

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Alvin — Represented Henry County, Iowa Senator Saunders,

1. Birthday and place 12 July 1817 near Flemingsburg, Fleming County,
Kentucky

2. Marriage (s) date place

Martha Ann Surwillow Barlow 11 Mar 1856 Washington, D.C.

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was one of the commissioners appointed by Congress to
organize the Pacific Railroad Company; president of the State Bank of Nebraska

B. Civic responsibilities I.O.O.F.; Loyal Legion of the United States

C. Profession Merchant; banking; farmer; real estate

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th General Assemblies 1854, 1856, 1858, 1860

6. Public Offices

A. Local Postmaster of Mount Pleasant for 7 years

B. State Appointed to organize the Pacific Railroad Company; Governor of
the Nebraska Territory (1861-1867); delegate to the State Constitutional convention

C. National in 1846 Elected to the United States Senate 1877-1883; delegate to the
national convention in 1860 that nominated Abraham Lincoln

7. Death 1 Nov 1899 Omaha, Nebraska; buried Street Lawn Cemetery, Omaha,
Nebraska

8. Children Mary (Mrs. Russell B. Harrison); Charles L.

9. Names of parents

Samuel and Mary (Maggie) Saunders

10. Education Educated in the common schools and also
pursued an academic course

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information

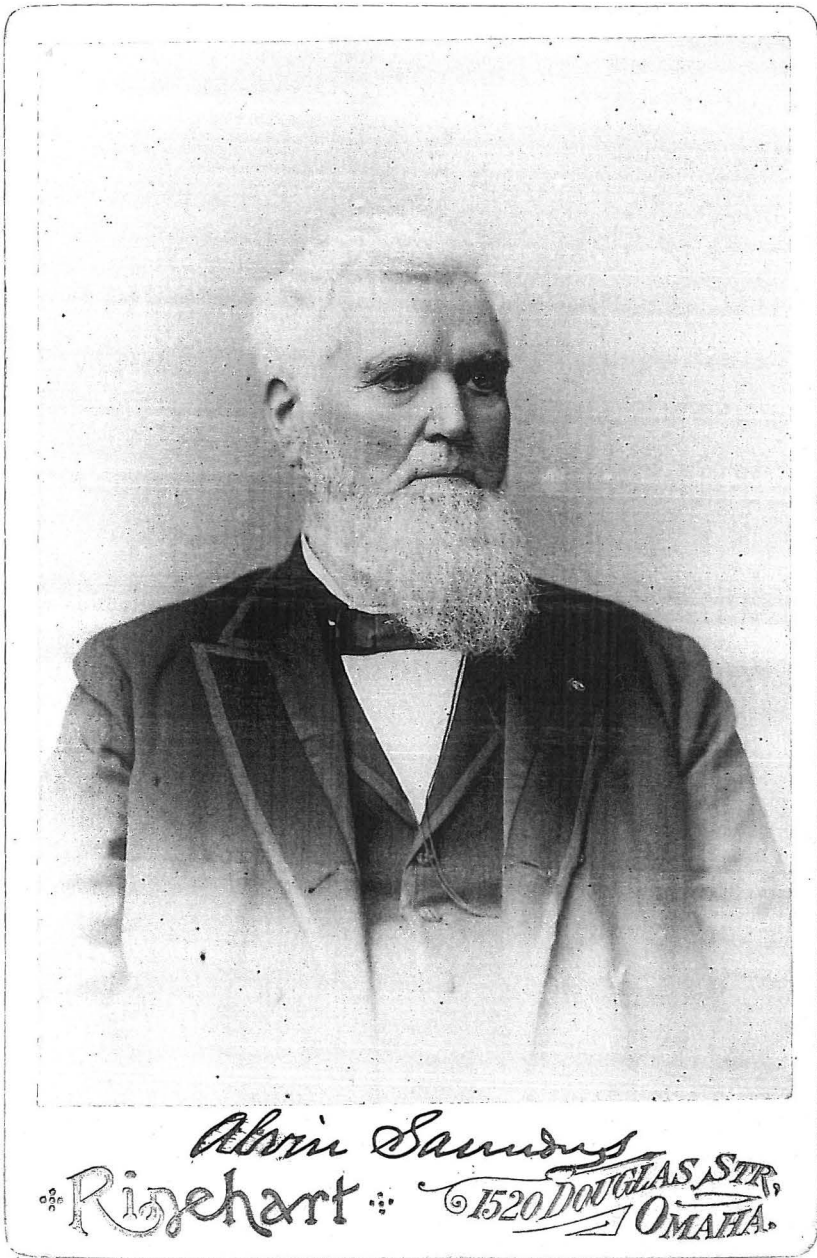
Republican

- He moved with his father to Illinois in 1829 and then to
Mount Pleasant, Iowa in 1836, which at the time was Wisconsin Territory
- He studied law but never entered into law practice. Instead
he pursued mercantile pursuits and banking
- He was the grandfather of President William Henry Harrison
- He was the last of the Territorial Governors of Nebraska serving during
the Civil War.
- He was appointed postmaster at Mount Pleasant, Iowa by President Martin
Van Buren.
- He assumed the office of Governor of Nebraska Territory 15 May 1861
- He was an original stockholder of Omaha Smelting Works.
- He was the secretary first of the Omaha Real Estate and Trust Company
and a founder of the Omaha Real Estate Exchange.
- He was a member of the Omaha Board of Education.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>Obituary - The Mount Pleasant Journal</u>			<u>Mount Pleasant Iowa, Wed, Nov 1, 1899, p. 4, col. 6</u> <u>and Fri. Nov 3, 1899, p. 1, col. 6</u>
- <u>bioguide.congress.gov</u> (accessed 1/30/02)			
- <u>Sheldon, Nebraska, The Land and People</u> Vol. III p. 86, 87, 88			
- <u>Obituary - The Mount Pleasant Evening Journal</u>			<u>Mount Pleasant Iowa</u> <u>Wed. Nov 1, 1899, p. 4 col 6 and Thurs. Nov. 2, 1899</u> <u>p. 1, col. 2</u>
- <u>Portrait - The original is located in the archives at the State of Iowa Historical Library</u>			
- <u>Sheldon, The Land and the People, 1931, Vol. III, p. 81-87</u>			
- <u>Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Politicians of Iowa,</u> <u>by States 1916, p. 668-669</u>			
- <u>Familysearch.org</u> (accessed 16 Apr 2010)			
- <u>ancestry.com</u> (accessed 15 Apr 2010)			
- <u>rootsweb.com</u> (accessed 15 Apr 2010)			
- <u>findagrave.com</u> (accessed 25 Apr 2010)			



Alvin Saunders
Rizehart 1520 DOUGLAS STR.
OMAHA.

Special offer in Children's Suits
\$1.50 to 5.00

at
2.50 to 5.00

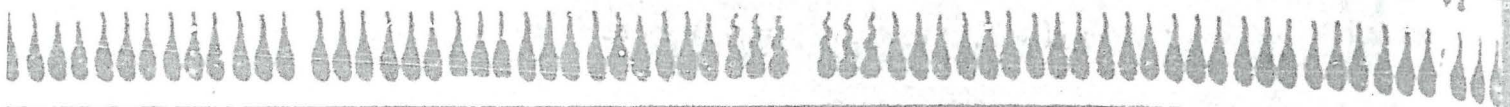
at
6.50 to 13.00

Men's Overcoats
at
5.00 to 16.50

Men's Ulsters
at
5.00 to 15.00

See our
Ideal Shoe at
8.50

See our celebrated Hathaway, Soule & Harrington Shoe, 2.50, to



car loads of cannon were
through the city on an east-
right last night.

weather today has been of that
able kind which characterizes
s of March—cold, blustery and
er unpleasant.

Isabel Fitzgerald and grand-
rs left this morning for Fior-
ere they expect to spend the
as been their custom for
three years.

News rejoices in the defeat of
7. U. football team at Oskaloosa
h inwardly swearing because
at was not half so bad as the
en Rogers was captain.

Anderson, formerly a resident
city and New London, will be
this evening to an Illinois la-
is now a resident of Alexis,
is well known to many of our

eye: Voters who do not wish
a straight ticket must not
e circle. Mark only in the
opposite the name of each and
andidate for whom it is the de-
vote.

THE ROMMEL CLUB.

Rommel Musical club gave the
gram for the first of the home
and Mrs. John F. Leech last

EXTRA POL'CE.

