

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Schramm, George Senator Schramm,
George - Represented Van Buren County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 12 Feb 1816 Pleik, Upper Franconia, Germany

2. Marriage (s) date place

Isabella C. Christy

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business

B. Civic responsibilities Mason, Old Settlers Association, Pioneer
Law Makers Association

C. Profession Merchant

4. Church membership Lutheran

5. Sessions served 4th, 5th General Assemblies 1852, 1854 Senate

6. Public Offices 9th General Assembly, 1862 - House of Representatives

A. Local

B. State

C. National

7. Death 26 Feb 1906 Okoboji, Iowa; Burial Fordland Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa

8. Children Schiller C.; Herder S.; Charles H.; Alice C.; Ella L.;
Margaret (Mrs. Gayman)

9. Names of parents John Christopher and Anna Barbara (Kessling) Schramm

10. Education He was educated in public schools in his home in Germany from age 6 and then at age 8 he studied with a tutor, as fall as the next age 14 departed his home to study at a university

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- He came to America in 1836 settling in Circleville, Pickaway County, Ohio where he worked as a clerk.
- He came to Iowa in 1845 settling at Harlingen, Iowa in Van Buren County, Iowa joining his brother in the mercantile business.
- He came to Des Moines with his family in 1867 and lived there until his death.
- While retaining his store he did stonemasonry, oil prospecting, bridge building, pork packing and railroad building primarily to develop the resources of the area
- He became partners with Dr. Joseph A. Smith in the pork packing business 2 years. This business was highly profitable.
- In 1859 he helped organize the Iowa and Missouri State Line Railroad with Harlingen as the initial point, but it was not successful

Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Friday last was the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brabham, and the event was duly celebrated by the home coming of the children. Their son Fred and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hutchinson came from Iola, Kan., Mrs. H. W. Morris and three children came from Unionville and Mrs. William Cowden and four children from Buxton. At the family gathering also were their daughter, Mrs. Nancy Hetzel and three children and Mr. Brabham's only sister, Mrs. M. J. Courtney of Farmington. Their daughter, Mrs. John Folker of Oklahoma City was the only absent member.

Mr. Brabham is 81 years old and came to Farmington in 1840. Miss Laura Fox, the bride of fifty years ago, is now 71 years old and came to Farmington in 1856. They lived continuously in Farmington. For many years Mr. Brabham has been almost blind yet he has been a familiar figure on the streets. With only his little walking stick he readily finds the walks and familiar stopping places in almost any part of town. The old gentleman has a very retentive memory and when any question of pioneer history is raised it is to Frank Brabham that people go for information.

Their children will remain at the old home for a couple of weeks and enjoy the Chautauqua.

Iowa Octogenarian Dead.

The death of George Schramm of Des Moines removes another of the prominent Van Buren county pioneers. During his residence here he lived in what is now the Simmons brick on South Fourth street. The Burlington Hawkeye says of him:

George Schramm, affectionately known to thousands of people as Father Schramm, passed away at Okoboji, Iowa, where he was spending the heated term as had been his custom for many years. He had enjoyed perfect health until a few days ago, succumbing to typhoid pneumonia. Father Schramm was a brother of the

late J. S. and C. E. Schramm, had long been a resident of southeastern Iowa, but removed to Des Moines later on. He had been a frequent visitor in Burlington and leaves a host of relatives and friends here, who will keep his memory green. He was a member of one of the worthy German pioneer families, who contributed so much to the development of this section of the country and all of whom reached a ripe age.

The Des Moines Capital had the following brief sketch of the life of this famous pioneer: George Schramm was born in Germany February 12, 1816. When 21 years of age he came to the United States, moving to Pickaway county, Ohio. He lived there for three or four years, where he was married to Isabelle Christy. In 1845 he moved to Van Buren county, Iowa, residing at Farmington. For twenty-two years he lived there, removing to Des Moines in 1867. While living in Van Buren county Mr. Schramm was representative twice and senator once. He has lived in Des Moines for almost forty years and has been a prominent citizen during his long residence here. He leaves five children: S. T. Schramm, H. S. Schramm, Alice Schramm, Chas. Schramm and Margaret Schramm. All live in Des Moines with the exception of Charles, who is a resident of Elkhart.

