

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** McCray, Abner Harrison **Senator** McCray, Abner Harrison - Represented Van Buren County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 23 July 1814 Vanderburgh County, Indiana

2. Marriage (s) date place

Marissa Mangrum 6 Feb 1834 Gibson, Indiana

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President of the Van Buren County Agricultural Society

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership Christian

5. Sessions served 2nd 3rd General Assembly 1842, 1850 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th General Assembly 1854, 1856, 1862, 1864 - Senate

A. Local Judge of the Peace 1841-1848

B. State

C. National

7. Death 14 Apr 1893 Edgewood, Iowa, buried Miller Cemetery, Keosauqua, Iowa

8. Children Asa C.; William M.; Marilla (Mrs. J. H. Brown); Clara Joseph;
Caroline R.; Lucinda C. (died 1848);

9. Names of parents John and Ruth (Wasson) McCray

10. Education His education advantages were very limited

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came to Van Buren County, Iowa in the fall of 1836
- He brought his family in Spring 1837 and settled on his claim
2 1/2 miles southeast of Keosauqua where they lived until 1876
- In 1876 he left his farm and moved into Keosauqua, Iowa

ARMLEY-PHILO CO.

KEOSAUQUA, IOWA.

LOCAL MENTION.

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

Death of a Pioneer and Lawmaker.

In the death of A. H. McCrary, which took place at Eldon Thursday night at 10 o'clock, another link between the past and the present, between the earliest history of our county and state and the present time, has been broken. Mr. and Mrs. McCrary went to Eldon a week before to visit their son, Mr. Ira C. McCrary. Mr. McCrary had for several years had very poor health, being a sufferer from rheumatism and the ordinary infirmities incident to old age. After arriving at Eldon he in some way accidentally scratched one of his limbs. Inflammation and gangrene set in, resulting in blood-poisoning, coma and death. The body was brought back Friday, and the funeral was held at the Christian church Saturday afternoon, every seat being occupied. The discourse was delivered by Rev. Geo. A. Hendrickson, pastor of the church, the prayer being offered by Rev. C. E. Perkins. The acting pall bearers were Messrs. S. D. Fellows, W. H. Roberts, Benj. Vance, Harry Beer, Walter Beer and J. W. Rowley. The honorary pall bearers were Messrs. Edwin Manning, Judge Robt. Sloan, A. G. Lippincott, C. Wright, Isaac Boyer, and Dr. Wm. Craig. The burial was in the south Keosauqua cemetery.

The deceased, Abner Harrison McCrary, was born in Vanderburgh-county, Ind., July 23, 1814, lacking but little more than three months of being 84 years of age. February 6, 1834,—sixty-four years ago—he was united in marriage to Miss Narcissa Mangrum, of Gibson county, Ind., who survives him. The sons and daughters are William M., who lives at Council Bluffs, Marietta, who lives in Nebraska, James N., Judge A. J. of Keokuk, Curtis R. of this place and Ira C. of Eldon. He was an uncle of the Judge McCrary who represented this district eight years in congress and was secretary of war under President Hayes, and afterwards judge of the United States circuit court.

The deceased came to Van Buren county in the fall of 1836. At that time Van Buren county was not organized, and Iowa was a part of Wisconsin territory. The Sac and Fox Indians had a village at Iowaville, and they and their chief Keokuk and Blackhawk, the big man among them, roamed over the country at will, and were personally known to the early settlers.

In the spring of 1837 Mr. McCrary brought his family and settled on a

Mrs. Miller, Mr. Craig Miller, Mr. Hugh Slean and Miss Rachel Duckworth furnished the music at the funeral service.

From Milton.

Frank Simons is getting material on the ground for a new house.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Boag have returned from a business trip to St. Louis.

A. F. Haney has bought a half interest in Harbin's livery barn.

P. D. Holloway is building an addition to his barn.

Harry Hill returned home from Burlington last Sunday and will assist in his father's store and also in the post-office for a time.

Arthur Henthorn's new house in the south part of town is well under headway.

H. H. Hill is building a new house in the east part of town.

House cleaning and garden making time is now here. The mud is drying up fast.

John Price has been confined to his home for the past few weeks by sickness.

Frank Williamson, after a long siege of sickness is able to be out again.

A new county bridge has been built across the branch south of the school house.

Nagle & Son have sold their lumber yard to Miller Bros.

