

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Blackford, John Ellison Senator _____
Representative, Hancock, Keosauqua, Emmet, Palo Alto, Dickinson, Sac, Clay,
and Central Vista Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 4 Jan 1825 Warren County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place
Mary M. Call Sept 1845

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Charter member of the Grange that was organized in
June 1873; first Master of the Order and Working Master of the Iowa State
Grange of Patron's Brotherhood

B. Civic responsibilities Charter member of the Keosauqua County Historical
Society

C. Profession Managers of the Patron's Co-operative Store; president of the
Keosauqua County Mutual Insurance Company; sawmill operator; farmer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 8th, 9th General Assemblies 1860, 1862

6. Public Offices

A. Local Keosauqua County treasurer for one term; Justice of the Peace
during the 1870s

B. State _____

C. National A delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860 that
nominated Abraham Lincoln the first time

7. Death 20 Aug 1911 Algona, Iowa; buried Riverside Cemetery, Algona, Iowa

8. Children Ella Algona (Mrs. Eugene H. Clarke); Edwin J. Earnest; George E.
Clarence; Mary Kate (provided her father a year before his death)

9. Names of parents _____

Blackford, John Ellison

10. Education Attended a couple of terms of a district school
since his neighborhood of Indians were all primitive
settlements and the schools very primitive; mostly
self-taught

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

- While still a boy he moved with his parents to northern Indiana
where he grew to manhood
- In Sept. 1855 he came with his wife and 2 children moving to
Algona, Iowa and arriving on 10 Oct 1855.
- During the Civil War he was largely influential in enabling
Wassuth County to win the sanitary flag as a prize for
furnishing more funds for the relief of the sick and wounded
than any other company in the state
- His wife Mary M. Call was the sister of Abel and Ambrose Call
who founded the town of Algona.
- Wife, Mary, died in 1905

Des Moines - Republic

ALGONA, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1911.

DIES AFTER A LONG ILLNESS.

Hon. J. E. Blackford Enters His Long Sleep Sunday Afternoon at His Home in Algona.

Settled in Algona in 1855 and Was a Prominent Factor in the Building up of This Community.

The death Sunday evening about 5:30 o'clock, of J. E. Blackford, brings to an end the life of one whose history has been closely identified with that of Algona from its very earliest days. The beginning of his last illness dates back to about the first of the year and several times during the past six months it has seemed as if the old gentleman could not hold out much longer and then he would seem to rally and be quite like himself again. Through it all, however, the family realized that, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Blackford was not confined to his bed all of the time, he was steadily failing, therefore there was no expression of surprise when the end came. At times he was quite restless and appeared as if he suffered pain but the end was very peaceful. He had been sitting in his easy chair and but a few minutes before his death had been assisted to bed. He soon fell into a quiet sleep and passed away without awakening. Mrs. Ed Blackford was sitting by his bedside and the only knowl-

I did attend a couple of terms of a good district school." Evidently the taste for reading acquired at that school continued to follow him all through life.

In politics he was an old time abolitionist and free soil man and at the formation of the republican party naturally cast his lot with them. He represented this district in the Iowa legislature for two terms, from 1859 to 1862, and served four sessions. Relating his experiences during those campaigns Mr. Blackford said: "My district at this time comprised seven counties and in making my canvass I frequently traveled 40 miles to see a single voter." He served the county as treasurer one term, being elected to that office in October, 1869. He was also justice of the peace during several years of the 70's. Mr. Blackford was one of the members of the Iowa delegation to the national republican convention that nominated Lincoln for president the first time. He was at all times a strict temperance man and one of the charter members of the Good Templars lodge. He was also a charter member of the Grange, organized in June, 1873, being the first Master of the the order and Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry for about ten years, as well as a member of the National Grange in which he took a great interest.

For many years Mr. Blackford was manager of the Patron's Co-operative store, finally buying out others' interest in the concern and continuing the business in his own name for sev-

The funeral will be held this afternoon at 2:30, from the late home of the deceased and the burial in Riverside cemetery. Services will be conducted by Rev. Foster A. Smiley, pastor of the Presbyterian church.

AUTO TURNS TURTLE.

An Estherville Party of Five Have a Serious Accident Sunday Near Wesley. Escape Injury.

Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Burney and a young child, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Brown, all from Estherville, met with a bad accident Sunday, while on their way to Clear Lake for a day's outing. They were making the trip in Dr. Burney's new Chalmers car and had reached a high culvert just north of Wesley where the road to the lake turns east. There is a hole in the grade on the north side of the road, just at the end of the bridge, about three feet across and some five or six feet deep, which cannot be seen from the west until a person has almost reached the spot. Even persons well acquainted with the road have to use extreme caution in order to pass over this place safely and it is no wonder that the Burney auto turned turtle into the hole. How all the occupants escaped with only slight injuries is beyond comprehension.

Mr. Brown was the first to see the danger and remembers that he made an effort to jump from the machine which is undoubtedly the reason he landed clear of the auto. Dr. Burney and the child were thrown from the machine but in such a manner as not to seriously injure them.

own private car. His di-
 from Billings, Montana, to
 North Dakota, and he will
 headquarters in Glendive.
 recognized as one of the best
 men in the west and his rise
 rapid. He is one of the old-
 time men who have made
 the old's work and his
 Algona friends are pleased
 of his advancement to high
 The Spokane Spokesman
 printed a picture of Harry
 the story of his promotion as

antry, trainmaster of the
 Pacific in Spokane, and con-
 the Idaho division of the
 since 1900 as dispatcher,
 tcher and trainmaster, has
 oted to superintendent of
 stone division with head-
 Glendive, Montana. Mr.
 ceeds D. O. Johnson at
 and E. W. Walker is filling
 caused by Mr. Lantry's
 until his successor is nam-
 Rapelie, superintendent of
 ivision, was connected with
 stone division for 20 years
 going to the Rocky Moun-
 on, where he was before
 3. Mr. Lantry entered up-
 du August 7.

1 years ago T. H. Lantry
 yed as brakeman on the
 Prescott & Phoenix rail-
 years later, on leaving the
 s its chief dispatcher. His
 perience began as an oper-
 spatcher on the Soo Line
 ater in the same year he
 operator and dispatcher on
 n Pacific, where he remain-
 4. After two years with
 Fe, Prescott & Phoenix
 . Lantry, in 1895, went to
 orthern as a dispatcher,
 nained until July, 1897.
 e months with the Illinois
 a dispatcher, in October,
 it with the Chicago, Bur-
 Quincy as a dispatcher,
 remained until February,
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 an effort to jump
 which is undoubt-
 landed clear of the
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 the machine but i-
 not to seriously in-
 any bones. Mrs.
 to crawl from und-
 slight assistance
 and the Burney e-
 extricated, receiv-
 scratch on the fac-
 was driving the ca-
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 lifting on the mac-
 was rescued, all o-
 ing no injuries oth-
 bruises.

The auto was e-
 an axle bent, ste-
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 the Algona Auto
 garage called out
 who brought the j-
 na while a black-
 porarily repaired
 could be run back

There is consi-
 protest being mad-
 auto owners, bec-
 to the bridge is al-
 such a dangerous
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 not alter the re-
 township for allow-
 ous spot to exist w-
 of warning to tra-
 proach the bridge.

MRS. LEON

Elizabeth Atley
 Ohio, on January
 parted this life

HON. J. E. BLACKFORD



Prominent Early Day Man Who Died Sunday Afternoon.

JURT DENIES MOTION.

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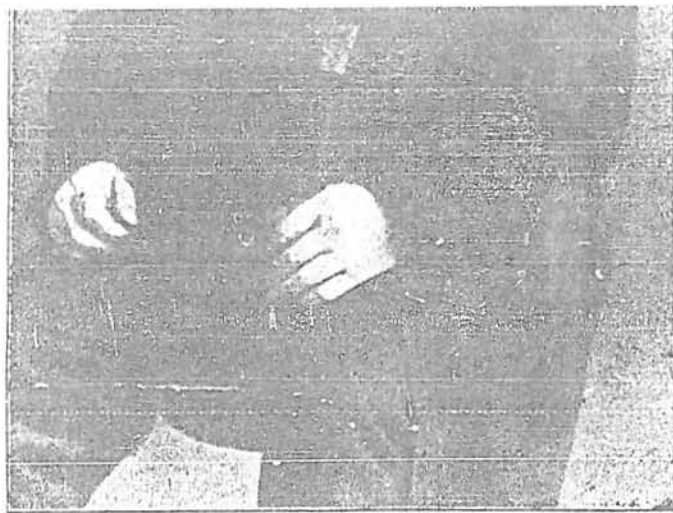
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 six months, going with the
 Pacific in September, 1900.
 ntry's rise on the Northern
 has been steady, and his hold
 s at division headquarters
 ed with his promotion.