Mr. Schramm was a prominent member of the Octogenarian society.

"Make Hay While the Sun Shines."

There is a lesson in the work of the thrifty farmer. He knows that the bright sunshine may last but a day and he prepares for the showers which are so liable to follow. So it should be with every household. Dysentery, diarrhoea and cholera morbus may attack some member of the home without warning. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which is the best known remedy for these diseases, should always be kept at hand, as immediate treatment is necessary, and delay may prove fatal. For sale by Fred Kiek.

Everybody wishing for rain.

—Ora T. Boyer of the graduates of the Iowa at Cedar Falls, section of the h course, the exerc Thursday, July 26

—No one can r good digestion wh constipated. Mr. Edwardsville, Ill, from chronic cons ach troubles for thanks to Chambe Liver Tablets, am not get a package c get well and stay v Samples free. For

Farmington

There are a large ington families in (organized a societ nual reunion. T explains itself:

Chicago, W. H. KNOTT.

Yourself and fa invited to attend as ington picnic to b Park pavilion (for ing), at 3:30 p. m. county friends with a Van Buren co Bring basket lunch. JAS. W. LAPSLEY, CLARA B. W

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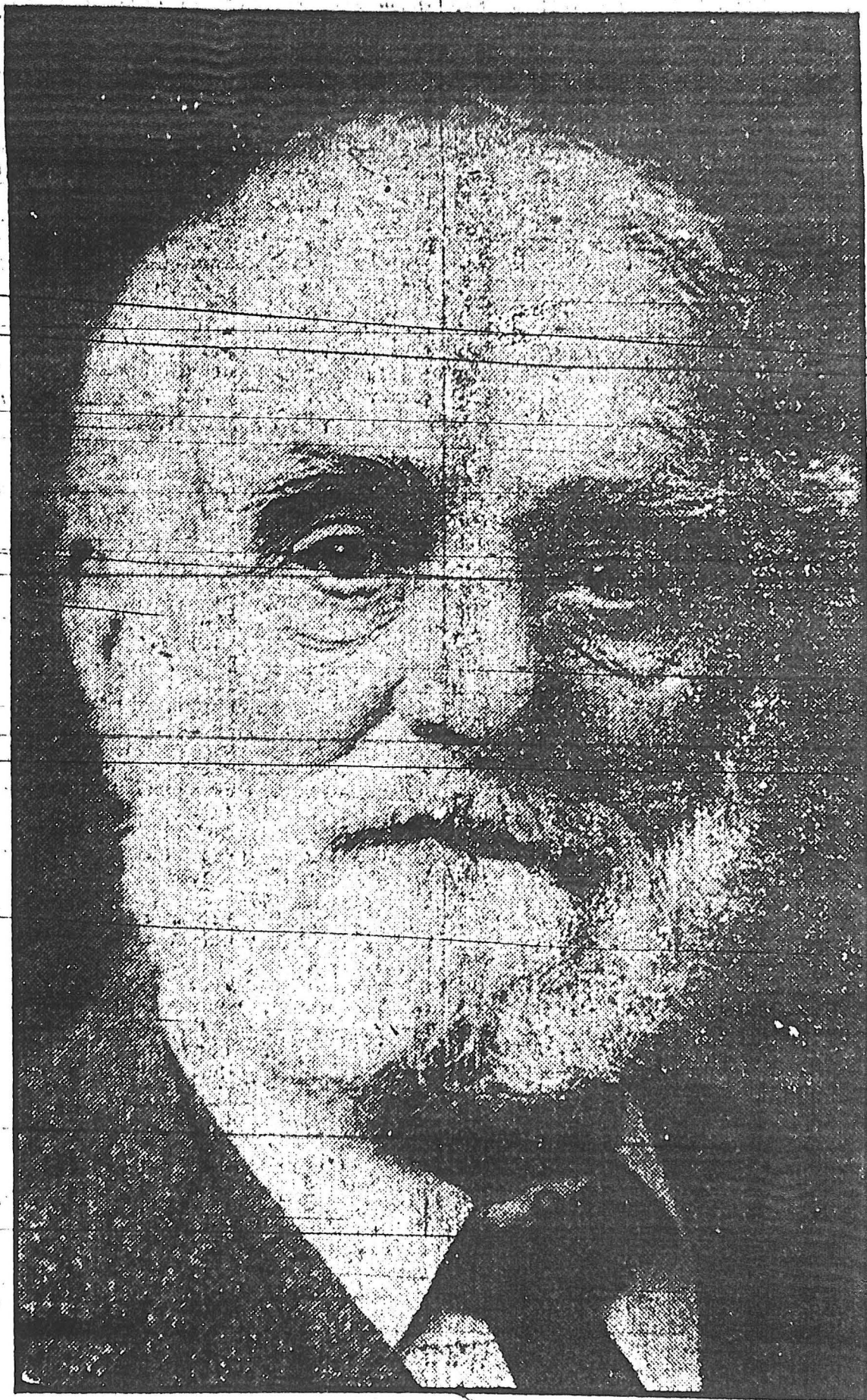
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"FATHER" GEORGE SCHRAMM

