

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Meek, Robert Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Van Buren County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 25 Jan 1815 Waynes County, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place  
① Mary Ann Allers 23 Apr 1838 Bonaparte, Iowa

② Nancy Flint 10 Oct 1847 Bonaparte, Iowa

③ Mrs Abigail P. Barber (widow of Dudley C. Barber) 12 Oct 1856 Bonaparte, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession He and his brother were proprietors of a grist, saw and wood mill at Bonaparte, Iowa

4. Church membership Baptist

5. Sessions served 5th General Assembly 1854

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 4 Sept 1885 Bonaparte, Iowa; buried Bonaparte Cemetery, Bonaparte, Iowa

8. Children children by 1st wife - Elizabeth Ann (Mrs. Joseph Sanders); Sarah Jane (Mrs. J. H. Leach); Alvera (Mrs. J. H. Miller); another child died young - children by 2nd wife - Alenda P. (Mrs. P. E. Jaster); William; R. D. Flint; Christy (died in infancy); children by 3rd wife

9. Names of parents William and Elizabeth (Johnson) Meek

Alma L. (died at age 5); Lewis Cass; Robert E.; Oscar L.

10. Education

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

- Spent first fourteen years of his life in Wayne County, Ohio
- Went with parents to St. Joseph, Michigan where near that city his father laid out the town of Constantine.
- In 1835 his father, brother <sup>(Johnson Meek)</sup> and Robert went prospecting in Louisiana and Texas, but were overrun by brigands and so returned to the north.
- In 1836 they visited Lee County, Iowa where the county was in its infancy and gave promise of rapid growth and development and so decided to locate there.
- In 1837 removed his family from St. Joseph, Michigan and all except brother, Johnson Meek, settled in Van Buren County in what is now Bonaparte, Iowa.
- First wife, Mary Ann Meek, d. 3 Oct 1845, b. 1819, bur. Bonaparte Cem.
- Second wife, Nancy Meek d. 1 June 1853, b. 1815, bur. Bonaparte Cem.
- Third wife, Abigail P., b. 1823, d. 1892, bur. Bonaparte Cem.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>History of Van Buren County, Iowa 1878, p. 577</u>			
- <u>Portrait and Biographical Album of Jefferson and Van Buren Counties, Iowa 1890, p. 219-220</u>			
- <u>Obituary - The Keosauqua Republican, Keosauqua, Iowa, Thurs. Sept 10, 1885 p. 2, col. 2</u>			
- <u>A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa 1896, Vol. 1, p. 559-561</u>			
- <u>Familysearch.org (accessed 12 Aug 2011)</u>			
- <u>findagrave.com (accessed 12 Aug 2011)</u>			
- <u>ancestry.com (accessed 12 Aug 2011)</u>			

sauna in the building adjoining Johnston & Topping's law office, and invite the patronage of citizens of this place. Fresh meats of all kinds on hand. Best steak 10 cents per pound.

The Van Buren County Fair Grounds are being put in first class condition for the coming Annual meeting of the Society. Special attention will be given the trotting track, arrangement of stalls, water supply, floral hall and the like. The managers mean business and will spare no pains make it the best Fair in the history of the Association.

Major J. C. McCrary, city, who has been quite sick for a week or more, is now getting better. He was taken while visiting with Mr. George Ellis of Henry township, where he remained until Saturday last when he was able to be brought home.

ATTENTION.

Wm. C. Harper Post No. 69 and the U. S. R. C. No. 16 G. A. R., will have a lunch and candy stand on the Van Buren county Fair grounds near Floral Hall during the coming Fair. A liberal share of the patronage of the people and especially of the soldiers, is solicited.

M. B. Maltbie, D. J. Searight, J. G. Thompson, Mrs. Maggie Maltbie, Mrs. Anna Johnston and Mrs. Anna Monroe, Committee.

A Mother's Fears.

We know that many children have died from the use of cough mixtures containing morphia or opium. But the new remedy—Red Star Cough Cure—is entirely vegetable and harmless, and eminent physicians testify as to its curative powers.