COURT DENIES MOTION.

o Set Aside Divorce Decree
 Andrew D. Clarke of Minne-
 Year Ago.
 D. Clarke is again receiv-
 paper notoriety through the
 of the Minneapolis papers.
 that Mr. Clarke recently ap-
 the Nevada courts to have
 e of divorce granted him in
 1910, declared null and void.
 cou refused to do on the
 that one statutory limit of
 hs in which such an action
 taken had expired.
 hat Mr. Clarke expected to
 sh by having the divorce de-
 aside can hardly be under-
 ess he thought by so doing
 be enabled to obtain a prop-
 er separation from his wife and
 ble to marry another in the
 re. The refusal of the Ne-
 vada courts to set aside the divorce
 no way affects the ruling of
 esota courts which has de-
 clared the divorce illegal on the
 ground of having been obtained
 by perjury and fraud. Under
 the provisions if Mr. Clarke should
 get married again he
 would be liable to criminal action for

Hinchon Two Loads.

Tribune: Well! well! Hinchon,
 editor of Algona was
 in Canada, according to
 account. At the Falls of
 St. Francis Hinchon says: "The elec-
 tion is up in two loads."
 which is a fact?



Prominent Early Day Man Who Died Sunday Afternoon.

edge she had that the end had come
 was the discovery that Mr. Blackford
 had ceased to breathe.

John Ellison Blackford was born in
 Warren county, Ohio, January 4,
 1825, which means that he was 86
 years, 7 and one-half months of age
 at the time of his death, August 20,
 1911. While yet a boy his parents
 moved to the then frontier of north-
 ern Indiana, where he grew to man-
 hood. In September, 1845, he was
 married to Mary M. Call, who pre-
 ceded him into the future world some
 six years ago.

In September, 1855, Mr. Blackford,
 with his wife and two children, start-
 ed for Iowa with the slow, sure but
 steady method of transportation, the
 ox team and wagon, arriving in Algo-
 na October 10, 1855. Only three log
 cabins then existed where the city is
 now built; Judge Call's on the spot
 where W. C. Danson now resides,
 J. W. Moore's where the Fred Corey
 barn now stands, and the Levi Max-
 well home in the west edge of town.
 A log addition to the Call cabin was
 the Blackford home during their first
 winter in Algona, but in the follow-
 ing spring they moved into the Max-
 well cabin which stood on the spot
 that has been the Blackford home-
 stead ever since.

Mr. Blackford was a well informed
 man, and a ready off-hand speaker on
 any topic up for consideration. Speak-
 ing of his early life he said: "My
 opportunities for an education were
 very limited. The country was like
 all primitive settlements, and the
 schools primitive in the extreme, but

eral years more, in the Blackford
 building south of the court house. He
 was the first president of the Kossuth
 County Mutual Insurance Company,
 and in company with the late C. C.
 Chubb and other early members of
 the organization, labored early and
 late for the success of this popular
 organization. Thus was a long and
 busy life filled in with the perform-
 ance of duties that related to the
 welfare of not only himself but also
 the community in which he dwelt.
 During the war of the rebellion he
 was largely influential in enabling
 Kossuth county to win the sanitary
 flag as a prize for furnishing more
 funds for the relief of the sick and
 wounded soldiers than any other coun-
 ty in the state, in proportion to its
 population. He was an active mem-
 ber of the old settlers' association and
 a charter member of the County His-
 torical Society. In all matters per-
 taining to the welfare of Algona or
 Kossuth county, Mr. Blackford al-
 ways exhibited a living interest and
 any history of this county, without a
 record of his part in the early life of
 this community, would be incomplete.

Of six children born into this family,
 Mary Kate, who passed away about a
 year ago, is the only one missing. His
 daughter, Ella Algona Blackford-
 Clarke, was the first white child born
 on the townsite of Algona. Mrs.
 Clarke and her four brothers survive,
 the brothers being Edwin, Earnest
 and George of Algona, and Clarence
 of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Their
 mother was a sister of Asa C. Call
 and Ambrose A. Call, the founders of
 Algona.