BY L. F. ANDREWS.

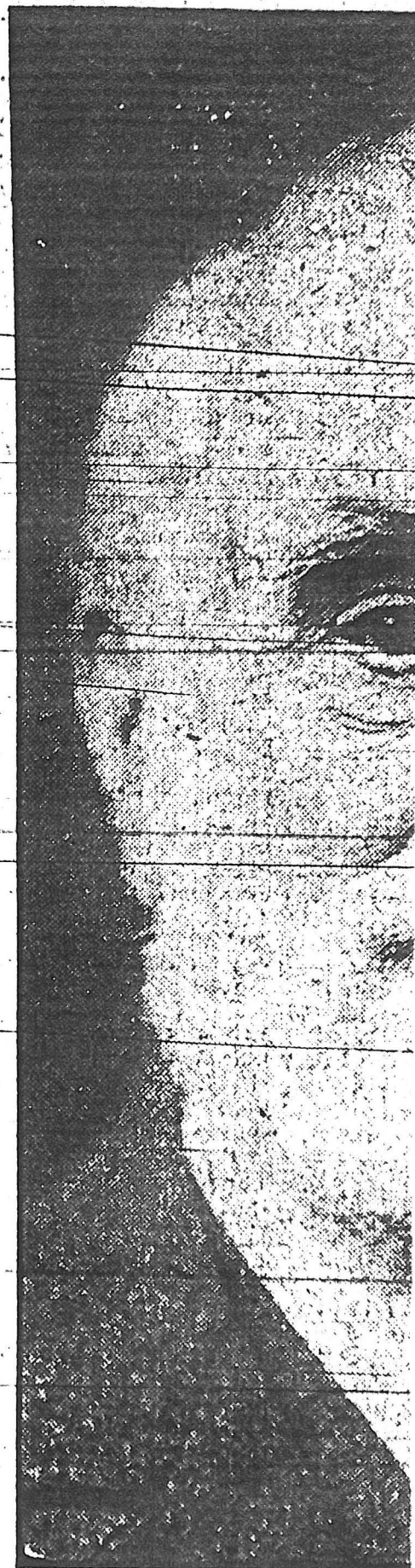
A pioneer of Iowa and early settler of Des Moines who gave to the city of his adoption the energy and influence of a noble character and zealous loyalty, was George, or "Father Schramm," as he was familiarly called by the young and old.

He was born in Plech, Upper Franconia, Germany, Feb. 12, 1816. His parents were devout Christians of the Lutheran faith. His father was an honored citizen, a prosperous merchant and land owner, with musical ability and literary taste. He was unanimously and repeatedly elected mayor of his city until he declined longer to hold the place. Two hundred years ago the family of Von Schramm left their estate near Strasburg, when Alsace was seized by France.

George, at the age of 6, was sent to the public schools, his mother having taught him the year prior to read German. At the age of 8, under a tutor, he began the study of Latin, Greek, French and other branches. At the age of 14 a fall on the ice, which injured his head, defeated his purpose of a university education, and he began a mercantile business training, which was an apprenticeship in a store five years, which he served, his father clothing him.