F. M. Troth has commenced work on his new house. The foundation which is almost completed is of brick.

Dr. Summers, E. C. Holland, Geo. Kays, R. R. Rowland and J. Q. Hargrove, the building committee of the M. E. church, and Rev. J. W. Potter, Lee Nagle, C. E. Mowre and A. D. Jolley were in Memphis last week viewing the plans of some fine churches of that place.

Rev. Owen closed his series of meetings Thursday night at the Christian church with a lecture on the "Heavenward Way." The house was filled as usual notwithstanding that an admission was charged to defray the expenses of the meetings. Eighteen additions to the church was the result of the meeting.

Rev. and Mrs. Potter drove to Keosauqua Friday.

E. Hammer had two fingers quite badly mashed while sawing south of town at the sawmill of Moon and Hammer.

A number of Milton boys went to Bloomfield Saturday to play in the baseball game at that place.

Mrs. Henry Rauch returned to her home at Pulaski Friday evening after a few days' visit with her daughter, Mrs. Willis Moon.

The Davis family gave a musical entertainment at Mt. Olive church on South Prairie Saturday night.

Teachers who were appointed by the school board for the coming year are as follows: Miss Eva Woodward, Milton; first primary, Miss Ella Stidger of Keosauqua; second primary, Miss Minnie Evans of Bloomfield; first intermediate, Miss W. M. Smith of Milton. Misses Woodward and Smith have held positions in the school for the past

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is visiting friends here. He is a detective of the Denver police department, and come to Des Moines to arrest a man named Moore for obtaining loans on worthless real estate. Gov. Shaw, however, refused to honor his requisition.

Mr. T. F. Stidger of Eddyville is visiting Keosauqua friends.

Mr. Oey McIntosh of Lick Creek was a caller Monday and took a Code of Iowa home with him.

Mr. A. W. Morrison of Pittsburg called and subscribed this week, and took a copy of the Code of Iowa.

Rev. E. S. Daily of Mt. Zion called Tuesday.

Mr. Smith of Lebanon, canvassing for Murat Halsteads' Cuba, favored us with a call Tuesday.

Rev. Pool of Cincinnati was a guest of Rev. Tennent Monday and Tuesday, and called.

Mr. E. E. French was ill several days the past week.

Hon. E. E. Bull was in Keosauqua yesterday and called. Mr. Bull was a useful, level-headed, creditable member of the legislature. His record and his wider acquaintance with the people of the county and state have raised him in public esteem and appreciation.

Mrs. Allen Perkins and John Edwards of Bonaparte were in town Monday.

and Mrs. Willis Wiley of Leander were Keosauqua visitors Sunday.

Capt. Hinkle of Selma was in town Monday.

J. W. Burns,

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Farm loans a specialty. Long time and optional payments of principal, at lowest rates of interest. Morton Block, Keosauqua. Jan. 6, '98.

From Birmingham.

Miss Janey Randall, who has been an invalid for 46 years, died last Friday the 8th and was buried Saturday. Miss Randall was a consistent Christian and longed to be at rest. She was 74 years of age.

General Manager Potter, of the Ft. Madison, was in conference with Secretary and Treasurer Skinner, in this city, recently.

Sheriff Pettitt and wife of Keosauqua spent a day or two in town this week with Mrs. Pettitt's mother.

Mrs. Monteith has gone to Excelsior Springs, Mo., to join her husband, Rev. Monteith, who is taking treatment there.

Ms. Nettie Skinner is confined to a room with quinsy.

W. A. Wilkins and bride of Silver City, Iowa, spent a few days in Birmingham recently, the guests of Rev. Wilkins and family.

Mrs. Hettie Carlos, who has been visiting relatives here returned to her home at Ottumwa Saturday.

Mrs. Susan Christy is visiting her

Eldon. He was an uncle of the Judge McCrary who represented this district eight years in congress and was secretary of war under President Hayes, and afterwards judge of the United States circuit court.

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In the spring of 1837 Mr. McCrary brought his family and settled on a claim two and a half miles southeast of Keosauqua which he improved and made a pleasant home and where he resided until 1876, when he moved to South Keosauqua, and a few years since to this side of the river. He served his township as justice of the peace from 1841 to 1848, at which latter date he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly. He was re-elected in 1850, and in 1852 and 1860 was elected to the state senate. He was one of the first presidents of the county agricultural society, an early president and leading member of the old settlers association, and also an elder in the Christian church.