An extra number of police were on
duty last night to look for Hallowe'en
disturbers. Officer Anderson was as-
sisted by Marshal Siberts, Constable
Saunders, Tom Smith and J. W. Pace.
Not as many depredations were com-
mitted as usual. This Hallowe'en
custom is a nuisance, anyhow, and
should be abolished.

DEATH OF (OFA) SAUNDERS.

The sad intelligence was received in
this city today that ex-Governor Alvin
Saunders died in Omaha this morning
at 4 o'clock. His illness was known to
be of a serious nature, but death was
not anticipated so soon. The deceased
was one of the incorporators of Mt.
Pleasant and was our first postmaster.

HALLOWE'EN PARTY.

A merry crowd of ladies and gentle-
men gathered at the home of Dr. and
Mrs. A. L. Punton last evening and
celebrated Hallowe'en in proper style.
A sheet and pillow case mesquerade,
startling "story telling," an auction
sale, were features of the evening.
During the sale some of the gentlemen
mortgaged houses, farms, everything,
including their wives, to secure such
alluring wares as "Treasure from the
A Valuable Heirloom" and
"A Souvenir of Greece." When re-

Aunt Jerusha will be
the Grand opera house
The company is compo-
capable people who give
evening's entertainment.
simple and serves to intr-
ber of types which are p-
ery country village.

THE MODERN MO

Has found that her il-
mproved more by the p-
of Figs, when in need of
effect of a gentle remedy
other. Children enjoy it
fits them. The true reme-
Figs is manufactured by
nia Fig Syrup Co., only

DO YOU WANT MUS

Sunday schools, Reun-
Classes, Christmas Con-
occasions, Temperance,
C. A. R. Camp Fires, Fu-
fact, for any conceivable
so, your every want can
applying to the Echo M-
cago, Ill. The great mall
house of the west.

BUY THE

to offer to your fri-
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MT. PLEASANT, IOWA. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1899.

ALVIN SAUNDERS

Omaha, Nov. 1.—Alvin Saunders died here today. Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders was appointed governor of Nebraska by President Lincoln in 1861, locating in Omaha in the spring of that year, and reappointed in 1865. In 1868 he was a delegate to the national convention which nominated General Grant, and in 1877 was elected to the United States senate. He was active in the efforts made to secure the location of the Union Pacific bridge at this point, being chairman of a committee appointed by the citizens for that purpose; and the city lots which were donated to the company in aid of the construction of said bridge and depot were deeded to Governor Saunders by the city and the various parties owning them, in trust, to be by him transferred to the railroad company upon certain conditions. He was one of the builders of the Omaha and Southwestern railroad, and at one time vice president of the company, and was also president of the board of regents of the high school which had charge of the erection of the high school building. For several years he was president of the State bank of this city, and was one of the original stockholders in the Omaha smelting works. He was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, July 12, 1817, locating at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, at an early date. He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1846, and in 1854 and 1858 served as a member of the Iowa state senate. He was a member of the Iowa delegation to the Chicago convention which nominated Mr. Lincoln in 1860. Governor Saunders has two children, Charles, now engaged in the practice of law, and a daughter, now Mrs. Russell Harrison.

AROUND THE WORLD

William Reyman, the lone bicyclist of New York City, was in Mt. Pleasant today. He is traveling around the world on his wheel. He started from New York Feb. 18th, 1897, traveled through England, France, Germany, Russia, and through Siberia, along the line of the railway and exile routes. Through Manchooia, China and Corea he had many adventures and hair breadth escapes. He was the first white man ever seen astride a wheel there. Through that wilderness he often had to carry his wheel. He came from Japan to San Francisco this summer on board the transport Warren with the Colorado volunteers. He arrived at San Francisco August 18th, leaving the 29th, and has averaged 35 miles a day. The bicycle is all strapped to his wheel, the entire outfit weighing 80 pounds. He expects to reach New York again about

THE RAMBLERS.

Yesterday afternoon the Ramblers hold their first literary meeting of the year at the home of Mrs. Babb. The new Year Books were at hand for distribution. They give promise of an unusually interesting program, and are especially appropriate for the year of 1900. The Ramblers will take a "Trip to Paris" in their minds this winter. A delightful description of "the voyage" was given by Miss Schwenker at yesterday's meeting. Mrs. Geo. Allen read an excellent paper on "French Home Life," which was very interesting to her hearers. The program committee who arranged the details of this "Trip to Paris" are Mrs. Walker, Misses Schwenker and McClure. Mrs. Walker is the newly elected president of the club.

CAMPAIGN BETTING

The campaign has now reached the betting stage. While the Journal does not approve of the practice of betting, it seems impossible for the sporting public to abstain from the exciting pastime. Wagers are being placed on the outcome of the election for county officers, especially sheriff. Considerable money has recently been staked on Putnam. We understand all the even money that can be found is grabbed up, and the odds are sometimes put as high as 2 to 1 in order to find takers.

ACT OF A RUFFIAN.

A few days ago a young lady was walking along the street about one o'clock in the afternoon reading a letter, when a man unceremoniously grabbed her. He was drunk and she was knocked down and he fled as fast as he could and was not apprehended. Night before last a well known lady was held up by a ruffian about dark on one of our city streets, who attempted to rob her, but did not succeed.

HAD A SLIM MEETING.

A republican meeting was announced or last night at Hickory Grove school-house in Marlon township, to be addressed by Mayor Newbold and Dr. McClure. The latter was not present, and H. C. Barker, of Jackson township, made some remarks. The attendance was unusually slim, there being only eight citizens of Marlon township present.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Will Dyal says that the three hundred locals in the Evening Journal, advertising his store for sale, resulted in

SNAPPY BARS

IN GOOD THINGS TO EAT AT TELEPHONE 20.

Ralston's Health Club Breakfast Food, 12 1/2c	Richelieu Cocoa, full weight
Pillsbury's Vitas Wheat Food, only 12 1/2c.	
Craxen's brain and nerve food, 12 1/2c	
Wheatlet, a delicious breakfast food, 12 1/2c.	
Richelieu Wheat Flakes, healthy food, 12 1/2c	
Nut Flake Oatmeal, a delicious Food, 12 1/2c	
Shredded Whole Wheat Biscuit, only 12 1/2c	
Fine Imported Macaroni, fresh and best 12 1/2c	
Postum Cereal, a healthful beverage, 12 1/2c	
Grain-O, a great health drink, only 12 1/2c	
Dunham's Coconut 5c	Brazilian nuts fresh, 7c



ADVERTISED LETTERS.

Letters uncalled for Oct. 24, 1899: Brown, John F.; Buybee, Mrs. M. J.; Clark, Purl M.; Combs, S. P.; Dearinger, Henry; Feldkemp, Charles; Hansel, Charley; Huffman, Ed; Kirkbride, C.; McArthur Bros.; McParlor, Mr.; Olson, Bessie; Riordon, W. F.; Ronaldson, Mrs. Louise; Short, Mrs. Fanny; Stevie, James W. (3); Welch, T. J.; Wright, Frank. J. W. PALM, P. M.

If you want to buy anything, see what our advertisers say.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE
O. J. LINDSAY, Mgr.

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Friday, November 3rd.

Something worth seeing! W. S. Campbell's latest comedy

Aunt

WEATHER PREDICTIONS

Fair tonight and tomorrow.

Our local theatre goes out the heartiest laughs of the Grand opera house Friday when Aunt Jerusha, the greatest rural comedy dramas will be

Forest Brown has a fine choice meats always on hand in the Brazelton shop in the Brazelton block wants of Sunday customers especially looked after. Call and see him.

Patrick Baker, of Rome, was in city today.

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Will Dyal says that the three lines of local's in the Evening Journal, advertising his stove for sale, resulted in a stream of callers at his studio.

I. W. U. TEAM LOSES.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The I. W. U. football team returned last night from Okaloosa, where they played a game with Penn college yesterday afternoon.

DEATH OF MRS. HOCKETT.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) Mrs. Nathan Hockett died at her home this morning, east of Denova. She has not been in the best of health for some years...

REGIMENT COMING HOME

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The 51st Iowa regiment will leave Francisco Thursday of this week, and arrive at Council Bluffs next Monday...

CLOSE OF COURT

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The district court adjourned yesterday...

Our County News.

DENOVA DOTS.

Denova, Iowa, Oct. 30, 1899.—Well, Joannah, I guess I'll write another letter for the big Journal. As I was drivin' along our street not long since I heard somebody say, wonder what's become of that Hopkins clique who used to write for the Journal? Haven't heard from 'em lately, have we? I just chuckled to myself and resolved in my mind right there that they'd hear from us again; but what we'll tell 'em is more than I know.