In 1835 his father decided to come to America, believing therein were wider fields and better opportunities for his son. It required two years to perfect the emigration plans for his family and others, and Aug. 2, 1837, when George was 21, they left Bremen, arriving in New York two months later. George stopped at a hotel, where his trunk, containing all his clothing and valuables, was stolen. The family at once started for St. Louis by the canal route, but on arriving at Circleville, O., freezing weather set in and the boat captain refused to go farther. There the family settled and became American citizens. The financial panic of 1837 was raging, business was depressed, but George obtained a clerkship in a store at \$12.50 per month.

In July, 1845, with his wife and baby, he came down the Ohio, up the Mississippi, and landed at Burlington. Thence he came to Farmington, in Van Buren county, then one of the most influential and promising towns in the state. There he started a general store and made his home in a log cabin. In 1848 he erected a three story brick store, and in 1850 a fine brick mansion, which thenceforward was the center of freehanded hospitality. His children do not remember a meal when guests were not present. Regarding his store, he branched into stone quarrying, oil prospecting, bridge building, pork packing, and railroad

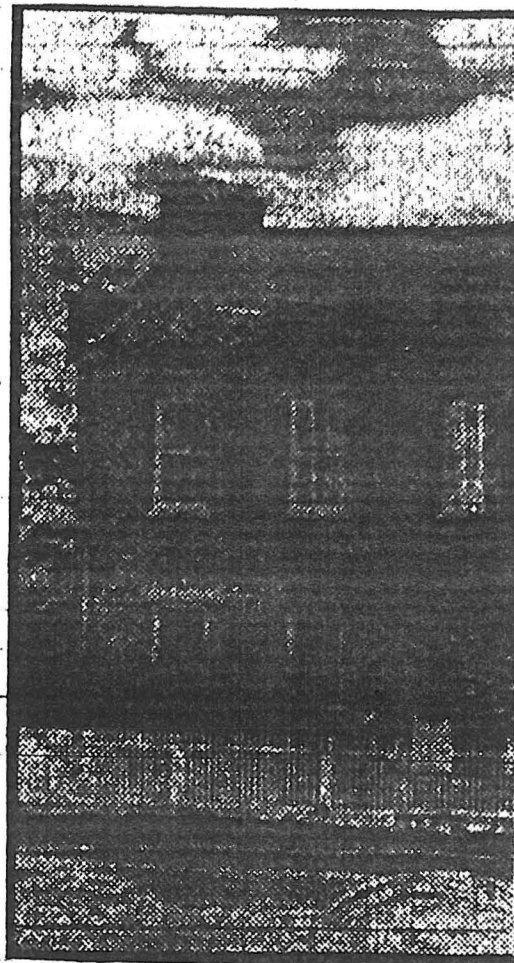


meat when guests were not present. Retaining his store, he plunged into stone quarrying, oil prospecting, bridge building, pork packing, and railroad building, with the purpose, primarily, to develop the resources of the country. In 1855, he formed a partnership with Dr. Joseph A. Smith in the pork packing business, which was continued twelve years, and the business became the largest of any like firm in America, the trade extending to Europe, one delivery of meat in New Orleans bringing a bank check for \$40,000 gold, over \$20,000 of which was paid to farmers. They furnished supplies to the Union army long before they received a government commission. Many of the Iowa boys on their way south to the army were entertained by Father Schramm at his home.

Railroads were a great necessity in those days, and in 1859 he helped organize the Iowa & Missouri State Line Railroad company, with Farmington as its initial point. The right of way for nearly 100 miles was secured, the financing of nearly \$2,000,000 in bonds provided for, surveys made, and a bill was carried through the United States senate by Senator Harlan providing for an ample land grant to build the road, but it got lost in the lower house, and the project had to be abandoned, to the sore disappointment, loss of time and money to Father Schramm. I think James L. Loring of Dallas Center, who carried the chain and compass for the survey, has not forgotten it. Some of those \$2,000,000 bonds, bearing Schramm's signature, could probably be found now about the home on Ninth street.

While engaged in his various business enterprises he was persuaded by the whigs in 1852 to accept the nomination for senator in the Fourth general assembly, and was elected by a majority of 248 in a strong democratic district. He was re-elected, served through the Fifth general assembly and its extra session in 1856. He supported and voted for the bill to remove the capital from Iowa City to Des Moines.