Mr. McCrary, career was conspicuous beyond that of the average citizen, but it was not because of brilliant or extraordinary talents so much as the purity of the life and perfect integrity of the man. His influence was always on the side of the highest good as he understood it, and he was always ready to serve his fellows in any helpful capacity. He was worthy of the people's confidence, and he received it, and with it official station and honors and public esteem.

KILLED IN A WRECK.

Three Men Lose Their Lives in a Railroad Collision Near Libertyville.

A terrible and shocking collision occurred Saturday morning at 7:30 on the Rock Island railroad by which Mr. C. E. Dibble, formerly of Keosauqua, and two others were killed. The through freight going west at a speed of 30 miles an hour met the local freight going east in a deep cut two miles and a half east of Libertyville. The great mogul engines went together with terrific force, and box cars piled up in a stupendous heap above them. The men on the local train jumped and saved themselves, but of those of the through train, Charles E. Dibble, the engineer, A. S. Blosser, the fireman and Willie Waterson, the head brakeman, were instantly killed and buried beneath the wreck.

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It is a great leap from the old fashioned doses of blue-mass and nauseous physics to the pleasant little pills known as DeWitt's Little Early Risers. They cure constipation, sick headache and biliousness. Jackson Drug Co. 2

Notice.

After March 10 we will only take in poultry two days out of each week, Saturday and Monday, until new crop is ready to move.

KEOSAUQUA POULTRY CO.



THE FOUR PRINCIPAL POINTS

- In which his glasses excel:
- 1. Absolute purity of Lenses.
 - 3. Accurate Grinding and Focusing.
 - 3. Exceeding High Power.
 - 4. Uniform Skill in Adjusting.

THE
HISTORY
OF
VAN BUREN COUNTY,
IOWA,

CONTAINING

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

A Biographical Directory 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 Van Buren County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1878.

emigrated to the United States in 1835; stopped at Manayunk, Pa., where he remained till the summer of 1837, then went to Martinsburg, in Belmont Co., Ohio, and remained about a year; from there he went to Princeton, in Butler Co., Ohio, and in the spring of 1839, started for Iowa, and came to this county, and stopped about a month at a place on the Des Moines River, in Farmington Tp., called Salubria, a paper town; he then came to Keosauqua; followed tailoring till 1845, when he commenced the business of selling dry goods and general merchandise, which he continued till 1862. He purchased the mills built by Maj. King and others, in 1849, which were destroyed by the ice in 1857; he commenced building his present mill in 1860, which was completed in 1861. He was married to Mrs. M. D. Pratt, of this place, whose maiden name was Kendall, on the 15th of June, 1843; she was born Dec. 11, 1812, in Boston, Mass.; she had two children by her first husband, and eight by Mr. Kinersly, four of whom are living—Charlotte A., Edwin R., Lucy A. and Orion; those dead are Volney, Robert, Ruthbin and Ainsworth. Mr. Kinersly can say what but few persons can, that he was never sick a day in his life, with the exception of a little ague in 1839, and his wife about the same. He was brought up a Catholic, but after coming to this country, changed his views. He has made it a point to live uprightly in his dealings with all mankind, but has never been identified with any church. Democrat.

KING, RUSSO, farmer, formerly millwright; P. O. Keosauqua; owns a farm of 200 acres adjoining the town of Keosauqua; born June 11, 1811, in Luzerne Co., Penn.; in the spring of 1834, emigrated to Kalamazoo, Mich.; and, in the spring of 1837, to Van Buren Co., and settled on his present farm; Keosauqua was then in its infancy, there being but few families here and plenty of native Americans in the vicinity; he followed his trade, that of millwright, for several years; he, in company with others, put up the first grist and saw mill here, just below where the present mill stands. He was married to Miss

Elizabeth McGuire, of this place, in 1842; she died within one year thereafter; was again married to Margaret J. Nixon in August, 1845; she was born July 11, 1815, in Belmont Co., Ohio; have three children living—Stephen, Virginia and Adelia; lost two—Elizabeth and Franklin. Democrat.

Kirkendall, E. B., far., S. 6; P. O. Doud's Station.

Knapp, J. C., Hon., Judge District Court, Keosauqua.

LEACH, MATTHEW, far., Sec. 11; P. O. Pittsburg.