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 There is con
 protest being m
 auto owners, b
 to the bridge is
 such a dangerou
 cident cannot be
 running or some
 seriously injured
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 township for all
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 of warning to
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MRS. LE

Elizabeth Atle
 Ohio, on Janua
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 and 20 days. W
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 Wisconsin, whe
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 Leonard Hohn
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 husband being
 February 27, 1
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 Livermore, and

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 and the body b
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 odist church.
 made in Riverv
 her husband.

Negotiations Are

PIONEER OF FIFTIES DIES FULL OF YEARS

At 86 John Ellison Blackford Passes
Over Jordan.

FRIEND AND CO-WORKER IN FARRAR, IOWA, ALSO DEAD

Obituaries of Former Master and
Secretary of Grange Appear Back
to Back in Leading Daily.

John Ellison Blackford, one of the few remaining Kossuth county pioneers of the fifties, died Sunday afternoon, shortly after five o'clock. By a peculiar coincidence, on the same day and at the same age, there died at Farrar, Iowa, the Rev. J. W. Murphy, with whom Mr. Blackford was closely associated for many years while the latter was Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and the former secretary. The twain's obituaries appeared back to back in Tuesday's Register & Leader.

Mr. Blackford's death was not unexpected. He had been ill since last winter and of late weeks his mind had failed. It was seen early last week that he could not long survive.

56 Years an Algonian.

The life of the deceased covers almost the entire history of Algonia. His wife, nee Mary M. Call, was a sister of Asa C. and Ambrose Call. The brothers founded the town in 1854 and the Blackfords followed the next year. At first Mr. Blackford ran a sawmill for his brother-in-law, Asa. Later he acquired and farmed the homestead where he spent the rest of his long life.

Mr. Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825. He was, therefore, 39 years old when he

GOVERNMENT WEATHER

Supplied weekly on V
Dr. F. T. Seeley, Local
Meteorological Observer
Crop Service of the W
U. S. Department of Agr

Date	Temp.		Rainfall in inches and hundredths
	Highest	Lowest	
16	92	77	..... Cle
17	86	75	..... Cle
18	84	73	.10 Cle
19	85	72	..... Cle
20	88	72	..... Cle
21	86	72	..... Cle
22	73	57	..... Cle

a self educated man, a
reader, an apt student an
er. He was, besides, a
and a born leader. Thi
great influence among
His bearing was dignifi
teous and kindly. He ca
the deep respect of every
him; the warm friendli
dence of his intimates; th
of his family. To the cr
active interest in every
that came to his notice
last public concern had
formation of the rece
Kossuth County Histori
which he was a charter
was a most useful career
of years not only, but of

The funeral occurred y
noon from the decedent
Rev. F. A. Smiley, past
byterian church, who wa
on his vacation, came he
conduct the last rites. I
simple but impressive. A
were present and accomp
mains to the grave in the
from abroad who wer

Prices

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e of these for

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ALGONA

FARE CO.

PAIR WORK
price.

MISSION TO THE IOWA STATE FAIR.

n Iowa Offered Opportun-
S Iowa State Fair

Moines News wants all
its guest at the State Fair
le arrangements to do so,
iding the fact that he pub-
lize what a stupendous
; it would be.

Without Cost.

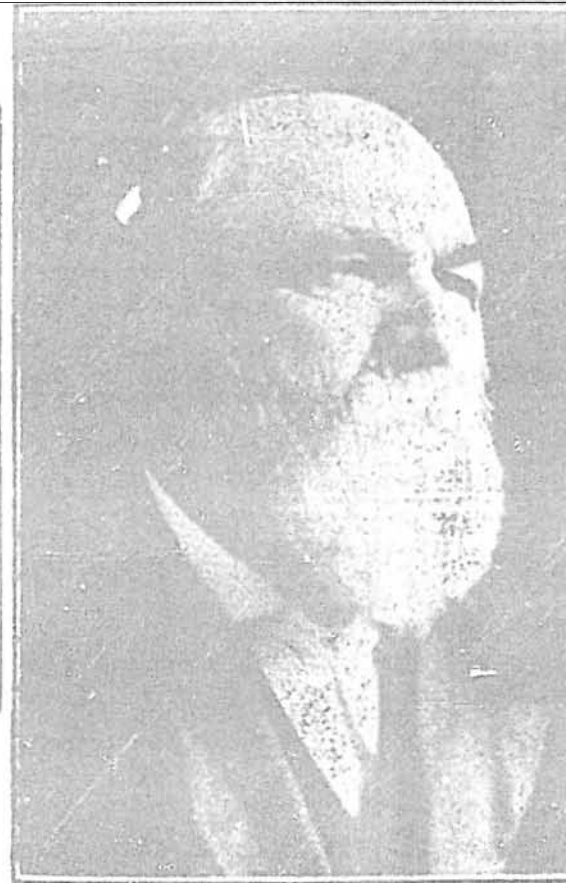
50c admission ticket good
e day will be given FREE
year's subscription to THE
SUNDAY NEWS or Daily
months. The price is onl
regular suscription rate.