Bob. Bear, Keosauqua, is to be the champion boy in Van Buren county on a foot race. He has out-run our boys here, and in the Milton race last week he was the fastest man yet finished course. He could put his foot in a 300 pound door.

probably satisfied the critical doctors that he was capable of getting away with hard tack and old navy bread in sufficient quantities to keep him in good fighting trim. In scholarship Colin has from the beginning ranked among the first in his class.

Robert Meek, of the firm of Meek Bros., and one of the old and respected residents of Bonaparte, Iowa, died on Friday Morning, Sept. 4, 1885. He was seventy years old and went to his grave after a long and useful life. He was one of the wealthiest of Van Buren county citizens and the woolen and flouring mills of Bonaparte, which he helped to build, are among the best of the kind in the state. Mr. Meek was a firm believer in christianity, and did a member of the Baptist church with which he united some years ago, and of which he has since been a faithful member. His disease was of the stomach and kidneys and of long continuance, but through it all he suffered patiently and met death with the resignation of a good man.

W. M. Morris, son of Samuel Morris, near Bentonsport, and one of our best young men, has engaged as one of the teachers of the Troy academy for the coming year. The Bloomfield Republican says of the school: "A visit to Troy, last Thursday, revealed to us a cozy little country town, very inviting to those who love country villages. The academy building has been fitted up for the term of school which began Monday, and presents a cheerful appearance, with its nicely kept lawn and grove. Mr. Wilbur P. Garrett, the principal, is a stirring young man of very scholarly attainments and his efforts are shown in building up the school again. He has secured, as an assistant, Mr. W. M. Morris, of Bentonsport. The school starts out with an attendance of over fifty."

When Dr. Richmond's Sarsaparilla shall have become the standard medicine of the civilized world, as it is already of America, all ailments arising from the blood, will be universally regarded as trivial. Price \$1.00.

ker, and the convention nominated in a second formal ballot by a majority.

It was a square defeat for the ring, and an untrammelled nomination of the man the delegates wanted, but ever since that the democratic Inquisition fellows here at Keosauqua have been strenuously working to undo what the convention did. And they will do it. They are determined to carry their point. They consider that the rank and file of the party, the quiet industrious farmer members who live throughout the county and voted for Whitaker, won't have spirit and independence enough to protest against setting aside the man they nominated, but that they will meekly walk up and take upon themselves the yoke that their drivers have prepared for them. That is the way these bosses figure it; that all will wheel into line at the crack of their whip. The political ghosts have been sent after Whitaker by the fellows who pull the strings here at Keosauqua and he will have to walk the plank, that is unless he has more firmness than they have figured on. Won't it be a spectacle of bossism, if he is dropped out?

A Wonderful Discovery.

Consumptives and all, who suffer from any affliction of the Throat and Lungs, can find a certain cure in Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Thousands of permanent cures verify the truth of the statement. No medicine can show such a record of wonderful cures. Thousands of once hopeless sufferers now gratefully proclaim they owe their lives to this New Discovery. It will cost you nothing to give it a trial. Free Trial Bottles at J. B. Bleakmore's Drug Store. Large size \$1.00, 2.

Dyspepsia is a weakness of the stomach and the primary cause of nearly all the ailments of the digestive organs. Dr. J. B. Bleakmore's Dyspepsia Cure is a medicine so effective when used against this disease.

Here is what we then said of the resolution.

"We say now, and let it be remembered, that the principal political issue between the republican and democratic parties in Van Buren county this fall has been made and forced on the people by the resolution adopted by the board of supervisors. The resolution was dictated for a political purpose by the democratic ring managers, and as such will be met, and on its justness will the people of the county be called to decide in November. The gauntlet has thus been thrown down and is taken up to be fought out. Let every republican and honorable man of whatever party remember it, and every person worthy of that name never had a grander object to work for than to vindicate from persistent and outrageous persecution the honor of an upright man who ever made his home in Van Buren county. Officially the democratic party has declared war on him in face of repeated vindications, and let it so be met by republicans in solid ranks all over the county."

