mediapolis was organized, he entered into relationship with it, assisted in its organization, and became one of the first Ruling Elders, in which position he has continued to act to the present time. In all work the aid and encouragement of a good wife is very beneficial, but especially is this so in the work performed for our Master, and in this way has Mrs. Harper been truly a helpmeet. She, too, is a member of the Presbyterian Church; her zeal is untiring, her labor unceasing, and the reward of a true Christian life will surely be hers. An earnest Christian lady, she wins the love and respect of all.

In the building of the old Jefferson Academy, subsequently known as the "Yellow Spring Collegiate Institute," and later as "Yellow Spring College," Mr. Harper was quite active, and was the President of the Board of Directors during the entire existence of the institution. As long as the college existed he was one of its staunchest friends. But it has not alone been in church and educational matters that Mr. Harper has been active, but in all questions of reform, and in every legitimate public enterprise. None has ever been more willing to do his part in anything tending to the public good, and in the discharge of the public duties he has often had to sacrifice his own convenience and work at a personal loss. Few men in Des Moines County are better known, and none more universally respected. Age does not dim his faculties, or quench his desire to be of some service to the world, and to do good to his fellowmen.

Since his removal to Mediapolis Mr. Harper has been engaged in the real-estate and loan business. Since 1850 he has been a Notary Public, receiving his first commission from Gov. Hempstead. As administrator and executor he has administered on

more estates than any man in Des Moines County, and no charge of misappropriation of funds has ever been laid at his door. Honest and upright in his dealings, considerate of the feelings of others, it is not to be wondered that he enjoys the confidence of his fellowmen in an eminent degree. The life of such a man is a perpetual lesson to the rising generation.



**C**ORNELIUS L. POOR, attorney-at-law, Parsons Block, No. 307 Jefferson street, Burlington, Iowa, was born in Venango County, Pa., May 13, 1845, and is a son of Alonzo and Elizabeth (Henderson) Poor. His father was born in the same county, Jan. 1, 1818, of an old New England family, descended from John Poor, of Newburyport, Mass., whose ancestors were of English origin, and first settled at Newburyport in 1640. The old homestead of the family, 240 years old, is still intact at that place. The family of Mr. Poor's mother were Pennsylvanians of Scotch-Irish descent, and date their settlement in that State back to early Colonial days. Her death occurred at the homestead in Venango County, Pa., April 3, 1883. Her husband survives her, and resides at the old home.

Cornelius L. was educated at the State Normal School, of Edinboro, Pa., and soon after leaving school entered upon the study of law in the office of Taylor & Mackey, a prominent law firm of Franklin, Pa. He was admitted to practice in the courts of Pennsylvania in 1874, and established himself in business at Franklin, Pa., and was admitted to partnership with one of his preceptors, Hon. C. W. Mackey. In 1875 he came to Burlington, Iowa, and established an office for the firm in this city. The senior member of the firm failed to remove to Burlington as he had contemplated, and in 1876 the firm was dissolved. Mr. Poor then formed a partnership with Mr. E. A. Millspaugh, under the firm name of Poor & Millspaugh. This connection continued from 1877 to August, 1880, when it was dissolved by mutual consent. He next formed a partnership with Charles Baldwin, under the name of Poor & Baldwin, which continued until Mr. Baldwin removed to Salt Lake City in August, 1887, since which time Mr. Poor has been alone in

business. He is a Republican in politics and has been identified with that party since becoming a voter. He was united in marriage, in Erie County, Pa., March 20, 1867, to Miss Sarah M., daughter of William and Margaret Goodbau. Mrs. Poor was born in Erie County, Pa. Four children were born of their union, two sons and two daughters: Fred L., born Jan. 8, 1868, at Franklin, Pa.; Cora E.; born Feb. 15, 1870, also at Franklin, Pa.; Elizabeth, born Jan. 5, 1876, at Burlington, Iowa; and Ben Perley, born March 31, 1881, at Burlington.

Mr. Poor has built up an extensive practice, and has won a leading place among the members of the Des Moines County bar. Industrious as a student of current court decisions, and the best authorities in the profession, careful and methodical in the preparation of cases, his clients have learned to have the utmost confidence that their best interests will be guarded with care and their cases ably conducted. He was four times elected City Solicitor of the city of Burlington, and served in that capacity from 1878 to 1882, during which time some of the most important litigations in which the city was ever concerned were conducted to a successful termination. In addition to his law practice Mr. Poor is identified with the manufacturing interests of the city, and is Vice President of the Buffington Wheel Company. As a citizen and neighbor he is highly esteemed, and possesses the respect and kindly regard of those with whom he has business or social relations.



**J**OHAN M. MERCER, of the law firm of Tracy & Mercer, Burlington, Iowa, was born at Kewanee, Henry Co., Ill., Aug. 28, 1858, and is a son of William and Sarah C. (Miller) Mercer, both of whom were born in County Down, Ireland, of Scotch origin, and are members of the Presbyterian Church. They emigrated to America when quite young, and are both living, being residents of Burlington. Mr. Mercer is foreman in the engine painting department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and has held that position for the past eighteen years.

John M. Mercer came to Burlington with his