bscribers can renew now,
when their subscription ex-
bscribers to other papers

their ticket to the fair
THE NEWS started when
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to the Fair will be sent
ail.

bruises may be healed in
bird the time required by
reatment by applying
iniment. It is an antisep-



came to Algona. He had been married
ten years before at South Bend, India-
na. His wife died six years ago.
They had six children and all of them
are living, except Mary Kate, whose
death occurred last year. The other
children are: Mrs. Ella Algona Clarke,
Edwin, Ernest and George, all of this
city, and Clarence of Fayetteville, Ar-
kansas. Mrs. Clarke was the first
white child born in Algona.

A Contemporary of Kirkwood.

The next year after Mr. Blackford
came to Algona he was made justice of
the peace. Three years later he was
chosen state representative. Of his
cavass for office he wrote: "My dis-
trict at this time (in 1856) comprised
seven counties and I frequently travel-
led forty miles to see a single voter."
He was re-elected in 1861. Those were
stirring war times. Though his mind
was clouded as to many matters dur-
ing his last months, his memory in re-
spect to the happenings of those early
days was singularly acute. Only a few
weeks since he told his son, Edwin,
one night, how, when the news of the
surrender of Fort Donelson came while
the legislature was in session, the mem-
bers rushed out pell mell without the
formality of adjournment to find Gov-
ernor Riley
over the victory.

An old time abolitionist and a

women, Chapman, Clark,
dren, and Mrs. Dr.
Des Moines; J. C. Black-
Fayetteville, Arkans-
Blackford and son, B.
Clarke, Chicago, and W.
Wesley.

DEDICATION BEGINS

Fort Defiance Monu- veiled at Est

Next Thursday at
begin a three-day ce-
unveiling and dedicat-
ment erected to mark
Defiance.

The program will
evening with a concert
ville Military Band,
in the M. E. church.
editorial writer for a
ka paper, will deliver
titled, "The Early St

The next morning,
concert, Rev. Bennet
deliver the invocation
will then welcome
Mr. Bixby will respon

At noon will occur
barbecue. At two
Ingham will give his
Iowa Indian." At 3
game will begin and
a colonial ball will

Capt. E. B. Soper
will deliver the princ-
urday morning. A
will be taken to form
old settlers' associat-
a. m. will occur a
rade."

Saturday afternoon
monument unveiled
Rhodes. The dedicat-
be delivered by Mack
base ball game will
evening the "camp
will take place. Ad-
speeches are to be
Ridley, Howard Gray
Ingham, Geo. C. Call
B. Funk, Congress-
representative Murtagh

RELATED TWP. CH

Lincoln and Gern

alize what a stupendous
g it would be.

Without Cost.

r 50c admission ticket good
e day will be given FREE
year's subscription to THE
D (NDAY NEWS or Daily
- months. The price is not
regular suscription rate.
ubscribers can renew now
when their subscription ex-
subscribers to other papers
; their ticket to the fair
THE NEWS started when
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in order direct today and
to the Fair will be sent
in mail.

bruises may be healed in
bird the time required by
reatmen by applying Cham-
iniment. It is an antiseptic
ises such injuries to heal-
uration. This liniment al-
soreness of the muscles
tic pains. For sale by all

nd Des Moines woman
ing miserably for two days
complaint, was cured by
Chamberlain's Colic, Chol-
orrhoea Remedy. For sale
ars.

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Missouri. Mrs. Clarke was the first
white child born in Algona.

A Contemporary of Kirkwood.

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An old time abolitionist and a free trader, Mr. Blackford naturally became a republican upon the formation of the republican party. He was elected a member of the Iowa delegation to the convention which nominated Lincoln, but could not attend and gave his proxy to a friend. His last public office was that of county treasurer, his election occurring in the fall of 1869.