That is what we said last April, and in face of recent transactions it stands truer and more intense to-day than it did then. And the issue will be met.

HARRISBURG.

The festival at Harrisburg church August 27, was a complete success, the net receipts were \$36.00, which is to go toward buying a settee and carpet for the church. Cool weather and grass hoppers are still on program. Mr. and Mrs. Donnie, of New Brighton Pa., are paying a flying visit to B. B. Vale's Mrs. Donnie's brother. Mrs. Donnie will remain a few weeks however before returning home. Leroy Cass is building a very fine residence for himself at his old home. Mrs. Brady has rented Mrs. R. J. Sturdivant's property in Bonaparte and will move there soon. Mt. Zion has a flourishing Sabbath school, and Rev. Gustaf preaches there every four weeks. Our worthy friend, Jacob Poltsinger of Harrisburg and Mrs. Pender of Bonaparte, were married Sunday Aug. 30. A long and happy life to them is our wish. B. B. Vale proposes to make a grand showing of Chestnut Hops at the State Fair.

The ticket is unexceptionally strong from first class and we congratulate the republican Van Buren county on the good work done in their nominating convention. All of the candidates are strong and peculiarly fitted for the position named, and in this respect they have the advantage of their opponents. The county is republican on a full vote by a safe majority, and the ticket nominated will call out the full strength of the party. Hitherto the county officers have been pretty equally divided between the two parties, but the last campaign engendered a bitterness in local affairs that will tend to draw party lines very close in the coming election. Republicans are on their mettle and we expect to hear a favorable report from them at the next election. There is fight in the ticket from Representative down to Coroner, and if any of them fail of an election we miss our guess. They enter the canvass hopefully, and judging from the temper of the party, and the character of the candidates, they will be successful at the polls in November."

Never Give Up.

If you are suffering with low and depressed spirits, loss of appetite, general debility, disordered blood, weak constitution, headache, or any disease of a bilious nature, by all means procure a bottle of Electric Bitters. You will be surprised to see the rapid improvement that will follow, you will be inspired with new life; strength and activity will return; pain and misery will cease, and henceforth you will rejoice in the praise of Electric Bitters. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by Bleakmore.

FRED HUFFMAN,

west side square Fairfield Iowa, will give the farmers of Van Buren county special prices on Flour. He keeps nothing but the best, will warrant every sack to give satisfaction or money returned. Call for Woodlawn "B" or Old Reliable, they take the lead in Fairfield. April 9.

Itch and Scratches of every kind cured in 30 Minutes by Woodlawn's Sulfur Lotion.

Use as directed. This never fails. Sold by Dr. Wm. Crain, Keosauqua Iowa. Dec. 16, 1885.

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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
VAN BUREN COUNTY,  
IOWA,

CONTAINING

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

A Biographical Directory of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Van Buren County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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CHICAGO:  
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,  
1878.

**MEEK, RALPH F.**, proprietor livery stable, Bonaparte; son of Robert and Nancy Flint Meek; born Aug. 11, 1851, in Bonaparte; was educated in the public schools of his native town; served as clerk and book-keeper in the office of Meek Bros. for several years; commenced his present business in the spring of 1878. Married Miss Gertrude E. Christy, daughter of Thomas Christy; she was born Nov. 26, 1854, in Keosauqua; have two children—Carl E. and Harry C. Democrat.