NEW LONDON LETTER.

New London, Iowa, Nov. 3, 1899.—The 2-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Delaney, living a few miles southwest of this city, died very suddenly this morning.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Beard died last Thursday evening at their home in Ottumwa. The remains were brought to this city on No. 10 Saturday afternoon and the funeral services held in the M. P. church at 3 o'clock.

J. E. Peterson and sister, Miss Ida Peterson, left on No. 4 Tuesday evening for Chicago. She will attend an art school in that city this winter.

John Colmer has sold his interest in the meat market to Mr. Parkinson, who has been his partner for some time.

Charles Magers spent Sunday at his home in Mt. Pleasant.

Ed N. Kitchen, the well known insurance man of Mt. Pleasant, was in the city this afternoon.

The horse sale has been postponed until December 7th and 8th.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Beard, of Ottumwa, were guests over Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Seymour.

Richard Williams, who is employed on the new bridge work at Beardstown, Ill., was in the city today.

Mrs. J. W. Seymour has returned from Mt. Pleasant, where she took treatment for rheumatism.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ball have returned from a few weeks' visit with relatives and friends at Keokuk, Ill.

J. H. Lute, of Mt. Pleasant, was in the city on business Saturday morning.

J. B. Eaton, of Lowell, was in the city on business Tuesday.

The pupils of Miss Mayme Clements' room of the High school planned and executed a pleasant surprise party on her Monday evening.

Charles Gabbert, who has been very sick with typhoid fever for several weeks, suffered a relapse last week and is now in a very critical condition, although he is resting some easier today than he was yesterday.

Eider Hunt is holding a very interesting series of revival meetings at the Christian church.

G. T. Lemley has gone on a business trip to Muscatine and West Liberty, Ia. Joseph Edgar shipped some hog weighing over 400 pounds, Monday to Ira J. Scott, of Waterloo, Ia.

LINCOLN LEAFLETS.

Linwood, Ia., Oct. 31, 1899.—Mr. O. J. Wells' father and wife's children and Sunday. Due to illness of the late Mr. J. M. Scott, of this place, to Miss Inez Oldt. The young couple will make their future home in Salem.

Albert Wellington, of Buckeye, was in New London Monday.

Ephram Wellington is very sick with typhoid fever.

Mr. Lee Shelley, of near Lowell, sold and marketed a large lot of hogs yesterday to W. H. Nugen, of New London.

Henry Conor called on John Schrver Sunday, and old man White's and Mrs. Wellington's.

An insurance agent by the name of Hogle was a caller in these parts yesterday.

The hearing of our school house case came off last Friday, but the decision has not been made yet.

Our Sabbath school superintendent's name is not McMonmoth, as the Free Press has it, but McComas. Meeting every Sunday night at our school house.

LOWELL LIGHTNING.

Lowell, Ia., Nov. 1.—Hallowe'en passed off very quietly here. A few bunches placed on top of houses and a few wagon wheels changed and a few old harness overturned, some wood poles changed hands, was all.

Enoch Beery was a pleasant caller Tuesday.

J. H. Graham was in town yesterday. John Meyers was in town Tuesday.

J. H. Eaton was in town Tuesday. W. A. Smith, P. C. Renner and M. G. Renner were Mt. Pleasant visitors Tuesday.

Major Spearman was a business visitor yesterday.

Chas. McFarland is repairing the property formerly occupied by Mrs. Gill.

E. R. Morrow and Samp Kerr were in Burlington yesterday.

J. C. Collins was a business caller yesterday.

T. S. Box was in town Sunday. James Parsons, proprietor of the Oak Dale dairy, was in town on business Wednesday.

Rev. Frank Britton was down town for a short time yesterday.

Bruce McFarland and Ernest DeLong, who are attending Howe's school Sunday with their parents.

R. A. McFarland is visiting his brother, Gilbert, out in Jefferson county.

Wm. Archibald, one of Burlington's staunch republicans, was in town yesterday.

Miss Sue Gill is in town this afternoon.

TRENTON TRILLS.

Trenton, Iowa, Oct. 31, 1899.—Miss Kate Moore Timberlake arrived last Friday for a visit with her parents' friends.

Dr. and Mrs. Gilligan welcomed a boy in their home last Sunday.

Rev. Shook filled his regular appointment last Sunday. Hereafter there will be services on Saturday evening preceding the Sabbath services.

Mrs. Chas. Morrow and daughters, Nettie and Myrtle, who have been visiting friends in Pennsylvania, are expected home this evening.

Miss H. Neukum is still improving.

The Henry county bridge builders are driving the piling for a bridge near Mr. Feehan's, on a branch of the Mud creek.

THE RAMBLERS.

(From Thursday's Daily.) Yesterday afternoon the Ramblers held their first literary meeting of the year at the home of Mrs. Babb.

The new Year Books were at hand for distribution. They give promise of an unusually interesting program, and one especially appropriate for the year of 1900. The Ramblers will take a "Trip to Paris" in their minds this winter.

A delightful description of "the voyage" was given by Miss Schwenker at yesterday's meeting. Mrs. Geo. Allen read an excellent paper on "French Home Life," which was very interesting to her hearers.

The program committee consists of Mrs. Walker, Misses Schwenker and McCure. Mrs. Walker is the newly elected president of the club.

SOME LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

A Short Sketch of Alvin Saunders.

SOME BETS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

Football Game—Receptions—Social News and Other Items.

ENTERTAINED.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Yesterday afternoon Mrs. Galer entertained a company of ladies, some young and some not quite so young at her pleasant home on East Washington street. It was with quite a buzz of interest that the guests came together because of the fact that the opportunity was to be given by Mrs. Galer to meet and greet and gaze upon two of Mt. Pleasant's newest brides, Mrs. John Goan and Mrs. Walter Brenholz.

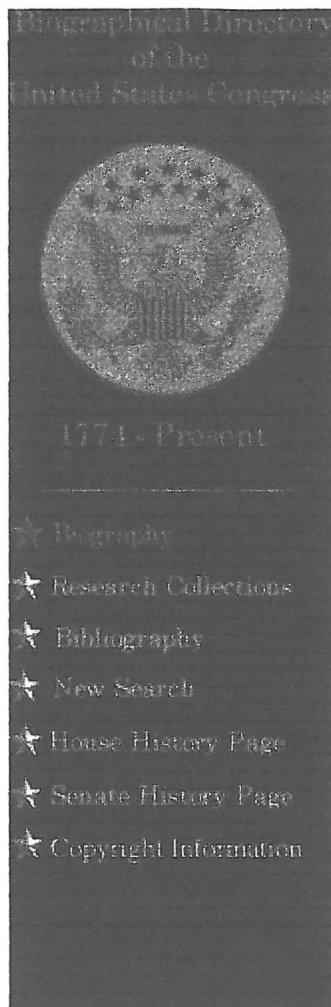
ALVIN SAUNDERS

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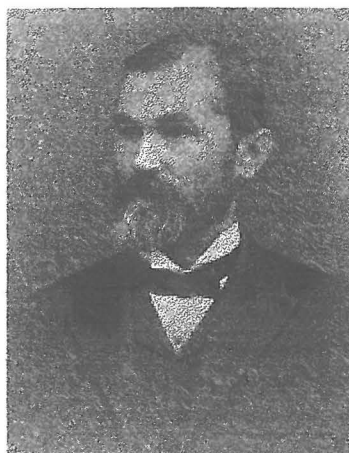
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SAUNDERS, Alvin, 1817-1899

Senate Years of Service: 1877-1883

Party: Republican



SAUNDERS, Alvin, (grandfather of William Henry Harrison [1896-]), a Senator from Nebraska; born in Fleming County, Ky., July 12, 1817; attended the common schools and pursued an academic course; moved with his father to Illinois in 1829 and to Mount Pleasant,

Iowa (then a part of Wisconsin Territory), in 1836; postmaster of Mount Pleasant for seven years; studied law but never entered upon its practice; engaged in mercantile pursuits and banking; delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1846; member, State senate 1854-1856, 1858-1860; one of the commissioners appointed by Congress to organize the Pacific Railroad Co.; Governor of the Territory of Nebraska 1861-1867; elected as a Republican to the United States Senate and served from March 5, 1877, to March 3, 1883; chairman, Committee on Territories (Forty-seventh Congress); died in Omaha, Nebr., November 1, 1899; interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Bibliography

Dictionary of American Biography.

NEBRASKA

The Land and the People

By

ADDISON ERWIN SHELDON, A. M., Ph. D.