In the early days travel was by horse or boat. The nearest bank was at Keokuk. St. Louis was the center for the purchase of goods and sale of pork. To pay the farmers it was necessary to carry large sums of money from St. Louis or Keokuk to Farmington, but it was safer than it would be now, yet Schramm has some perilous adventures. One dismal day business delayed him in Keokuk until late in the afternoon. He had cashed a check for several thousand dollars. He and his wife started to drive to Farmington. Night was approaching, and when near the junction of another road from Keokuk they passed a muffled horseman, who did not respond to the customary road greeting. Shortly after he fired a shot, evidently for a signal to others secreted in a wild ravine through which they



THE OLD SCHRAMM

boat landing on the east bank of Mississippi river which was swollen with ice floes. Crossing to Burlington was small boats manned by so-called "wreckers." Courtesy demanded that the women and children, several of whom were young, should be carried first. A night that lawless place of low dives and gambles meant certain robbery. As the boat was to pass a big fat woman rushed into the boat weighing it down to a danger point, but he risked it, and a crossing was made over the swift current and huge ice cakes.

During the general excitement which prevailed consequent upon the exodus of Mormons from Nauvoo, and the rough treatment following in their wake, Schramm's wagon one day got stuck in the mud. He was striving to extricate it, when a horseman stopped, procured a rail, helped to get him out of the difficulty, then doffing his hat and bowing gratefully to Schramm said: "I am Porter Rockwell. I am not as black painted," and mounting his horse rode quickly away. He was a notorious murderer of Mormons whom the state of Missouri offered a reward of \$100 dead or alive. At the beginning of the war, Schramm with others, formed a company of 11 Guards to protect their town.

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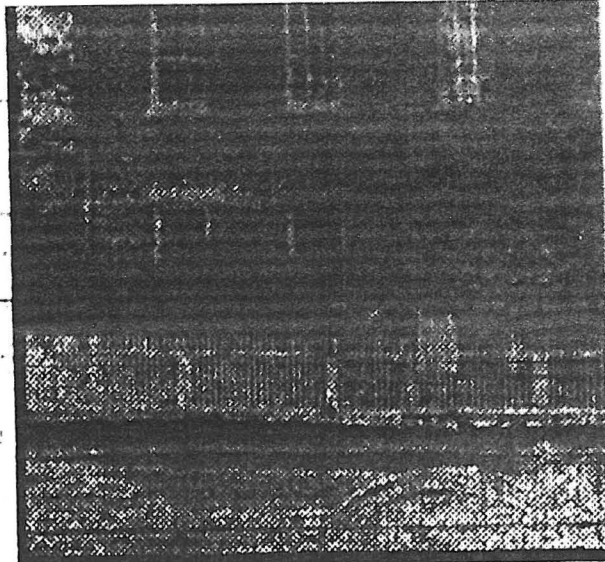
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On another occasion, with fifteen thousand dollars in his grip, he reached the



THE OLD SCHRAMM HOME

boat landing on the east bank of the Mississippi river which was swollen with ice floes. Crossing to Burlington was in small boats manned by so-called "wreckers." Courtesy demanded that the women and children, several of whom were waiting should be carried first. A night in that lawless place of low dives and grogeries meant certain robbery. As the last boat was to pass a big fat woman rushed into the boat weighing it down to the danger point, but he risked it, and a safe crossing was made over the swift current and huge ice cakes.

During the general excitement which prevailed consequent upon the exodus of Mormons from Nauvoo, and the rough element following in their wake, Schramm's wagon one day got stuck in the mud, and he was striving to extricate it, when a horseman stopped, procured a rail, and helped to get him out of the difficulty, then doffing his hat and bowing gracefully to Schramm said: "I am Porter O. Rockwell. I am not as black as painted," and mounting his horse, rode quickly away. He was the notorious murderer of Mormons for whom the state of Missouri offered a reward of \$100 dead or alive.