For ten years Mr. Blackford was Worthy Master of the Iowa State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. He was one of the organizers and mainstays of the granger movement. For several years he conducted the grange store in Algona. He was a member of the national grange, in which he took great interest. He was one of the organizers of the Kossuth County Mutual Insurance Co., incorporated in 1887, and was its first president, holding the office for seven years.

Unschoolled, But Self Educated.

In an account of his life, written by himself, Mr. Blackford says of his education: "My opportunities for an education were very limited. The country where I lived as a boy was like all primitive settlements, the schools being primitive in the extreme; but I did attend a couple of terms in a good district school." But, though he had but little schooling, Mr. Blackford became

a colonist. Capt. E. B. Soper will deliver the poem Saturday morning. A will be taken to form old settlers' association, a. m. will occur at grade.

Saturday afternoon monument unveiled Rhodes. The ladies he delivered by Ma base ball game will evening the camp will take place. A speeches are to be Ridley, Howard Gra Ingham, Geo. C. Ca B. Funk, Congress- resentative Mustard.

RELATED TWP. C

Lincoln and Gove
Until Too Late for

When the Advan-
last week every town
sent in its crop re-
tion. Only Grant,
and Riverdale were
wards reports from
man were received:

LINCOLN:—High
bushels; lowest, 4
11 bushels. Think
about 10 bushels to
grasshoppers damage
and we also had a
went about half a
The potato yield
went from 10 to 15
—William Baum.

GERMAN: High
bushels; lowest, 8
15 bushels. I belie-
go about 14 bushels
sidering the outlook
of the season we
bushels to the acre,
was too dry afterwar-
age done by grassh-
Hay went a half ton
wheat 18 bushels.
tion last spring was
the drought spoiled
pect.—Henry Meyer.

DIES FULL OF YEARS

At 86 John Ellison Blackford Passes Over Jordan.

FRIEND AND CO-WORKER IN FARRAR, IOWA, ALSO DEAD

Obituaries of Former Master and Secretary of Grange Appear Back to Back in Leading Daily.

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Mr. Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825. He was therefore 30 years old when he



Supplied weekly on Wednesdays by Dr. F. T. Seeley, Local Cooperative Meteorological Observer, Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Date	Temp.		Rainfall in inches and hundredths	Character of day
	Highest	Lowest		
16	92	77	.....	Clear
17	86	75	.....	Clear
18	84	73	.10	Clear
19	85	72	.....	Clear
20	88	72	.....	Clear
21	86	72	.....	Clear
22	73	57	.....	Clear

a self-educated man. He was a wide reader, an apt student and a deep thinker. He was, besides, a ready speaker and a born leader. Thus he acquired great influence among his neighbors. His bearing was dignified, though courteous and kindly. He earned and held the deep respect of everyone that knew him; the warm friendship and confidence of his intimates; the abiding love of his family. To the end he took an active interest in every good movement that came to his notice. Almost his last public concern had to do with the formation of the recently organized Kossuth County Historical Society, of which he was a charter member. His was a most useful career. He died full of years not only, but of honors also.

The funeral occurred yesterday afternoon from the decedent's late home. Rev. F. A. Smiley, pastor of the Presbyterian church, who was out of town on his vacation, came home specially to conduct the last rites. The service was simple but impressive. Many pioneers were present and accompanied the remains to the grave in the family burial plot in Riverview cemetery. Those from abroad who were in attendance were: Gardner Cowles, wife and children, and Mrs. Dr. F. E. V. Shore, Des Moines; J. C. Blackford and wife, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Mrs. Ellison Blackford and son, Boone; Elizabeth Clarke, Chicago, and W. M. Colby of Wesley.

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HISTORY OF
EARLY DAYS IN KOSSUTH
KOSSUTH COUNTY
IOWA

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II

Vol. 2

152210

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1913



MRS. J. E. BLACKFORD

Black, who started the first mill and who was born in Canada and died in Illinois. Another, the English brothers, came with company men, and another was a man named Thomas. Mrs. A. V. A. who was born in England, and her son, James, first started the mill. The first mill was built in 1840 and was used for several years. The first mill was built in 1840 and was used for several years. The first mill was built in 1840 and was used for several years.



MRS. J. E. BLACKFORD

Blackford was born in the county, and a farmer. He was one of the first to settle in the county. His education was in an uncompleted school. He was a very successful farmer and a very successful business man. He was a very successful farmer and a very successful business man. He was a very successful farmer and a very successful business man. He was a very successful farmer and a very successful business man.

was one of the promoters of the new public-school building which was completed in Burt in 1911. He has served as a delegate to county and state conventions and as committeeman for Burt and Portland townships. His life has been marked by broad ideals of personal service in the cause of his fellow citizens who have intrusted so many important offices to him. He has never been suspected of any corruption in office and has always been regarded as a man of thorough integrity and honesty.

