

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** BELT, ALGERNON SIDNEY **Senator** _____

Represented Linn County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place c. 1833, Maryland, Prince George County, Maryland

2. Marriage (s) date place

Susan H. Greene (Ia. 3 March 1841 -), 26 November 1862, Linn Co., Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business lawyer

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession _____

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 11th GA 1866, house, Linn County

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 1876 (WPA records) or 1878 (county history) buried Oak Hill Cemetery,

8. Children (1) Hattie G. (c. 1861 -); (2) George G. (c. 1867 -) Cedar Rapids, Iowa

9. Names of parents no info

Belt, Algernon Sidney

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Listed as A. Sidney in 1870 census, A. S. and Algernon S. in county history. He had been in law practice in Cedar Rapids when he was married in 1862 (per co. hist.), altho 1870 census says daughter is 9; He became a law partner with father-in-law Judge George G. Greene c. 1865 when the Judge resumed practice after involvement with building railroads. Their firm was solicitors for Northwestern RR. Co. hist says Belt died in 1878, but WPA record lists him as recorded on tombstone with life from 1834 to 1876.

Wife was living in San Francisco per 1901 County History.

BIOGRAPHICAL

JUDGE GEORGE GREENE

In the practice of law, in financial circles and in railroad building Judge Greene attained such success and prominence that his activities in any one of those fields would alone entitle him to representation among the men whose life work has conferred honor and dignity upon the history of Linn county. Moreover, his name is inseparably interwoven with the annals of Cedar Rapids in that he was one of the founders of the city and remained thereafter until his death one of the most helpful factors in its progress and improvement.

George Greene was born in Alton, Staffordshire, England, a son of Robert and Sefer (Woodward) Greene, who were also natives of Staffordshire, and a brother of William and Joseph Greene, who, like Judge Greene, gave liberally of time, thought and energy to the work of upbuilding in the west. The parents came to the United States when their son George was only two years of age, and it was in Buffalo, New York, that the other sons were born and there the father died in 1825. After his demise the mother returned to England in the hope of obtaining possession of some property which was rightfully hers, but failed in this and passed away at her old home in 1827. She had left her children in Buffalo when she returned to England and George Greene was thus left an orphan at the age of ten years. During the ensuing four years he managed not only to support himself but also provide for his younger brothers. Then he, too, went to England hoping that he might recover the property which his mother had failed to secure. He worked his passage and had to provide for his own support by securing employment when in his native land. He, too, failed in this mission and then he worked his passage back to America, saddened but not discouraged by his failure. He resolved that industry and economy should accomplish what he had failed to secure through inheritance and, realizing the value of education, he most carefully saved his earnings in order that he might further attend school. In this way he managed to supplement his early advantage by a year's study in the Carysville Collegiate Seminary, a year in the Aurora Seminary and two years at French's Collegiate Institute in Geneva, New York. During that period he taught school and did such other work as he could find to do. He next took up the study of law, hoping to make its practice a life profession. His reading was directed by the Hon. George P. Baker of Buffalo and he met his expenses during that period by assisting in the office and acting as bookkeeper for Dr. Chapin, with whom he made his home.

The year 1838 witnessed the arrival of Judge Greene in Iowa. He proceeded to Davenport, where he entered the employ of David J. Owen, who was making a geological survey of the state, and six months were devoted by Mr. Greene to surveying. This brought him a broad knowledge of the country and at the same time he was paid a liberal salary, from which he saved a considerable sum. He then made his way to Ivanhoe, Linn county, where he continued his law studies while teaching school, and in 1840 he was admitted to the bar at Iowa City. Choosing Marion as his place of location, he entered upon active practice there and the following year was chosen a member of the territorial legislature. In 1845 he engaged in law practice and in journalism in Dubuque, having purchased the Miners Express, which he published for several years. There he entered into partnership with J. J. Dyer, who was soon afterward appointed judge of the United States district court. In his law practice Mr. Greene made steady progress, giving proof of his ability to handle the complex and intricate problems of the

law in his successful conduct of litigation before the courts. His reputation was such that in 1847 he was appointed one of the supreme judges of the state to fill a vacancy and the following year was regularly elected. He sat upon the bench for eight years and proved himself the peer of the ablest jurists of the west at an early day. He also compiled Greene's Reports, which were published in four volumes. Throughout his life he remained a learned and discriminating lawyer and in his practice ranked with the eminent members of the Iowa bar. He did not confine his attention alone to his work as counselor and advocate, however, but in other fields did service of far-reaching benefit and value. He became one of the founders of Cedar Rapids, joining in 1849 with others who owned the site in surveying and laying out the original town. He never ceased to feel the keenest interest in its upbuilding and progress and put forth earnest and effective effort in its behalf. He took up his abode in this city in 1851 and remained here continuously until his death save for a brief period.

Judge Greene contributed to the material development of the city in financial circles, becoming associated with John Weare, D. O. Finch, W. H. Merritt and others in the banking business and when the financial panic of 1857 came on he was actively connected with the management of nine banks in different localities. He was largely interested in real estate in most of the counties and in nearly every large town of Iowa, and his initiative spirit enabled him to institute and successfully control such enterprises.