At the beginning of the war, Schramm with others, formed a company of Home Guards to protect their town against a rumored raid of one hundred rebel cavalry from Missouri. They were to cross the Des Moines river at a ford near the town. The river was narrow, the current swift, and the crossing must be made diagonally, at some length. The men were placed in ambush so that each could pick off the rebels one at a time as they approached the ford supposedly in single file. About two o'clock in the morning, a tramping of feet was heard on the opposite shore. It was quite dark; no object could be identified a short distance away, and every guardsman was alert to pick his man, but they did not come, instead a drove of cows came along the road on

"FATHER" GEORGE SCHRAMM.



THE OLD SCHRAMM HOMESTEAD IN FARMINGTON.

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not vote for the dog law. Father Schramm voted against the law.

While he was in the Ninth general assembly his wife and baby—that baby is now one of the city government reform commissioners—made him a visit, coming up Des Moines river on the steamboat Alice, Captain Ferris, landing at Coon point, and "putting up" at Colonel Spoford's Des Moines house, on the new post-office site. James Tuttle, father of General Tuttle rowed them in a boat to the foot of Capitol hill.

That visit had great influence toward a decision of Father Schramm to come to Des Moines, and which was not finally made, because of his numerous business connections, until Oct. 17, 1867, when with his family and household goods, he came. The family passed the first night at the home of their old friend Judge Wright. He bought a house on Eighth street, but two years later on an acre of hazel brush he owned at Ninth and School he built a two-story brick residence, where he passed the remainder of his days. He also purchased a section of land now a part of the army post; also, a large tract out in the country, now adjoining on the west the Home for the Aged on University avenue. He was a stockholder in the Des Moines Valley Railroad company, at one time

Source: Iowa Territory and State Legislators Collection, compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

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was proverbial, and toward his children it was as earnest and sincere as toward the most refined society. He was for more than fifty years a Mason, a member of Capital lodge, Tippecanoe club, Octogenarian association, Old Settlers' association, and Iowa Pioneer Law Makers' association. In token of the latter membership, on the anniversary of his ninetieth birthday, February, 1906, the legislature, then in session, sent him a series of resolutions finely engrossed on

parchment, expressive of its appreciation of his faithful stewardship.

He was a voluminous reader, a profound thinker, possessed a wonderful memory, so that his conversation was always interesting and inspiring. He was a good writer of prose and poetry; had good musical ability and composed several fine melodies, but would never permit them to be published. He was a thorough student of nature, and never wearied in portraying its beauties.

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Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators' Collection. Compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

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opprecla- When one week old he was baptised in accordance with the faith of the Lutheran church; at the age of 14 he was confirmed, and was a consistent, exemplary Christian all his life. He was one of the founders and an active supporter of St. John's Lutheran church, which held its meetings first in the public school building at the corner of Ninth and Locust streets, and after a long struggle and many discouragements a building was erected at West Grand avenue and

Seventh street, which after several years was sold and the large brick edifice and parsonage at Sixth and Chestnut streets erected.

His dominant trait was to ennoble the community in which he lived and make others happy. His rule of life was the Word of God. The last ten years of his life gave time for cultivation and enjoyment of his tastes and accomplishments, and the society of his numerous friends, young and old, rich and poor.

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You searched for **George Schramm** in **Iowa**

1870 United States Federal Census

Name: **George Schramm**
 Birth Year: **abt 1816**
 Age in 1870: **54**
 Birthplace: **Bavaria / Bayern**
 Home in 1870: **Des Moines Ward 4, Polk, Iowa**
 Race: **White**
 Gender: **Male**
 Value of real estate: [View image](#)
 Post Office: **Des Moines**

Household Members:	Name	Age
	George Schramm	54
	Isabella C Schramm	44
	Alice Schramm	18
	Ella Schramm	14
	Charles Schramm	9
	Margaret Russell	38
	Herder Schramm	21

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Des Moines Ward 4, Polk, Iowa; Roll M593_415; Page: 231A; Image: 465; Family History Library Film: 545914.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data:

- 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
- Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **George Schramm** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name:	George Schramm	
Birth Year:	abt 1817	
Birth Place:	Bay	
Gender:	Male	
Marital Status:	Married	
Census Date:	1885	
Residence State:	Iowa	
Residence County:	Polk	
Locality:	Des Moines	
Roll:	IA1885_250	
Line:	15	
Family Number:	720	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	George Schramm	68
	Isabella C Schramm	58
	Alice C Schramm	28
	Maggie M Schramm	12
	Charles W Schramm	23
	Margarte P Russell	52

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.
Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.