**MEEK, ROBERT**, of the firm of Meek Brothers, proprietors of Bonaparte Grist, Saw and Woolen Mills, Bonaparte; born Jan. 25, 1815, in Wayne Co., Ohio; his father, William Meek, moved to St. Joseph Co., Mich., in 1829; to Lee Co., Iowa, in the fall of 1836; the following spring, to this county; his father purchased the claim of a Mr. Moffatt, the land upon which he and Dr. P. N. Cresap laid out the town of Bonaparte in 1837; the grist-mills were built by William Meek & Sons in 1844; the woolen-mills in 1853; the latter were burned in 1863; rebuilt by Meek Brothers the same year; the father died Aug. 9, 1863; the mother Jan. 25, 1855; the Meek Bros. assumed control of the mills about 1859. Mr. Meek married Mary A. Allen, of Lee Co., Iowa, April 23, 1838; she was born April 10, 1819; died Oct. 3, 1845; again married, Nancy Flint Oct. 10, 1847; she was born May 24, 1815; died June 1, 1853; again married, Abigail P. Barber Oct. 12, 1856; she was born Oct. 24, 1822; have nine children living, three by each wife—first, Elizabeth A., Sarah and Alvia; second, Alinda P., William and Ralph F.; third, Lewis C., Robert E. and Oscar L.; lost two of second wife's children and one of third. Mr. Meek owns individually about four hundred acres of land and one-half interest in about two thousand acres and one-third interest in about five hundred acres. Member of the Baptist Church; Democrat. The firm of Meek Brothers are among the most solid and enterprising business men of South-eastern Iowa.

Meek & Kerr, lumber dealers, Bonaparte. Morriek, Legrand, far; P. O. Bonaparte.

**MEEK, WILLIAM**, clerk and salesman in the office of Meek Brothers, Bonaparte; son of Robert and Nancy Flint Meek; born in Bonaparte Sept. 29, 1849; educated in the schools of his native town. Married Alice Sharp, of Bonaparte July 3, 1870; she died Sept. 12, 1873; again married, Maggie M. Johnson March 5, 1874; she was born Oct. 27, 1851, in Bonaparte; has four children, two by first wife and two by second wife—Alden H. and Effie, and Shirley R. and Carlotta C.

**MILLER, E. E.**, farmer; P. O. Bonaparte; son of Peter and Mary Miller; born Dec. 18, 1831, in Westmoreland Co., Penn.; came with parents to Van Buren Co., Iowa, in the spring of 1854, and settled in this township; in the spring of 1859, went overland to California; in the spring of 1866, went to Montana; remained till the fall of 1872; returned to Van Buren Co. and purchased his present farm of 228½ acres, valued at \$35 per acre; his father died April 6, 1873. Married Miss Martha W. Ryland, of this county, Dec. 14, 1875; she was born Feb. 4, 1853, in this township; have two children—Glen A. and one infant not named Republican.

Miller, John A., far.; P. O. Bonaparte.

Miller, Joseph, far.; P. O. Bonaparte.

Miller, Simon, teamster, Bonaparte.

Miller, Solomon, far.; P. O. Bonaparte.

**MITCHELL, J. P.**, farmer; Sec. 6; P. O. Bonaparte; son of John and Liddich Mitchell; born July 1, 1831, in Perry Co., Penn.; came with parents to this county in the spring of 1839, and settled in Bonaparte Tp. in the fall of 1842; returned to Pennsylvania and remained till the spring of 1856, then returned to their old farm in Van Buren Co., where his father died July 29, 1875, in the 78th year of his age; he was a native of Armagh Co., Ireland, and emigrated to the United States in 1808, Mr. J. P. Mitchell to California in the spring of 1864, and followed mining; in the spring of 1869, returned and took charge of his father's farm of 165 acres, of which he still has charge and an interest as one of the heirs; his mother is still living on the farm. Mr. Mitchell was never married. Republican.

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

CONTAINING  
FULL PAGE PORTRAITS  
AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF PROMINENT AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS  
OF THE COUNTY  
TOGETHER WITH PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE  
PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
AND GOVERNORS OF THE STATE

CHICAGO:  
LAKE CITY PUBLISHING CO.  
1890.