LEA, RUTLEDGE, attorney, Keosauqua; born Nov. 4, 1843, in Adams Co., Ohio; parents moved to Fairfield, Jefferson Co., Iowa, in the spring of 1855, and to Keosauqua, of this county, in April, 1856; commenced the study of law in 1860, in the office of Judge Knapp & Wright, and was admitted to the bar Sept. 5, 1864. Was married to Victoria Henry, of Keosauqua, April 9, 1868; she was born July 2, 1851, in Johnstown, Penn.; have three children—Lola, born Nov. 9, 1872; Henrietta, born May 11, 1875; Mamie, born Jan. 20, 1877. Mr. Lea was appointed as one of the United States Circuit Court Commissioners in May, 1871, which office he resigned in 1876, and was elected as one of the Republican Presidential Electors for that year.

Leach, Wm., far., S. 11; P. O. Pittsburg.

Lenager, R., far., S. 29; P. O. Pittsburg.

Lewis, George W., far.; P. O. Pittsburg.

Long, George, carpenter, Keosauqua.

Lowe, C., far., Sec. 30; P. O. Pittsburg.

Lowe, J. E., far.; P. O. Pittsburg.

MCCARTY, JOHN, R. R. employe; P. O. Mt. Zion.

MCCRARY, A. H., retired farmer; P. O. Keosauqua; born July 23, 1814, in Vanderburgh Co., Ind.; emigrated West in 1835; stopped in McDonough Co., Ill., till fall of 1836; then, in company with his brother J. C. McCrary and A. W. Mangum came to Van Buren Co., and made their claims just below Keosauqua on the south side of Des Moines River; returned and moved their families out in the spring of 1837. The following July, Iowa was organized as a Territory; Mr. McCrary was elected Justice of the Peace of his township

(Vernon) in 1841, which office he filled till 1848, when he was elected to represent his county in the House of Representatives of Iowa, and was re-elected in 1850, and, in 1852, was elected as State Senator, and again in 1860; at the expiration of this term he retired to private life upon his farm; in 1876, left his farm and moved into Keosauqua on south side of the River, where he now lives. He was married to Miss Nercissa Mangum of Gibson Co., Ind., Feb. 6, 1834; she was born April 1, 1816, in Indiana; have six children—William M., Marietta, James N., Alvin J., Curtis R. and Ira C. Members of Christian Church; Republican.

McPherrin, A., far., Sec. 29; P. O. Keosauqua.

Malthie, M. B., wagon-maker, Keosauqua.

MANGUM, A. W., retired farmer; P. O. Keosauqua; born Feb. 5, 1813, in Gibson Co., Ind.; came to McDonough Co., Ill., in fall of 1836; stopped a short time there; came on to this county in company with A. H. and J. C. McCrary, and selected their claims on the south side of Des Moines River, below Keosauqua; returned to McDonough Co., and brought their families out in the spring of 1837; Mr. Mangum followed teaching some before coming here, and continued for a time after coming to this county. He was married to Miss Minerva McCrary, Dec. 19, 1836, in Illinois; she was born in 1811, in Indiana, and died in this county March 25, 1849; was again married, to Jane Irvine, Dec. 29, 1850; she died March 2, 1862; was again married, to Mary E. Taylor Nov. 13, 1864; she was born Nov. 31, 1837, in Ohio; Mr. Mangum has had eighteen children—six by each wife, two by first wife are living—Ruth E. and Rebecca J.; lost four—Silas M., Leander F., Finis C., and an infant; by second wife, three living—Samantha C., Mileta E. and Clara; lost three—Lysander F., Alice J. and Mary O.; by third wife, five living—Edwin C., Charles A., Alcephas F., Patience I. and Lena; lost one—Willie. Members of Christian Church; Republican.

MANNING, EDWIN, banker and dealer in general merchandise and real estate, Keosauqua; has branch stores at

Vernon, Doud's Station, Portland and Independent, of this county; also, half-owner of bank at Chariton and is President of the same; Mr. Manning is one of the leading business men of Southern Iowa, and estimated to be worth over \$1,000,000, which he has accumulated by his own industry and far-seeing business qualifications; he is of English descent and son of Calvin and Desire (Gurley) Manning, and was born in South Coventry, Tolland Co., Conn., Feb. 8, 1810; was raised on a farm and educated in the common schools until he was 16 years old; he then started out in the world for himself; went to New York and caught his first glimpse of the great metropolis, after which he went to Bethany, Penn., and entered his uncle James Manning's store as clerk, at a salary of \$10 per month; after four years, he was taken in as a partner, with a one-third interest in the business; in the summer of 1831, he took his uncle's family horse and made a tour through the northern counties of Pennsylvania, and finally located at Canton Corners, in Bradford Co., where he commenced mercantile business with a Mr. J. C. Rose under the firm name of Manning & Rose, which was carried on successfully till the autumn of 1836; he sold out his interest and in accordance with a subsequent suggestion made by Horace Greeley, concluded to go West; accordingly, he came to St. Louis, Mo.; and was advised by Col. Benton that there was the place to make a start but he concluded that his purse was not heavy enough for that place; he went on West as far as Lexington, Mo., where he made some purchases of land; but not liking the system of slavery, he, with others, came on up the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers to St. Francisville, Lee Co., which was in December, 1836; made some investments in half-breed tracts; went on up to Fort Madison and visited the wigwam of the noted chief Black Hawk, who appeared rather reticent, though friendly, seeming to fully realize his lost power; in January, 1837, Mr. Manning, with James Hall and others made the claim of the land and laid out the town of Keosauqua, that being the Indian name of the river.