Mr. Owen was married in Portland township, September 1, 1891, to Miss Anna F. Mann, who was born in Kossuth county and is a daughter of S. V. R. Mann and a sister of M. J. Mann, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Owen have been born two children, Verne W. and Merle Exina. Mr. Owen is a Master Mason and holds membership in Burt Lodge, No. 540, A. F. & A. M. He and his wife affiliate with the Order of the Eastern Star. He is an efficient public servant and a good man and during the thirty years of his residence in Kossuth has added not only to the material wealth of the district but has raised the qualities and standards of citizenship.

JOHN ELLISON BLACKFORD.

No history of Kossuth county or the city of Algona would be complete if it failed to make extended mention of John Ellison Blackford, one of the most successful and eminent citizens of the state of Iowa. His life has been intimately connected with the agricultural, political and industrial upbuilding of this section of the country. His wife was a sister of the founder of Algona and his daughter was the first white child born within its borders. He himself gave of his eminent talents and his high-minded and worthy life to the promotion of the progress and development of the county and upon his death, on August 20, 1911, the earthly career of an eminent organizer and builder of the middle west closed forever.

The record of Mr. Blackford's ancestry dates back for many generations. The family can be traced to two brothers who emigrated from Scotland at an early date but of whom no historical mention is made. The elder brother had two children: Sophia (Blackford) McLean, who was born in New Jersey in 1755 and later emigrated to Ohio; and Mary (Blackford) Drake. The other brother married Miss Mary Daniels and became the father of three children: Nathaniel, born in 1764 in New Jersey, who came to Ohio at an early day, where he died in 1834; Benjamin; and John. Nathaniel Blackford married Miss Catherine Ross and became the father of ten children: Nancy, born in 1788, who died in infancy; Sarah, born in 1789, who later became Mrs. Terrill and died in Indiana; Mary (Blackford) Cory, born in 1792; Margaret (Blackford) Kelsey, who was born in Kentucky in 1794, and died in Ohio; Sophia, who was born in Ohio in 1797 and married a Mr. Johns, a native of the same state where she died; James Ross, whose birth occurred in Ohio in 1800 and who died in Iowa in 1871; Desire (Blackford) Williamson, who was born in Ohio in 1803 and who died in Kansas;

Eliza, who later became Mrs. Ball and who was born in Ohio in 1805 and died in Indiana; Phoebe (Blackford) Forbes, whose birth occurred in Ohio in 1808 and who died in the same state; Jemima, later Mrs. Welch, who was born in Ohio in 1811. In the next generation James Ross Blackford married Miss Clarissa De Camp Williams and to this union were born three children: Sarah, born in 1822 in Ohio, who died in Michigan in 1892; John Ellison, the subject of this sketch, who was born in Ohio and died in Algona, Iowa, August 20, 1911, at the age of eighty-six years, seven months and sixteen days; and Aaron Lawson, who was born in Ohio in 1831 and died in 1907.

John Ellison Blackford was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 4, 1825. When he was yet a boy his parents moved to what was then the northern frontier of Indiana, where he grew to manhood. His educational opportunities were few, as the country was in an undeveloped condition and the school facilities were limited in the extreme. He, however, attended the district school for two terms, and laid the foundation for the life of learning and the taste for reading which distinguished him all during his life.

In September, 1845, Mr. Blackford was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Call, a sister of Asa C. and Ambrose A. Call, who founded the town of Algona in 1854.

In the fall of 1855, with his wife and two sons, he came to Algona, Iowa, where Mrs. Blackford's brothers had preceded them, making the long journey into the then frontier district by team and guiding their course by compass. In the spring of 1856, they moved into the log cabin situated on the site of the present residence. In the same year, he operated a saw and grist mill, sawing from native timber the lumber from which many of the earlier buildings were made. He was elected justice of the peace at Algona's first election on August 4, 1856, serving for some years with great ability. From his earliest manhood Mr. Blackford was interested and active in promoting the welfare of Kossuth county, and in his work along this line he has shown a power of organization unsurpassed by any citizen of his generation. He was very prominent politically, and gave most of his time and attention to his activities in this line. He was an old-time abolitionist and free-soil advocate, and, upon the formation of the republican party, he naturally cast his lot with that organization and was loyal to its principles and policies all during his life. He represented his district in the Iowa legislature for two terms, from 1859 until 1862 and was prominent in the affairs of four sessions. Relating his experience during his political campaign, Mr. Blackford, in a family history written by himself several years ago, says, "My district at this time comprised seven counties, and in making my canvass I frequently traveled forty miles to see a single voter." He was one of the members of the Iowa delegation to the national republican convention which nominated Lincoln for president for the first term.