Author of "History and Stories of Nebraska," "Poems and Sketches of Nebraska," "Nebraska Archives," "Nebraska Constitutional Conventions," "Nebraska Civil Government," "Nebraska Land Policies," "Nebraska" Articles in Encyclopedia Britannica, Encyclopedia Americana, Statesman's Year Book, etc.

NEBRASKA BIOGRAPHY
(Gratuitously Published)

*Selected and Prepared by
Special Staff of Writers*

ISSUED IN THREE VOLUMES

Volume III

ILLUSTRATED

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHICAGO NEW YORK
1931

IOWA STATE TRAVELING LIBRARY

WITHDRAWN

his junior and senior years was elected president of his class. At the time of his graduation Mr. O'Brien located at Grand Island, where he has since been in the active practice of his calling, and has already built up a very desirable clientage, maintaining offices at 115½ North Locust Street. He is a member of the Hall County Bar Association and the Nebraska Bar Association. Politically he is a Democrat, but has not been active in politics or public affairs save as a good citizen. His religious connection is with St. Mary's Cathedral Parish of the Roman Catholic Church. He is unmarried.

ALVIN SAUNDERS was the last of the territorial governors of Nebraska and was serving as executive head of the territorial government during the climacteric period of the Civil war. He later represented the new commonwealth of Nebraska in the United States Senate, and his name and memory are revered and honored in the state to whose development and progress he contributed in large and loyal measure. A man of fine character and large ability, Governor Saunders was well equipped for the leadership that he long maintained in connection with civic and material progress in Nebraska, and no publication touching the history of this state can be consistent with itself if there be failure to accord within its pages a tribute to this sterling, distinguished and honored territorial pioneer.

Alvin Saunders was born on the family homestead ten miles south of Flemingsburg, judicial center of Fleming County, Kentucky, and the date of his nativity was July 12, 1817. He passed the closing period of his life in the city of Omaha, where he died November 1, 1899, at the venerable age of eighty-two years. The future governor of Nebraska Territory was a son of Gunnell and Mary (Mauzy) Saunders, the former of whom was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, and the latter at Culpeper in that historic commonwealth, she having been of French ancestry. The Saunders family, of English lineage, was founded in Virginia in the early Colonial period of American history, and as a young man Gunnell Saunders thence moved to Kentucky, where he maintained his residence until about 1830, when he removed with his family to Sangamon County, Illinois, where he became a pioneer farmer in the vicinity of Springfield, capital of that state, and where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives.

Alvin Saunders was a lad of about twelve years at the time of the family migration to Illinois, and concerning the formative period of his life the following record has been written: "A country school that he attended during two winter months of each year gave to him his fundamental education, but fortunately for him he was inspired with a passion for books and thus was able effectually to reinforce his earlier intellectual discipline. At the age of nineteen years he obtained the reluctant consent of his father to go West, and he settled at Mount Pleasant Iowa, which state was then a part of the territory of Wisconsin. There

he secured employment on a neighboring farm, but within a short time he entered the employ of a pioneer merchant at Mount Pleasant. Here he began to realize the value of a thorough education, and he was soon instrumental in inducing a cultured citizen of the village to open a night school, of which he became an enthusiastic and studious attendant. He made rapid advancement in his studies, and later was able to attend an academy that afforded him advantages for the broadening of his intellectual horizon. As a lifelong student and reader Governor Saunders was long known for the solidity and breadth of his scholarship, as well as for his mature judgment in relation to the practical affairs of life. Mr. Saunders became postmaster at Mount Pleasant under appointment by President Martin Van Buren, there having been no other aspirant for the position, the salary of which was but twenty dollars a year, thus his appointment having been made under the administration of a Democratic president, though he himself was at the time an ardent supporter of the Whig party. During his incumbency of this position the office and its importance grew materially, so that when President Polk was elected he removed Mr. Saunders from office and appointed a successor. This instance of apparent adversity was the best thing that ever happened for Alvin Saunders. He had been a faithful and efficient official while the emoluments were trifling, and his removal at a time when he was in a fair way to reap the reward of his faithful service aroused considerable indignation among the people of that section, a popular attitude that ultimately rounded to his political advantage. He was the youngest delegate to the Iowa Constitutional Convention of 1846, and in this connection became widely known as a young man of exceptional promise in public affairs. His unyielding opposition to the extension of slavery into the territories, notwithstanding his southern origin, won him, in 1854, an election to the State Senate of Iowa, to which position he was re-elected in 1858. He was a delegate to the first Republican State Convention of Iowa, and aided in laying the foundation of a party that has been almost continuously successful in the Hawkeye State from that day to the present. In 1860 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency, and he formed personal acquaintanceship with Mr. Lincoln, whom he greatly admired and in behalf of whose candidacy he made a spirited campaign canvass of Iowa. That President Lincoln was cognizant of Mr. Saunders' services in his behalf and entertained a flattering estimate of their value was attested by the fact that March 26, 1861, twenty-two days after his inauguration as president, he appointed Mr. Saunders governor of Nebraska Territory."

The foregoing narrative reviews the career of Mr. Saunders up to the time when he identified himself with Nebraska and its people, to whose service he gave the best years of his noble, earnest and distinguished life. He as-

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sumed the office of governor of Nebraska Territory May 15, 1861, and well did he guide the affairs of Nebraska during one of the most critical periods in its history, as will be attested by the following quotations concerning his administration:

"The Civil war was then in progress. The population of the territory was about 29,000, and not only must Nebraska furnish her full quota of soldiers to fight the battles of the Union, but the territory itself must be protected from the raids of warlike Indians. After 3,000 troops had been sent to swell the armies of the North Governor Saunders issued a proclamation exhorting all able-bodied men in the territory to volunteer for frontier service, and the call met with a ready and cheerful response. Long before coming to Nebraska Governor Saunders had been an advocate of a great trans-continental railway, and after assuming the office of governor he never relinquished his ardent enthusiasm for that project. In his first official message to the Nebraska Legislature he expressed the conviction that such a route must ultimately traverse the Platte Valley, and when Congress passed the measure for the construction of this great railway system Governor Saunders was made one of the formal directors of its affairs and its destiny. When the ceremonies attending the breaking of ground for the enterprise were observed, December 2, 1863, Governor Saunders delivered the chief address, and he was subsequently a member of a committee of citizens through whom was conveyed certain property transferred by the city of Omaha to the bridge company for the purposes of the railroad bridge of the Union Pacific between Omaha and Council Bluffs. In his message to the Legislature of 1865 Governor Saunders intimated that he did not contemplate seeking a reappointment to the governorship upon the completion of his term, and before the session was far advanced the Legislature adopted a resolution, which was supported without regard to partisan lines, asking his reappointment, a copy of this resolution having been sent to President Lincoln. It is probable that President Lincoln's last official act was to appoint Governor Saunders for a second term, for when his private room was opened immediately after his assassination the commission of Governor Saunders was found lying open upon the President's table. After the accession of Nebraska to statehood, March 27, 1867, Governor Saunders retired and was succeeded by Hon. David Butler, who had previously been elected by popular vote."

Governor Saunders was a Nebraska delegate to the Republican National Convention of 1868, when General Ulysses Grant was nominated for the presidency, and in 1877 he was elected representative of Nebraska in the United States Senate, in which he was influential in the legislation for the national resumption of specie payment and in that for the correction of the northern boundary line of Nebraska, to the domain of which state 600,000 acres of land were thus added. The last public service of Governor Saunders was

as a member of the Utah commission, a non-partisan board created by Congress in 1883 to effect the elimination of polygamy in Utah. He retained this position four years and then resigned.

Throughout his public career Governor Saunders was engaged in business in Omaha, and he was here the founder, and for several years the president, of the State Bank of Nebraska, which later became the Merchants National Bank. He was one of the original stockholders of the Omaha Smelting Works, was one of the incorporators of the company that constructed the railway line between Omaha and La Platte, now a part of the C. B. & Q. Railroad, he having served as vice-president of the company, and he was largely concerned in the development of the street-railway and gas systems of Omaha, as well as other public utilities. He met with severe financial reverses in the panic of 1875, but he eventually paid every dollar of indebtedness and accumulated another substantial fortune. For a number of years prior to his death the Governor was executive head of the Omaha Real Estate & Trust Company, and he was one of the founders of the Omaha Real Estate Exchange, now known as the Omaha Real Estate Board, and was its first president, in 1886. He was resident vice-president of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition held in Omaha in 1898. Governor Saunders gave large service in the development of the admirable public schools system of the state, and especially the Omaha schools, and in this connection he served in executive positions, including his membership on the Omaha Board of Education. He served as grandmaster of the Nebraska Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was a third-class member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, in recognition of his loyal and patriotic attitude in the period of the Civil war.