Portrait
Biographical
Album
OF
Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa.

CONTAINING

FULL PAGE PORTRAITS

AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS
OF THE COUNTY

TOGETHER WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE
PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.
AND GOVERNORS OF THE STATE

CHICAGO:
LAKE CITY PUBLISHING CO.
1890.

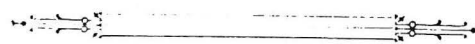
the deceased were here buried. The father accompanied by his family came to Van Buren County in the spring of 1843, and the following year settled upon the farm where our subject now resides. He continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in April, 1865. His wife, who survived him about five years, died in August, 1870. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The subject of this sketch was born in Scott County, Ky., November 26, 1842, and was reared to manhood upon his father's farm in his native county, but at the age of twenty years he left home to enlist in the service of his country, becoming a member of Company I, Nineteenth Iowa Infantry, commanded by Capt. S. E. Payne, on the 6th of August, 1862. He was mustered into service at Keokuk and assigned to the Thirteenth Army Corps, after which he proceeded with his regiment to the frontier in Arkansas, where he remained about six months. Making his way southward he then participated in the siege and capture of Vicksburg, after which the regiment marched to New Orleans. He took part in all the engagements in which his regiment participated, including the hard fought battles of Prairie Grove, siege of Vicksburg, Yazoo City, the battle of Sterling Farm and the siege and capture of Spanish Fort. At Prairie Grove he was wounded in both hips by musket balls and thus disabled for service for about three months. Although he has never fully recovered from the effects of the wounds, on partially regaining his health and strength he at once joined his command. At the battle of Sterling Farm almost the entire regiment was captured, only twenty escaping, among whom was Mr. Edmonson. After three years of faithful service in which he was ever found at his post of duty ably defending the old flag, he received his discharge in Mobile, Ala., July 10, 1865.

When the war was over, Mr. Edmonson returned to his home and resumed farming on his father's farm. Later he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of well cultivated land upon which are many fine improvements including a commodious and tasty residence, substantial outbuildings, etc. Fences divide the land

into fields of convenient size and as the result of the industry and enterprise which are prominent characteristics of the owner, he is now one of the substantial citizens of the community. In addition to the cultivation of the land he also gives considerable attention to stock-raising, making a specialty of thoroughbred merino sheep from which he shears eleven and twelve pounds to the fleece. He also keeps on hand thoroughbred Berkshire hogs and his other farm stock is in keeping with that already mentioned.

On January 7, 1868, Mr. Edmonson was united in marriage with Miss Sarah L. Woods, daughter of A. H. and Elizabeth (Meek) Woods, of Van Buren County. They hold a high position in the social world, ranking among the respected citizens of the county. Mr. Edmonson has taken considerable interest in civic societies, now holding membership with the Odd-Fellows, of Vernon and also belongs to Shriver Post, No. 177, G. A., R. of Mt. Vernon. He was also an active member of the Grange and of a society for the prevention of theft, known as the Anti Horse-Thief Society. In political sentiment he is a stalwart Republican and has frequently served as delegate to the county convention, while for six years he has held the office of County Commissioner, proving an able official. Churches, schools and all laudable institutions receive his hearty support and he may well be ranked among the representative men of Washington Township.



HON. ABNER HARRISON McCRARY, who is now living a retired life in Pleasant Hill, Van Buren County, is numbered not only among the prominent citizens of this community, but is widely known among the older settlers of the State, he himself being one of the early frontiersmen. His life is prominently connected with its history, his aid has been given for its advancement and progress, and in its legislative halls he served as an honored member.