Description:

This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration.
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You searched for **George Schramm** in **Iowa**

1900 United States Federal Census

Name:	Geo Schramm	
Home in 1900:	Des Moines, Polk, Iowa	
Age:	84	
Birth Date:	Feb 1816	
Birthplace:	Germany	
Race:	White	
Gender:	Male	
Immigration Year:	1837	
Relationship to Head of House:	Head	
Father's Birthplace:	Germany	
Mother's Birthplace:	Germany	
Marital Status:	Widowed	
Residence :	Des Moines City, Polk, Iowa	
Occupation:	View on Image	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Geo Schramm	84
	Alice C Schramm	88
	Margret M Schramm	28
	Laura A Girton	49
	Lida Schmelzer	23

Source Citation: Year: 1900; Census Place: Des Moines, Polk, Iowa; Roll T623_454; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 78.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623. 1854 rolls.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



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Nash Family Tree

View Family Tree Owner: mimiku

Home Person

George Schramm

Birth **1816** in Plech, Bavaria, Germany
Death **1906** in Lake Okoboji Iowa

Save this person to your tree

Comment on this

Show immediate family More options

Overview Facts and Sources Media Gallery Comments Member Connect

Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

Timeline (View details)

1816 Birth
Plech, Bavaria, Germany

1906 Death
Lake Okoboji Iowa
Age: 90

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

[Add a comment](#)

Family Members

Parents

John Christopher Schramm
1782 – 1849

Anna Barbara Kessling

Show siblings

Spouse & Children

No Spouse or Children

[Family group sheet](#)

Historical Records

No historical records have been attached to this person.

Web Links

There are no weblinks available for this person.

Search the web for **George Schramm**

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You searched for **George Schramm** in **Iowa**

Iowa Cemetery Records

Name: **George Schram**
Death Date: **26 Jul 1906**
Page #: **703**
Birth Date: **12 Feb 1816**
Cemetery: **Woodland**
Relative: **90**
Level Info: *Iowa Graves Registration Survey W P A Polk County Iowa*

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa Cemetery Records* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.
Original data: Works Project Administration. *Graves Registration Project*. Washington, D.C.: n.p., n.d.

Description:

These cemetery records represent seventy-six counties and Graceland Cemetery of Sioux City, Iowa, in the United States, that were transcribed by the Works Project Administration. Records in this database generally include the page number where the record can be found in the WPA index, the name of the deceased, birth date, death date, age, cemetery name, town name, and additional comments if any. [Learn more...](#)

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GEORGE SCHRAMM

George was born to an old Alsatian family and came to America at the age of nineteen. He studied the languages, and joined his brother in Farmington, Iowa in the merchandise business. At the age of thirty-six, he entered the Iowa Senate. In 1862, he was a Republican representative in the Ninth General Assembly. He was described as a unique and popular member of the Senate, being known as "Father Schramm."

"The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. George Schramm, in the spring of 1893, was a gala day for the pioneers and their descendants. Mr. Schramm was a senator from Van Buren Co. in 1851, and then came to Des Moines, a representative from that county in '62. Later, after the war, the family removed to Des Moines where George took an active part in public affairs. He was prominent in the Lutheran Church and Masonic circles.

In 1906, he died in Des Moines at the age of ninety.

Blk. 14, Section 00185

George Schramm, buried 29 July 1906, 90 years

Mrs. Allia C., buried 26 March 1895, 44 years

Mrs. Charles Schramm, buried 17 January 1946, 83 years

Charles William Schramm, buried 27 November 1950, 89 years (ashes)

Herder S. Schramm, buried 15 December 1916, 67 years

Isabella Schramm, buried 3 June 1900, 74 years

Blk. 14, Section 00186

Alice C. Schramm, buried 26 March 1916, 90 years

S.O. Schramm, buried 1 June 1925, 77 years

Elizabeth Schramm, buried 2 July 1905, 7 years