In 1859 Judge Greene formed a law partnership with Cyrus Bently, of Chicago, which continued for five years and during most of that time he lived in that city. He made his home in the winter of 1863-4 at McGregor, Iowa, while he and his brothers were building the McGregor Western Railroad to Conover. At the same time and for several years thereafter he was a factor in the building of the Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Railroad and thus became actively associated with the field of labor which is one of the most important sources of the upbuilding of any section of the country.

On his return to Cedar Rapids Judge Greene resumed the practice of law in partnership with Judge Dudley and his son-in-law, A. S. Belt, and the firm became solicitors for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Continuing in active connection with railroad building and operation, Judge Greene was chosen to the presidency of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota Railroad and took active part in the building of that line, which was afterward operated under the name of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad. He constructed several other smaller railroads and was most prominent in the building of railway lines in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Kansas. He also took active part in the material development of Cedar Rapids through the erection of many buildings here and through the financial support which he gave to the Cedar Rapids & Marion Railway. Hardly an enterprise of any importance was instituted in Cedar Rapids in which he was not financially associated or had voice in its management. He always looked beyond the exigencies of the moment to the possibilities of the future and labored for coming years as well as for the present.

Judge Greene was married twice. On the 30th of May, 1838, he wedded Miss Harriet Merritt, a daughter of Jesse and Harriet (Hilton) Merritt, of Buffalo, New York. They became parents of four children: George W., who was born April 4, 1839, and died in Ivanhoe, Iowa, March 13, 1840; Susan H., who was born March 3, 1841, in Marion, and was married November 26, 1862, to Algernon S. Belt, an attorney of the Cedar Rapids bar, and is now residing in San Francisco, California, her husband having died in 1878; Mary Ely, who was born in Dubuque, June 7, 1843, and died July 28, 1844; and Edward Merritt, who was born March 29, 1845, in Dubuque, and married Emma Eberhart. He was at one time engaged in the lumber business in Cedar Rapids, and died in Chicago. The mother passed away in Dubuque, April 25, 1850, and on the 21st of January,

1855, Judge Greene married Miss Frances R. Graves, whose parents were Calvin and Fanny (Carlisle) Graves, of Cooperstown, New York. Six sons and two daughters were born to that union: Calvin G., born February 18, 1856, is now engaged in the real-estate business in Cedar Rapids; Fanny C., born January 19, 1858, died in October, 1859; George, born December 28, 1859, was married September 1, 1886, to Charlotte Winton, and resides at Brookline, Massachusetts; William J., born November 28, 1861, married October 7, 1896, to Mae Huldah Whittam, and is construction engineer of the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway and Light Company; Elizabeth, born August 13, 1864, was married to Nicholas Williams McIvor, and is now a resident of Yokohama, Japan, where her husband (formerly United States consul general) is now engaged in the practice of law; Robert C., born December 22, 1867, died June 19, 1885; Francis, born May 14, 1870, is a mechanical engineer and now resides in Madison, Wisconsin; Woodward K., born August 2, 1873, married Ellen Belle Safely, May 29, 1899, and is a special agent of the National Biscuit Company, residing in Chicago.

While Judge Greene was an eminent lawyer and a successful business man he was not unmindful of his obligations of citizenship and, on the contrary, took active and helpful interest in those things which tended to promote the intellectual and moral progress of the community. He was one of the founders and a warden of Grace Episcopal church and one of the most loyal promoters of Coe Collegiate Institute, which has since become Coe College, serving for many years as president of its board of trustees. His life record is a splendid illustration of the power and force of character and ability when the individual is deprived of the advantages which come through wealth and advantageous early environment. Strong and resourceful and possessed of discriminating judgment, Judge Greene seemed to know when and where and how to put forth his efforts to obtain the best results. Gifted by nature with strong intellectuality, he so used his natural gifts that they grew and developed with the passing years. He stood for that which is highest and best for the individual and for the community and his labors were ever far-reaching and beneficial in their effects. He stands today not only among the promoters and upbuilders of Cedar Rapids but is numbered among those to whom the middle west is much indebted because his business activities were largely of a character that contributed to the progress of this section of the country. He was laid to rest with Masonic honors following his demise, which occurred at his home in Cedar Rapids, June 23, 1880.

WILLIAM J. HENDERSON

William J. Henderson, well known as a successful agriculturist and stockman of Linn county, owns and operates a valuable farm of four hundred and forty acres in Jackson township. His birth occurred in that township on the 13th of February, 1868, his parents being Peter G. and Jane (Arabell) Henderson. A sketch of the father appears on another page of this work.

William J. Henderson attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education and remained at home until he had attained the age of twenty-one years, when he was married. During the following ten years he resided on what is now known as the Charlie Carl farm and on the expiration of that period purchased two hundred and forty acres of his present place in Jackson township. He has made his home thereon continuously since and has extended the boundaries of the farm by additional purchase until it now comprises four hundred and forty acres. In connection with the tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of breeding and raising Englishshire horses and thoroughbred red polled cattle and this branch of his business has proved a gratifying source of remuneration to