Mr. McCrary was born in Vanderburg County,

Ind., on the 23d of February, 1814. In that early period in the history of the Indiana Territory the facilities for securing an education were very poor, and as he had no means with which to attend the colleges of the East, his advantages were necessarily limited. His boyhood days were spent in a manner similar to that of all lads in a like condition, and on attaining to mature years he started out in life for himself. On the 6th of February, 1834, he was united in marriage with Miss Nercissa Mangum, and they began their domestic life in Gibson County, where Mr. McCrary began clearing and developing a farm lying along the banks of Big Creek, but the situation was not a healthful one, the fever and ague seemed fastening itself upon them, and in the fall of 1835, in order to avoid its ravages, they sold out and started for the West. They first made a location in McDonough County, Ill., where they spent the winter in a schoolhouse, as the immigration to that part of the country had been so great in the previous few months that no dwelling could be obtained. Mr. McCrary at once began the erection of a cabin on what was known as the military tract, but before the new home was completed, on the 4th of April, 1836, there was born unto them in the little schoolhouse a son. Not long afterward, however, they were installed in their new home. Great difficulty was experienced by the settlers of that day in procuring their claims and Mr. McCrary shared in the disadvantages which fell to the lot of many. After having made considerable improvement and occupied his new home a year, the agent who had the land in charge visited the settlement and put such a high price upon the property that our subject felt unable to pay the sum. It certainly was a most discouraging incident, and with little hope of better success he traveled over portions of McDonough, Hancock, Adams and Warren Counties, but everywhere met with the same difficulty.

After some time spent in this manner, Mr. McCrary became satisfied that he could not find a home in that locality, and concluded to cross the Father of Waters to what was known as the Black Hawk purchase, and see if he could not meet with better success in that region. Accordingly, in the winter of 1836-37, accompanied by his brother, J. C. Mc-

Crary, and his wife's brother, A. W. Mangum, he started for Iowa. There were at that time twelve inches of snow upon the ground, but with tools, bedding and ten days rations for man and beast, they started out, their vehicle being a wagon box placed on runners. At Warsaw they crossed the Mississippi River on the ice, and in the same manner made their way up the Des Moines River about forty miles, until reaching what is now the center of Van Buren County. Driving inland for a few miles they located on the south side of the river, but here also experienced some difficulty which was occasioned by land speculators who traveled through the country, marking out the land into large tracts which they would sell at their own price to strangers who were desirous of locating in piece. This practice was carried on to such an extent that it became necessary to adopt by-laws to regulate their conflicting interests. By the new law one man could not hold more than a quarter-section of land unless he bought it. This proved but partially successful, however, as the speculators would combine and claim the best portions of the country, trading between one another so as to evade the law. Much advantage was taken in this manner of those who wished to make homes in the community, but Mr. McCrary and his comrades were not so easily deterred from the object of their trip to Iowa. They informed themselves in relation to the claim law in order to know what they were required to do, then located land and remained on the same until they had erected cabins, when they returned to Illinois.

In the spring of 1837, accompanied by his faithful wife, Mr. McCrary started for the new home in the wilds of the Black Hawk purchase, which was then a part of the Territory of Wisconsin, arriving at their destination on the 23d of April. A little log cabin in the midst of a grove of timber, and furnished with few of the comforts of life, was their home. Their neighbors were far distant, and frequently the red men would be among their visitors; many privations and hardships were to be endured, difficulties and obstacles were to be overcome, and the work which lay before them of developing a farm was no easy task, but though the path was a rugged one, it led to a home and competence, and

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ever looking forward to the result to be attained. Their hardships seemed the lighter. They have prospered since coming to Van Buren County, and Mr. McCrary is numbered among the substantial citizens of the community, yet success has not always been attendant upon his footsteps. During the years of 1839, 1840 and 1841, a financial panic was upon the country, the effects of which were felt by many of the early settlers. In fact some were unable to pay for their lands, and Mr. McCrary, with others, determined to secure only eighty acres, and availed himself of the pre-emption law to secure that amount. However, by industry and economy he had saved sufficient to purchase another eighty eighty acres, and his hope of procuring a home for his family was at length realized. He continued his farming operations for many years, and became the owner of one of the finest country homes in the county. His zeal and energy paved the way to success, and as the result of his earnest efforts he secured a property which now places him in comfortable circumstances and enables him to live in retirement from the busy cares of life.