In Washington, D. C., on the 11th of March, 1856, was solemnized the marriage of Governor Saunders and Miss Marthena Survillar Barlow, who survives him, at the venerable age of ninety-one years, at the opening of the year 1926, and who was long a gracious leader in the social life of Omaha, where she is held in affectionate regard by all who have come within the sphere of her influence. Governor Saunders is survived also by one son and one daughter, the latter of whom, Mary, is the wife of Russell B. Harrison, of Indianapolis, Indiana, son of the late General Benjamin Harrison, former president of the United States. Charles L. Saunders, the son, is made the subject of specific mention in the following sketch.

CHARLES L. SAUNDERS is the only son of Alvin Saunders, the last territorial governor of Nebraska, whose personal record enters so intimately into the history of the commonwealth. Governor Saunders, whose personal record is given in the preceding sketch, died November 1, 1899. The mother of Charles L.

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Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

Belonging to the First and Second
Generations, with Anecdotes and
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

By

EDWARD H. STILES

For many years a member of the Iowa Bar; member of its House of Representatives, 1863-1864; member of its Senate, 1865-1866; Reporter of its Supreme Court, 1867-1875; author of Complete Digest of its Decisions from the earliest Territorial period to the 56th Iowa Reports.

"In old age alone we are masters of a treasure of which we cannot be deprived, the only treasure we can call our own. The pleasures of memory and the retrospect of the varied images which in an active life have floated before the mind, compensate, and more than compensate, for the alternate pleasures and cares of active life."—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

"Personal anecdotes, when characteristic, greatly enliven the pages of a biography."—SAMUEL SMILES.

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Alvin Saunders was a brother of *Presley Saunders*. He was born in the same County and State, that is to say, in *Fleming County, Kentucky*, in 1817. He located at *Mount Pleasant* in 1836 and engaged in merchandising and banking with his brother, *Presley*. The firm enjoyed a high reputation in that part of the State for many years. He and his brother were instrumental in securing a postoffice at *Mount Pleasant*, and he was commissioned by *President Van Buren*, as Postmaster, a position in which he served seven years. He early became prominent, and was a member of the *Second Constitutional Convention*, in 1846. In 1854 he was a member of the *State Senate* and as an anti-slavery Whig, was an important factor in securing the election of *James Harlan* to the *United States Senate* in 1855. He was one of the organizers of the *Republican Party* and a delegate to the convention assembled for that purpose in 1856. He was a member of the *State Senate* in 1854, 1856, 1858, 1860 and the extra session of 1861, serving in all, eight years in that body. He not only assisted in the election of *Mr. Harlan* to the *United States Senate*, but subsequently in that of *James W. Grimes*. The most useful service perhaps, rendered by him to his constituency, was in securing the establishment of the *Insane Hospital at Mount Pleasant*. The effort was opposed with intense bitterness. The proposed asylum was alleged to be a needless affair, a job started for the benefit of a locality and largely out of proportion to the needs of the State for a century. But for the efforts of *Alvin Saunders*, the project would have been delayed for years, and might have been altogether lost for *Mount Pleasant*.* In 1860 he was chosen a delegate to the *National Republican Convention*, which nominated *Mr. Lincoln* and was a leading and influential member of the delegation. *Professor Herriott* says, "*Alvin Saunders, Charles C. Nourse and Governor S. J. Kirkwood* were probably the most influential *Lincoln* workers among the *Iowans*."* * In 1861 he was appointed by *President Lincoln*, *Governor of Nebraska Territory*, was re-appointed in 1865, and served until it became a State in 1867. He was subsequently elected *United States Senator* from that State for six years. He afterward served for ten years on the *Utah Commission*.

At the reunion of the *Pioneer Law Makers' Association* in 1896, he was present and delivered an address upon the *Convention*, of which he had been a member fifty years before, in 1846, that formed the *Constitution* under which the State was admitted into the *Union*. Of him *Charles Aldrich* said:

Mr. Saunders was an able and successful business man, closely identified with the progress and development of *Iowa* while he resided within the State and equally so of the State of his adoption. He had amassed a handsome fortune, which was swept away by the panic of 1873; but with characteristic foresight and energy he went to work again and not only paid off every dollar he owed, but acquired a sufficient competency to make his last years comfortable. An able, just and honest

* *Annals of Iowa, Third Series, Vol. 4, 316.*

** *Iowa and the First Nomination of Abraham Lincoln, Annals of Iowa, Third Series, Vol. 8, 96.*

man, his life was full of usefulness and he rendered his country and the two states in which he resided valuable service which will long be remembered.

From what has been said, it will be seen that Iowa is greatly indebted to the splendid services of these two brothers. Governor Saunders died at his residence in Omaha, in 1899.

Asbury B. Porter was born in Kentucky in 1808, and was among the earliest settlers of Henry County. He came there in 1835 or 1836. He represented that County three terms in the Territorial Legislature, where he worked zealously for and came very near securing the location of the capital at Mount Pleasant. Mount Pleasant was the choice of the southern portion of the Territory, and Iowa City of the central, and it was only by a very close vote that Mount Pleasant lost the temporary honor of being the Capital City.

The following brief sketch I clipped from the columns of the Mount Pleasant Journal at the time of Colonel Porter's death many years ago:

Colonel Porter was a man of intense patriotism. He was a member of two National Conventions that nominated Clay for the Presidency, and never ceased to be an ardent admirer of that great statesman. In later years he regarded Blaine as being the Clay of modern politics and as enthusiastically favored his nomination for President as he had favored that of Henry Clay. His love for the Union was so strong that although well past the age of military service he was one of the first to organize a company in Henry County and with it, as Captain, entered the service when the first call for seventy-five thousand troops. He was elected Major of the first regiment which was mustered in at Keokuk. Just before the battle of Wilson's Creek he was recommended by General Logan for the position of Major in the regular army, which he declined, preferring to remain with the company he had raised. Shortly afterwards he was commissioned as Colonel by Governor Johnson and authorized to raise the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and it was through his influence that Camp Hartshorn was established near our city and by him named in honor of Senator Hartshorn. He himself purchased the horses for this regiment, being authorized to do so without the usual military restriction, the only instance in the history of the War where a like privilege was given the Colonel of a regiment. He was with his regiment until 1863, when his eyesight failing he returned home, and was appointed Revenue Inspector for the First Congressional District. As a man of Colonel Porter's age were as efficient in organizing troops and arousing enthusiasm for the suppression of the Rebellion as he. He was a man of broad and liberal impulses and made warm and lasting friends. He had unbending energy and a quick discernment of the conditions of public prosperity and a readiness to organize the resources to bring about this end. He was one of the few who have spent a half century of life in Henry County and his name is a name of honorable mention in the history of Iowa and of this county.

Colonel Porter was a man of courage. He greatly distinguished himself in the Battle of Wilson's Creek and received from his superior officers emphatic praise for the gallantry he had displayed. I became acquainted with him soon after the close of the War. Smith in his "Iowa Colonels and Regiments," has thus described him:

Colonel Porter is a spare, sturdy man, with a broad, oval face, beaming with intelligence, and a sparkling eye. I have been invited to dine in the stage coach, in the summer months, by invitation from the gubernatorial convention. I did not know what to expect, but my impression was consequently formed in judgment of his character and capabilities. He is familiar and pleasing in his manners, and

Individual Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

Alvin SAUNDERS (AFN: TQVJ-SD)

Sex: M

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

Event(s)**Birth:** 12 Jul 1815
 , Fleming Co, Ky**Death:** 1 Nov 1899
 Omaha, , Neb.

Parents**Father:** [Gunnell SAUNDERS \(AFN: 4VVT-XV\)](#)**Mother:** [Mary MAUZY \(AFN: 4VVV-67\)](#)[Family](#)

Submitter(s)[Details](#)

About Ancestral File

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You searched for **Alvin Saunders** in **Iowa**

1840 United States Federal Census

Name:	Alvin Saunders
County:	Henry
State:	Iowa Territory
Number of persons in household:	
Ages of persons in household:	View image
Occupation information:	

Source Citation: Year: 1840; Census Place: , Henry, Iowa Territory; Roll 101; Page: 117; Image: 240; Family History Library Film: 0007790.

Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M704, 580 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description:
This database details those persons enumerated in the 1840 United States Federal Census, the Sixth Census of the United States. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to the actual images of the 1840 Federal Census. Enumerators of the 1840 census were asked to include the following categories in the census: name of head of household, number of free white males and females, number of other free persons, names of slave owners and number of slaves, number of foreigners, and town or district and county of residence. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Alvin Saunders in Iowa**

1850 United States Federal Census

Name:	Alvin Saunders	
Age:	36	
Estimated birth year:	abt 1814	
Birth Place:	Kentucky	
Gender:	Male	
Home in 1850 (City,County,State):	Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa	
Family Number:	249	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Mary Saunders	65
	Frances Mackey	44
	Alvin Saunders	36
	William A Saunders	33
	George A Stone	17

Source Citation: Year: 1850; Census Place: Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa; Roll M432_184; Page: 177A; Image: 97.

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1850 United States Federal Census, the Seventh Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color, birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, 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 1850 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Alvin Saunders** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name:	Alvin Saunders	
Birth Year:	abt 1816	
Birth Place:	Kentucky	
Gender:	Male	
Marital Status:	Married	
Census Date:	1856	
Residence State:	Iowa	
Residence County:	Henry	
Locality:	Center	
Roll:	IA_56	
Line:	4	
Family Number:	288	
Neighbors:	View others on page	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Alvin Saunders	40
	Marthena Saunders	21
	Frances Saunders	48

Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, U.T, 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. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Alvin Saunders** in **Iowa**

1860 United States Federal Census

Name:	Alvin Saunders	
Age in 1860:	42	
Birth Year:	abt 1818	
Birthplace:	Kentucky	
Home in 1860:	Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa	
Gender:	Male	
Post Office:	Mount Pleasant	
Value of real estate:	View image	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Alvin Saunders	42
	Marthena Saunders	28
	Charles Saunders	3
	J H Barlow	18
	Frances Miller	51

Source Citation: Year: 1860; Census Place: Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa; Roll: M653_324; Page: 68; Image: 68; Family History Library Film: 803324.

Source Information:
Ancestry.com. 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653. 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description:
This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Eighth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color; birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, 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 1860 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

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<p>Children (2)</p> <p>Charles Saunders B: 1856</p> <p>Mary Angeline Saunders B: 1861</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p>Alvin Saunders</p> <p>B: 12 Jul 1815 in Flemingsburg, Fleming, Kentucky, USA</p> <p>D: 1 Nov 1899 in Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA</p> </div> <p>Marthena Survillar Barlow B: 1836 in Greencastle, Ind</p>	<p>Parents</p> <p>Gunnell Saunders 1783-1848</p> <p>mary magret mauzy 1784-1851</p>
---	---	---

U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900

Name: **Alvin Saunders**

Gender: **male**

Birth Place: **KY**

Birth Year: **1815**

Spouse Name: **Marthena Barlow**

Marriage Year: **1856**

Marriage State: **DC**

Number Pages: **1**

Source Citation: Source number: *1562.001*; Source type: *Family group sheet, FGSE, listed as parents*; Number of Pages: *1*; Submitter Code: .

Source Information:
 Yates Publishing, *U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.
 Original data: This unique collection of records was extracted from a variety of sources including family group sheets and electronic databases. Originally, the information was derived from an array of materials including pedigree charts, family history articles, querie.

Description:
 This database contains marriage record information for approximately 1,400,000 individuals from across all 50 United States and 32 different countries around the world between 1560 and 1900. These records, which include information on over 500 years of marriages, were extracted from family group sheets, electronic databases, biographies, wills, and other sources. [Learn more...](#)

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- *ID:* I4046
- *Name:* Alvin SAUNDERS
- *Given Name:* Alvin
- *Surname:* Saunders
- *Sex:* M
- *_UID:* D414006161B7D5118A2B701C09C14908A357
- *Change Date:* 19 Feb 2009 [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#)
- *Birth:* 12 JUL 1815 in Fleming co, KY
- *Death:* 1 NOV 1899 in Omaha, Douglas co, NE
- *Burial:* 4 NOV 1899 Forest Lawn cem, Omaha, Douglas co, NE
- *Event:* 13065 grave

▪ Ancestry Hints for **Alvin SAUNDERS**

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Father: [Gunnell SAUNDERS](#) b: 27 JUL 1783 in Loudoun co, VA

Mother: [Mary MAUZY](#) b: 15 APR 1784 in Fauquier co, VA

Marriage 1 [Marthena Sevilla BARLOW](#) b: 24 OCT 1834 in Greencastle, Putnam co, IN

- *Married:* 11 MAR 1856 in Washington, DC

Children

1. [Charles L SAUNDERS](#) b: 23 DEC 1856
2. [Mary Angeline SAUNDERS](#) b: 16 NOV 1860

Sources:

1. Abbrev: IA, Henry co, biographical review

- Title: Henry co, Iowa, Biographical Review
Page: 313-314
2. Abbrev: obituary, Saunders, Alvin
Title: Alvin Saunders obituary, Omaha World-Tribune, Omaha, NE, abt 2 Nov 1899 , 1
 3. Abbrev: 1870 census, Saunders, Alvin
Title: Alvin Saunders, 1870 US census, Omaha, Douglas co, NE, p486; National Archives and Records Administration Series M593, roll 829. n, DC: National Archives and Records Administration
Text: Household Members: Name Age
Alvin Saunders 50
Marthena Saunders 36
Charles Saunders 14
Mary Saunders 10
Mary Alemann 50
Repository:
Name: Ancestry.com
Provo, UT
USA
Provo, UT
USA
 4. Abbrev: 1856 IA census, Saunders, Alvin
Title: Alvin Saunders, 1856 Iowa state census, Center, Henry co, IA,; Roll: IA -56 .
Text: Household Members: Name Age
Alvin Saunders 40
Marthena Saunders 21
Frances Saunders 48
Repository:
Name: Ancestry.com
Provo, UT
USA
Provo, UT
USA
 5. Abbrev: 1850 census, Saunders, Mary
Title: Mary Saunders, 1850 US census, Mt Pleasant, Henry co, IA, p177; National Archives and Records Administration Series M432, roll 184. n, DC: National Archives and Records Administration
Text: Household Members: Name Age
Mary Saunders 65
Frances Mackey 44
Alvin Saunders 36
William A Saunders 33
George A Stone 17
Repository:
Name: Ancestry.com
Provo, UT
USA
Provo, UT
USA
 6. Abbrev: 1860 census, Saunders, Alvin
Title: Alvin Saunders, 1860 US census, Mt Pleasant, Henry co, IA, p68; National Archives and Records Administration Series M653, roll 324. n, DC: National Archives and Records Administration
Text: Household Members: Name Age

Alvin Saunders 42
 Marthena Saunders 28
 Charles Saunders 3
 J H Barlow 18 [James H Barlow, brother-in-law]
 Frances Miller 51

Repository:

Name: Ancestry.com
 Provo, UT
 USA
 Provo, UT
 USA

7. Abbrev: 1880 census, Saunders, Alvin
 Title: Alvin Saunders, 1880 US census, Washington, DC, ED 63, p362c; National Archives and Records Administration Series T9, roll 123. National Archives and Records Administration
 Repository:
 Name: Ancestry.com
 Provo, UT
 USA
 Provo, UT
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Repository:

Name: Family History Library
 Salt Lake City, UT 84150
 USA

8. Abbrev: Early Settlers of Sangamon Co
 Title: John Carroll Power with Mrs S A Power, *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois* (Springfield, IL: Edwin A Wilson & Co, 1876) > rs of Sangamon County, Illinois. Springfield, IL: Edwin A Wilson & Co, 1876.
 Page: p637-639

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Home Person



Governor Alvin Saunders

Birth **12 Jul 1817** in Flemingsburg, Fleming, Kentucky, USA
 Death **1 Nov 1899** in Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA

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Media Gallery (see all)

Photos (3)

Stories (1)

Audio(0)

Video(0)



Timeline (View details)

1817 12 Jul	Birth Flemingsburg, Fleming, Kentucky, USA	3 source citations
1856 Age: 39	Marriage to Martha S Barlow DC	1 source citation
1856 Age: 39	Residence Center	1 source citation
1860 Age: 43	Residence Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa	1 source citation
1899 1 Nov Age: 82	Death Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA	

Comments

No comments have been added yet.