When the Civil war broke out Mr. Blackford was largely influential in enabling Kossuth county to win the sanitary flag which was given as a prize to the district which furnished the largest per capita funds for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers. Kossuth county led every other county of the state in proportion to its population. He was all during his life a strict

prohibitionist, and did efficient work in controlling the sale of liquor in his state. He regarded public office as a public trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens, and believed it his duty to give his highest talents and his utmost energies for securing efficient legislation. His political career was marked by activity in every great and worthy cause, and he never used the power which his office gave him in any dishonorable way. His life was devoted to the upbuilding and improvement of his section, and his cooperation could always be counted upon in any movement looking toward the future progress of Kossuth county.

He was one of the charter members of the Patrons of Husbandry, or as it is usually called, the Grange, organized in June, 1873, and was worthy master of the Iowa State Grange for about ten years. He was likewise a member of the National Grange, in which he took an active and helpful interest.

Mr. Blackford during his life was prominently identified with the business development of Algona. He was the manager of the Patron's Cooperative Store, and he finally obtained the sole ownership of this enterprise by buying out his partners. He conducted the business in his own name for many years in the Blackford building, south of the courthouse in Algona. He was the first president of the Kossuth County Insurance Company, and in association with C. C. Chubb and other early members of the organization labored with unwavering industry for the success and prosperity of the enterprise. He was an active member of the Old Settlers Association, and was one of the organizers of the County Historical Society.

The Blackford family consisted of six children, Mary Kate, who died in 1910, is the only one not living. Mr. Blackford's elder daughter, Ella Algona who was born in January, 1856, was the first white child born in the town and the township of Algona and besides this enjoys the distinction of having been the first girl born in Kossuth county. She later became Mrs. Eugene H. Clarke, and resides in Algona. Mr. Blackford's other children are: Edwin, J. Ernest and George E., residents of Algona; and Clarus, who resides in St. Louis, Missouri. His wife died in 1905.

John E. Blackford passed away on Sunday evening, August 20, 1911, in Algona, Iowa, the funeral services being conducted according to the ceremony of the Presbyterian church. He is buried in Riverview cemetery. His character to a great extent molded his destiny. His ideals were always high, worthy and honorable. His life was spent in useful efforts after great results. His mind was keen, and his intellect bright, and his life was a distinct influence in the upbuilding of Kossuth county, as his death was a conspicuous loss to its development.

THEODORE ANDERSON.

Theodore Anderson has the distinction of being the first settler of Eagle township, where he owns and cultivates two hundred and forty acres of land. He was born in the Province of Småland, Sweden, on the 14th of September, 1862, and is a son of Freden and Sarah (Johnson) Anderson, also



1910 United States Federal Census

Name: **John E Blackford**
 Age in 1910: 85
 Estimated birth year: abt 1825
 Birthplace: Ohio
 Relation to Head of House: Head
 Father's Birth Place: Ohio
 Mother's Birth Place: New Jersey
 Home in 1910: Cresco, Kossuth, Iowa
 Marital Status: Widowed
 Race: White
 Gender: Male

Neighbors:

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>John E Blackford</u>	85
	<u>Ernest Blackford</u>	57
	<u>Ella Clark</u>	54
	<u>Hattie M Blackford</u>	46
	<u>George E Blackford</u>	39

Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Cresco, Kossuth, Iowa; Roll: T624_408; Page: 53; Enumeration District: 153; Image: 1050.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2006. For details on the content of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910](#). Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1910. T624, 1,178 rolls.

Description:

This database is an index to the head of households enumerated in the 1910 United States Federal Census, the Thirteenth Census of the United States. In addition, each indexed name is linked to actual images of the 1910 Federal Census. The information recorded in the census includes: name, relation to head of family, age at last birthday, sex, color or race, whether single, married, widowed, or divorced, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, and more...

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