Mr. McCrary has not labored alone for his own interests, but has been a prominent man in public places, and while serving in official capacities has aided greatly in the advancement of the county's interests. In the year 1841 he was elected Justice of the Peace, a position which he held through successive elections for eight years. In 1848 he represented Van Buren County in the State Legislature, being the first to hold the office after the adoption of the constitution. He was a member of the General Assembly when the difficulties arose in relation to the boundary between Iowa and Missouri. He was an opposer of the first constitution of Iowa in consequence of its limitation of the western boundary line of the State, and voted for the constitution which is now in vogue. In 1850 Mr. McCrary was again elected a member of the General Assembly, and during that session the revised code was adopted. So ably did he represent his constituents in the Lower House that in 1852 he was elected to the State Senate. During that term provisions were made for removing the capital to Des Moines, and making an appropriation of the old State House in Iowa City for a State University.

In 1860 he again served as State Senator, in the term which embraced the period of the war, and when the duties of the legislators were fraught with deep interest and often times with peril. He was chairman of the Senate committee to which was referred the first bill in Iowa asking for a Sunday law. On the same committee, and opposed to Mr. McCrary as a Christian man, was a radical infidel, who did all in his power to prevent the passage of the bill, but through the instrumentality of our subject and other friends of the measure it became a law.

In the fall of 1833, when a young man of nineteen years, Mr. McCrary made the good confession and united with the Christian Church. Although a busy man, his time well taken up by business and political interests, he has ever found time to devote to religious work. With the Bible as a guide, and with its promises and precepts ever before him, his course has been such as to win him the respect and highest regard of all with whom he came in contact. Not ashamed or afraid to express his views, he has ever taken his stand on the side of right and opposed the wrong. While a member of the Legislature, in addition to his favoring a bill for the Sunday law, he did much in that important position for the cause of Christianity, and so pronounced was he on the side of morality that he was never approached by those who were willing to make of politics a corrupt thing or a means of securing money. About the year 1858 he was chosen one of the Elders of the Christian Church, of Pleasant Hill, and in that capacity faithfully served for many years, having the approval of the congregation. In his Christian life, as in his business life, he has met with failures, yet he has profited by experience and with pure motives pressed onward. Charitable and benevolent, the poor find in him a friend, the discouraged, a sympathizer.

The following children were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. McCrary: William M., born in McDonough County, Ill., April 4, 1836, is now living in Council Bluffs; Marietta, born in Van Buren County, October 24, 1838, is the wife of J. W. Garvin, of Edgar, Clay County, Neb.; James N., born April 17, 1841, is a resident of Chicago; A. Jasper, born March 20, 1844, is an attorney-at-

law of Keokuk, Iowa; Lucinda C., born October 15, 1846, died December 22, 1848; Curtis R., born April 1, 1849, is living in Van Buren County; Ira C., born January 4, 1852, is a salesman in the employ of Edwin Manning, at Douds Station.

In the spring of 1876, Mr. McCrary purchased property in Pleasant Hill, and the following October removed with his wife to that town, where they have since made their home. This worthy couple, who have traveled life's journey together for fifty-four years, are widely and favorably known throughout the entire community, and it is with pleasure that we record their sketch in the history of their adopted county, with the growth and progress of which they have been so closely and prominently connected.



HON. GEORGE G. WRIGHT, an eminent jurist and a pioneer lawyer of Iowa, a former citizen of Van Buren County, is a native of Indiana, having been born in the town of Bloomington, Monroe County, on the 24th of March, 1820. His father, John Wright, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was of Welsh descent, the family dating its origin in America back to the year 1720, when the founder, an emigrant from Wales, settled in Pennsylvania. John Wright was a mason by trade, and in early life married Miss Rachel Seaman. His death occurred in Bloomington, Ind., in 1825, when our subject was but five years of age. Mrs. Wright survived her husband many years. She came to Iowa in its Territorial days, and died in Keosauqua, in 1850.

George G. Wright was educated in the State University of Indiana, being graduated in the class of '39, while in his twentieth year, after which he read law at Rockville, Ind., under the tutelage of his brother, Joseph A. Wright, afterward Governor of Indiana, and was admitted to the bar in the State Courts of that State in 1840. In September of that year he came to the Territory of Iowa, and

in November established himself in practice in Keosauqua, then one of the most promising towns in the Territory. A thorough Whig in political sentiment, the young lawyer at once took prominence in his party, and was chosen Prosecuting Attorney of his county; he was also elected to the State Senate for the term of 1848 and 1850. In the latter year he was the Whig candidate for Congress in a district comprising the whole southern half of Iowa, but the waning strength of the party was not equal to the task of electing him, although his vote exceeded that of the general ticket. In January, 1855, and while yet under thirty-five years of age, his ability and learning as a lawyer and his personal popularity led to his election as Chief Justice of Iowa, to which position he was re-elected, holding the office for a period of fifteen years, or until 1870, when he was elected to the United States Senate. At the close of his Senatorial term, Judge Wright declined a re-election, preferring, as more congenial, the practice of his profession to the more exciting arena of politics.