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Family Members

Parents

Gunnell Saunders
1783 – 1848

Mary Mauzy
1784 – 1851

[Show siblings](#)

Spouse & Children

Martha S Barlow
1836 –

Other Spouse & Children

No Spouse

Mary Angeline Saunders
1861 – 1944

[Family group sheet](#)

Historical Records

1860 United States Federal Census

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900

[View source citations \(4\)](#)

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Home Person



Alvin Saunders

Birth **12 Jul 1815** in Flemingsburg, Fleming, Kentucky, USA
 Death **1 Nov 1899** in Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA

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Media Gallery (see all)

- [Photos \(3\)](#)
- [Stories \(1\)](#)
- [Audio\(0\)](#)
- [Video\(0\)](#)



Timeline (View details)

1815 <small>12 Jul</small>	Birth Flemingsburg, Fleming, Kentucky, USA	4 source citations
1850 <small>Age: 35</small>	Residence Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa	1 source citation
1856 <small>Age: 41</small>	Marriage to Marthena Survillar Barlow Mt Pleasant, Henry, Iowa, USA	
1856 <small>Age: 41</small>	Residence Center	1 source citation
1860 <small>Age: 45</small>	Residence Mount Pleasant, Henry, Iowa	1 source citation
1899 <small>1 Nov</small>	Death Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, USA	

Comments

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Family Members

Parents

- Gunnell Saunders**
1783 – 1848
- mary magret mauzy**
1784 – 1851

[Show siblings](#)

Spouse & Children

- Marthena Survillar Barlow**
1836 – 1928
- Charles Saunders**
1856 – 1927
- Mary Angeline Saunders**
1861 – 1944

[Family group sheet](#)

Historical Records

- [1850 United States Federal Census](#)
- [1860 United States Federal Census](#)
- [Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925](#)
- [U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900](#)

[View source citations \(5\)](#)

Web Links

There are no weblinks available for this person.

[Search the web for Alvin Saunders](#)

Alvin Saunders

Alvin Saunders was born near Flemingsburg, Fleming County, Kentucky, on July 12, 1817. The son of a farmer, Frinnell , and Mary (Mauzy) Saunders, he lived on homesteads in Fleming County and, after 1829, near Springfield, Illinois. He was educated in the common schools around Springfield where he lived until 1836. Saunders struck out on his own at the age of nineteen, and went to find land in the New Blackhawk Purchase, settling finally at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, which was at that time still a part of the Territory of Wisconsin. At first he worked on a farm, but shortly thereafter hired on as a clerk in the store of a pioneer merchant at Mt. Pleasant. A Whig supporter, he was appointed to be the first postmaster of Mt. Pleasant by Democratic President, Martin Van Buren. His removal from that office by President Polk aroused a swell of indignation that carried Saunders' name to the attention of the general public. As a delegate to the Iowa Constitutional Convention of 1846, his opposition to the extension of slavery into the territories helped him win a seat in the Iowa Senate in 1854, to which he was returned in 1858. The year 1860 found Saunders in the Republican ranks, attending both the Iowa State Republican Convention and the Chicago Convention. In the Chicago convention he became acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, whom he supported vigorously both at the convention and back in Iowa. Saunders' support was acknowledged in March, 1861, only days after Lincoln's inauguration, when he received an appointment to serve as Governor of the Territory of Nebraska. Within two months the Civil War had begun, and on May 18, 1861 Governor Saunders issued his first proclamation, calling for the Counties to organize companies for the purpose of mustering, the First Regiment of Nebraska Volunteers. In July of 1862 it became necessary to organize a company of volunteers for a state militia to combat the depredations of the newly active hostile Indians and border raiders. During the war years, Saunders continued to express his strong support of the trans-continental railroad, of which he had long been an advocate. He was instrumental in the adoption of the measure and was named one of the formal directors of the project. Alvin Saunders was also one of the important men in the group which finally won statehood for Nebraska. In his 1865 message to the legislature, he indicated that he did not intend to seek reappointment to the office, but the legislature disregarded party lines and unanimously petitioned President Lincoln to reappoint him. Saunders was reappointed, and was in office to witness the winning of statehood, after which he retired from office and devoted himself to his private affairs.


Throughout his term of office, he had been active in business affairs in Omaha. He was the founder and President of the State Bank of Nebraska, later the Merchants National Bank, and was one of the original stockholders of the Omaha Smelting Works. He was executive head of the Omaha Real Estate and Trust Company, and one of the founders of the Omaha Real Estate Exchange. In 1868 Saunders was one of the Nebraska delegates to the Republican National Convention, and in 1877 he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he was influential in winning the resumption of specie payments and in the

correction of the northern boundary line of the state. Upon his death at Omaha in November, 1899, he left his wife, Marthena (Barlow) Saunders, and two children.

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1815 - 1899

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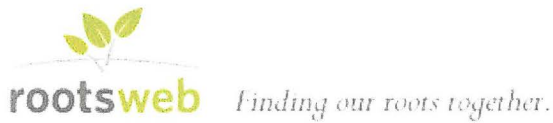
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- ID: I3963
- Name: **Alvin SAUNDERS**
- Given Name: Alvin
- Surname: SAUNDERS
- Sex: M
- Birth: 12 JUL 1815 in Fleming Co, Ky
- Death: 1 NOV 1899 in Omaha, NE
- Emigration: 1829 Springfield, IL
- Emigration: 1836 Mt. Pleasant, Henry Co, IA
- CONF: 1840
- Note: He was appointed postmaster of Mount Pleasant by President Van Buren, and served as such postmaster while Mount Pleasant was in the Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa Territories. Postmaster, Mt. Pleasant, IA
- Event: Iowa State Senate Elected BET 1854 AND 1861
- Event: Delegate Republican National Convention Elected 1860
- Note: He was a member of the Republican national convention, which nominated Abraham Lincoln as president.
- CONF: MAR 26 1861-March 27, 1867
- Note: On March 26, 1861, he was appointed by President Lincoln as Governor of the Territory of Nebraska, which office he held until Nebraska was admitted into the Union as a state, March 27, 1867. Governor of the Territory of Nebraska
- Occupation: Banking, Omaha, NE BET 1867 AND 1877
- Event: U.S. Senator, NE 1 term Elected 1887
- Note: In 1877 he was elected as a member of the United States Senate from the State of Nebraska, which office he held until 1883.
- Event: Fact BET 1840 AND 1899
- Note: He was identified with many important projects and enterprises in Omaha, such as the construction of the Omaha & Southwestern Railroad, the gas works, the smelting works and the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. Public Service Projects
- Burial: 1899 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, NE
- Note:



Alvin (12 Jul 1815 - 01 Nov 1899) married (03 Nov 1856) Martha Barlow.

ALVIN, born July 12, 1817, in Fleming County, Ky., came with his parents to Sangamon County, Ill., in 1828, drove an ox team in breaking prairie and hauling wood to Springfield. He remained with his father until 1836, when he joined his brother Presley at what is now Mt. Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa, then part of the territory of Wisconsin. There were but four families, and not more than a dozen houses in the town. He first hired to a farmer, but soon after found employment as a clerk in a small dry goods store. His education was too limited for the latter position, so he attended night school, and in this way improved himself, and retained his position as clerk. He was the first Postmaster at Mt. Pleasant, and continued in that position seven years, during which time he was in a partnership with his brother Presley, in mercantile business. He was a member of the constitutional convention of Iowa, under which that State was admitted into the Union, and was elected State Senator in 1854. He was a delegate to the first Republican convention of Iowa, which met Feb. 22, 1856. Alvin Saunders was married March 11, 1856, in Washington, D. C., to Marthena Barlow, who was born Oct. 24, 1834, at Greencastle, Ind. She is a niece of Mrs. Senator Harlan. They have two children. CHARLES L., born Dec. 23, 1856, and MARY A., born Nov. 16, 1860, live with their parents. In 1858 Mr. Saunders was elected his own successor to the State Senate. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention of 1860, which nominated Mr. Lincoln as a candidate for President of the United States. He and Mr. Lincoln became

acquainted in Sangamon County, Ill., when both were unknown. During Mr. Saunders' second term as State Senator of Iowa, Mr. Lincoln appointed him, early in 1861, Governor of Nebraska Territory, a position he held for six years, and until Nebraska was admitted to the Union as a State, which he officially announced by proclamation, March 27, 1867. When the Union Pacific Railroad bill passed congress, Gov. Saunders was appointed by that body one of the commissioners to give practical form to the measure, and on Dec. 2, 1863, ground was broken at Omaha by his moving with his own hands the first spade full of earth for the construction of that great thoroughfare. When he was appointed Governor, Nebraska Territory was in debt equal to two dollars per head for every man, woman and child within its limits, and when she was admitted as a State, and Governor Saunders retired, there was sufficient money in the treasury to pay all indebtedness, including the expense of furnishing Nebraska's quota of troops to suppress the great slaveholders' rebellion. Ex-Gov. Saunders resides in Omaha, Nebraska, and is President of the State National Bank of that place.