"His time on the Supreme Bench covers the most important period in the judicial history of the State. The adoption of the Code system and judicial construction of it is embraced in it. Judge Wright's opinions will be found in all the Iowa Reports from Volume 1 to Volume 30, and the lawyer, whether he be in Iowa, Maine, California or elsewhere, will find in those volumes precedents on general law that he may cite with confidence to any court, assured that they will be accepted with respect and will carry weight and authority with them."

Ten years after his election to the Supreme Bench, Judge Wright removed from Keosauqua to Des Moines, which has since been his home. In the fall of that year he associated with himself Judge Chester C. Cole, of the same court, in the organization of the Iowa Law School (the first law school west of the Mississippi River). Judge Wright had had a number of students in his office during the two or three years preceding, and several applications for a like privilege suggested the formation of a school, in which, during the first year, twelve students pursued the study of law

under the tutelage being the only in second year. Practically connected with personal attention, other professors and the three months the two succeeded the number of students attracted the attention of the State, and in 1858 action of the Board of State University in charge as its duties were made Hammond remained at the head of continuing to give service.

During his long engaged in building the unwritten law, give by his efforts many public organizations of prominent patriots Agricultural Society five years, from and encouragement pertains to Iowa.

"An earnest prevented his deed he sustained the struggle soldier drew in and many a successful supporter once became committees, personal to the nation, he won Iowa's famous the Senate, by Wright, Gate practice with was felt in the

IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

Abner Harrison McCreary

Male

[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

Event(s):**Birth:** 23 FEB 1814 , Van Buren, Iowa**Christening:****Death:** 14 APR 1898**Burial:**

Parents:**Father:** [John McCreary](#)[Family](#)**Mother:** [Ruth Wasson](#)

Marriages:**Spouse:** [Narcissa Mangum](#)[Family](#)

Messages:

Record submitted by a member of the LDS Church. The record often shows the name of the individual and his or her relationship to a descendant, shown as the heir, family representative, or relative. The original records are not indexed, and you may have to look at the film frame-by-frame to find the information you want. A family group record for this couple may be in the Family Group Record Collection; Archive Section. (See the Family History Library Catalog for the film number.) These records are alphabetical by name of the father or husband.

Source Information:**Film Number:** [456703](#)**Page Number:****Reference number:**

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IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

Abner Harrison McCrary

Male

[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

Event(s):**Birth:** 23 FEB 1814 , Vanderburgh, Indiana**Christening:****Death:** 14 APR 1898 Eldon, , Davis, Iowa**Burial:** Fellows Cem, Keosauqua, Van Buren, Iowa

Marriages:**Spouse:** [Narcissa Mangum](#)[Family](#)**Marriage:** 06 FEB 1834 , Gibson, Indiana

Messages:

Record submitted after 1991 by a member of the LDS Church. No additional information is available.
Ancestral File may list the same family and the submitter.

Source Information:

No source information is available.

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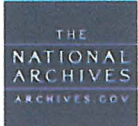
You searched for **Abner H. Mccrary** in **Iowa**

1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **Abner H. Mccrary**
 Home in 1880: **South Keosauqua, Van Buren, Iowa**
 Age: **66**
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1814**
 Birthplace: **Indiana**
 Relation to Head of Household: **Self (Head)**
 Spouse's Name: **Nercssa Mccrary**
 Father's birthplace: **North Carolina**
 Mother's birthplace: **North Carolina**
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)
 Occupation: **Farmer**
 Marital Status: **Married**
 Race: **White**
 Gender: **Male**
 Cannot read/write:
 Blind: [View image](#)
 Deaf and dumb:
 Otherwise disabled:
 Idiotic or insane:
 Household Name Age
 Members: [Abner H. Mccrary](#) 66
 [Nercssa Mccrary](#) 63

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: *South Keosauqua, Van Buren, Iowa*; Roll: 367; Family History Film: 1254367; Page: 424B; Enumeration District: 30; Image: 0173.

Source Information:

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Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description:

This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1880 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)