Alvin Saunders was the first territorial governor of Nebraska. Saunders County, Nebraska is named in his honor.

A PROCLAMATION,

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF NEBRASKA TERRITORY.

In accordance with a custom which has been practiced by most of the States and Territories for many years, and in obedience to what I believe to be right and proper, and a duty on my part, I, Alvin Saunders, Governor of the Territory of Nebraska, do hereby appoint and designate the last Thursday of the present month of November, as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God for his mercies and blessings to us as a people, and recommend and request a general observance of the day in such a manner as will properly show our dependence upon Him for the many favors we have received during the year which is now drawing to a close. During the year our Nation has been favored with such prosperity as few, if any, other people on earth ever enjoyed while prosecuting an internal war. Success has attended our armies, and glorious victories have crowned their efforts on almost every battle-field. General good health has prevailed throughout most of the country, and especially has this been the case in our own beloved Territory. The husbandman has been permitted to reap and gather a bountiful supply of all the necessaries of life, so that none may want or lack anything. How proper it is then, that our people should "keep a feast unto the Lord," and lift up their hearts and voices in praise and Thanksgiving to Him to whom we are indebted for "every good and perfect gift," and when our rejoicings are going up for all these blessings let us not forget the noble and patriotic soldier in the field, nor the widow and the orphan of those whose husbands and fathers sleep with the heroic dead; but let us ask God's blessing upon them, and let us see that they lack for none of the necessaries of life.

Done at Omaha, this 8th day of November, A. D., 1864.

By the Governor:

ALVIN SAUNDERS,
Governor of Nebraska.

ALGERNON S. PADDOCK, Secretary of the Territory.

■ Ancestry Hints for **Alvin SAUNDERS**

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Father: [Gunnell SAUNDERS Jr.](#) b: 27 JUL 1783 in Louden Co, VA

Mother: [Mary MAUZY](#) b: 15 APR 1784 in Fauquier, VA

Marriage 1 [Marthena BARLOW](#)

- *Married:* 1856 in Washington D.C.

Children

1. [Charles L SAUNDERS](#)
2. [Mary SAUNDERS](#)

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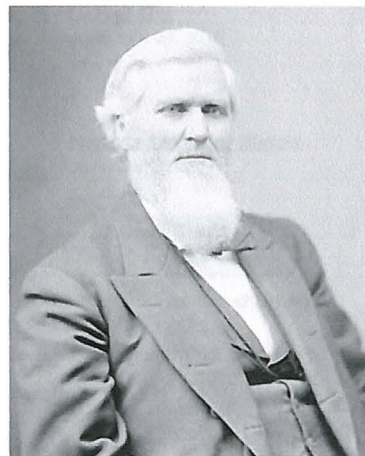
Alvin Saunders

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Birth: Jul. 12, 1817
Death: Nov. 1, 1899
Omaha
Nebraska, USA

US Senator, Civil War Nebraska Territorial Governor. Served as the Governor of Nebraska Territory from 1861 to 1867, in which capacity he was a staunch Union supporter, and facilitated the raising of hundreds of Union troops from Nebraska. Elected as a Senator from Nebraska to the United States Senate, serving as a Republican from 1877 to 1883. He was the grandfather of William Henry Harrison, who served as a three-term Congressman from Wyoming in the 1950s and 60s. (bio by: Russ Dodge)

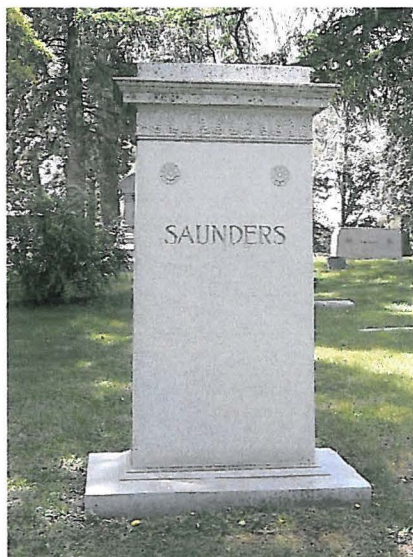


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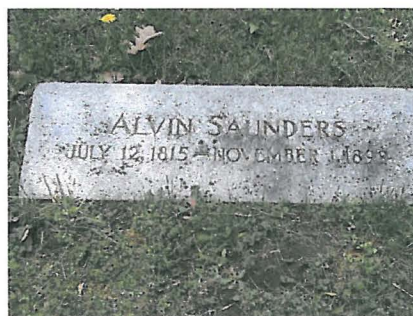
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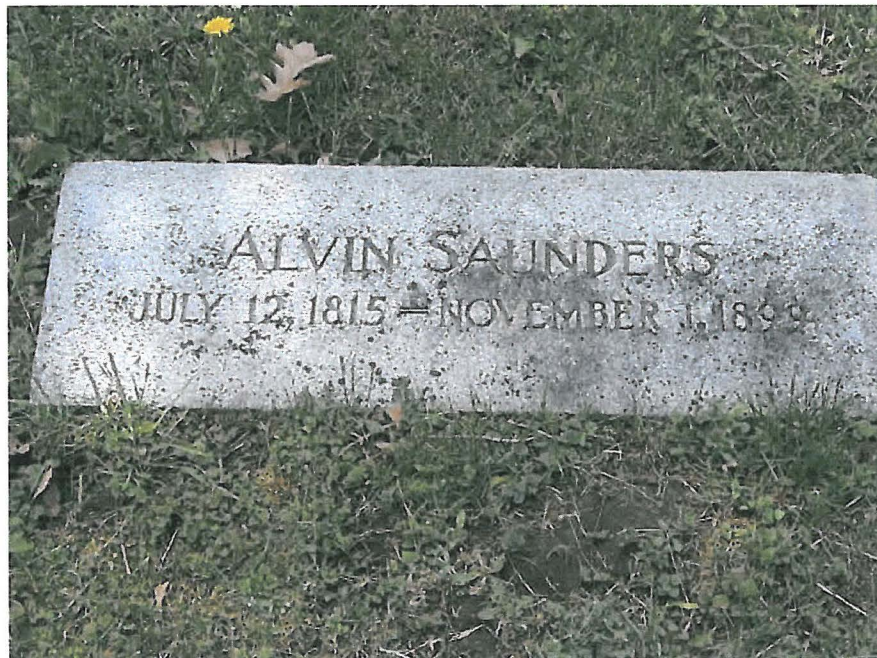
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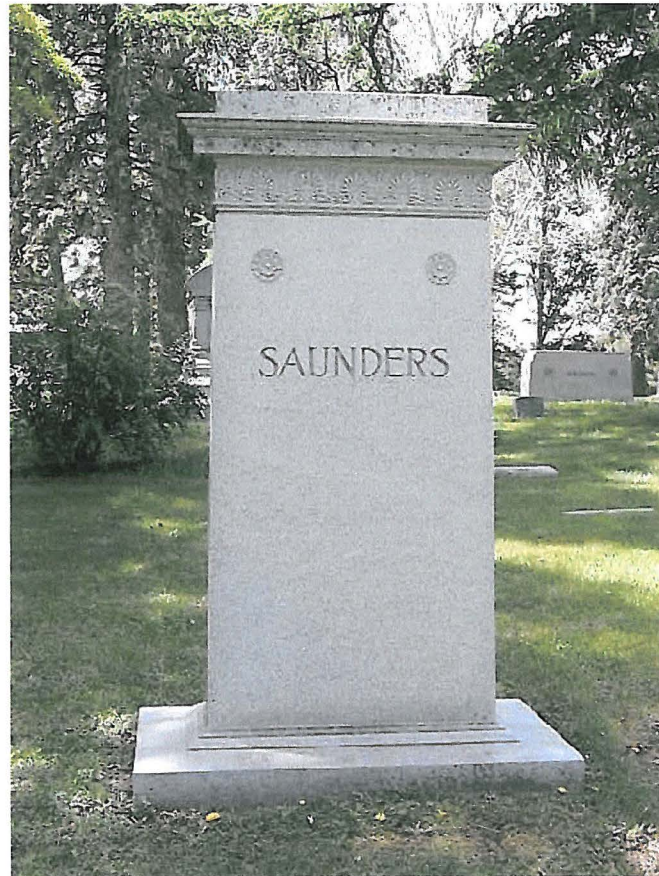
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