On the 14th of October, 1846, Mr. Prewitt was again married, his second union being with Nancy C., daughter of James and Mary A. (Miller) Rutledge, both of whom were of Southern birth, the former born May 11, 1781, and the latter October 21, 1787. The place of their nativity is not certainly known, but they lived in South Carolina and Georgia, prior to emigrating to Pike County, Ill. About 1824 they removed to Sangamon, now Menard County, Ill., where Mr. Rutledge built and operated a mill for some time. He afterward kept a tavern in New Salem and subsequently settled on a farm, where he died December 3, 1835. He and his wife were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and were intelligent and industrious citizens, well respected by all. Their family numbered nine children, as follows: Jane O., John M., Anna Mayes, David H., Robert B., Nancy C., Margaret A., William B. and Sarah F. The third child, known in history as Ann Rutledge, was the lady to whom President Lincoln was engaged, and whose death, at the age of twenty-three, spread such a gloom over the young lawyer's life. In 1838 Mrs. Rutledge, with six of her children, removed to Van Buren County, Iowa, locating near the Jefferson County line. She died in Birmingham, that county, December 26, 1878, being over ninety-one years of age at the time of her death.

Mrs. Prewitt was born in White County, Ill. on the 10th of February, 1821, and, with her family, settled in Van Buren County, as above stated. After her marriage she lived on the farm in that county, making it her home until 1880, when she became a resident of Fairfield, which is still her home.

The death of Mr. Prewitt occurred on the 9th of February, 1864, and was the cause of deep regret throughout the entire community. He was a man that looked with wistful eyes to the moral advancement of the community and in every way possible aided in the triumph of right over wrong. He served as an Elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and made his religion a part of his life. Politically, he was a Republican, but he loved the quiet of his home more than the excitement of a public career, and in consequence never sought

political distinction. He was not of a grasping disposition, but always strove to make his family comfortable, and was ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

The rearing and educating of the children fell largely upon Mrs. Prewitt, who tenderly and carefully performed the duty thus left to her. The record of her children, four in number, is as follows; David, the eldest, died at the age of twenty-four years, leaving a wife and two children; Mary E. died in infancy; Anthony M. is a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, now engaged in pastoral work in California; and William S., an expert stenographer, is court reporter for the district. Mrs. Prewitt and her youngest son are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



**R**OBERT MEEK is numbered among the honored pioneer settlers of Van Buren County, Iowa, and well deserves representation in this volume for he has been prominently identified with the growth and upbuilding of the county and the advancement of its interests. By written record we can perpetuate the memory of the founders of the county and make them and their lives known to coming generations who, with gratitude, should honor them for the noble work which they have performed.

Robert Meek was born in Wayne County, Ohio, on the 25th of January, 1815, and there spent the first fourteen years of his life. He then accompanied his parents on their emigration to St. Joseph, Mich. Near that city his father laid out the town of Constantine. In 1835, in company with his father, and brother, Johnson Meek, he went on a prospecting tour to the South, visiting in Louisiana and Texas, but the latter was overrun with brigands, and not caring to make a location in the former, they returned to the North and in 1836 visited Lee County, Iowa, where Johnson made a location. Although the county was then in its infancy it gave promise of rapid growth and development, and Mr. Meek determined here to locate, so after se-

lecting land, in the spring of 1837, he retraced his steps to St. Joseph, Mich., in order to remove with the family to their new home. With the exception of one son, Johnson, all came to Van Buren County, Iowa, and with the history of this community the name of Meek has since been inseparably connected. The family located in what is now the town of Bonaparte, but the place had not then been founded. The county was wild, contained but few settlers and the greater part of the land was still in its primitive condition. The first meal of victuals our subject ate was in the home of James Jordan, and at the same table sat the celebrated Indian chief, Black Hawk.

Robert Meek was three times married. In 1838 he was joined in wedlock with Miss Mary Ann Allen, and of their union were born four children, three of whom lived to mature years. Elizabeth Ann, born in 1839, is the wife of Joseph Sanders, of Bonaparte; Sarah Jane is the wife of J. F. Leach, of Milton, Van Buren County; and Alvira, who became the wife of J. W. Miller, died at her home in this county in 1884. The mother of this family went to her final rest October 3, 1845, and for his second wife Mr. Meek chose Miss Nancy Flint, a native of New York. Their union was blessed with four children, two sons and two daughters, but one of the latter died in infancy. Alinda P. is the wife of S. E. Foster, of Jackson Township, Van Buren County; William married Miss Alice Sharp, who died leaving two children, Alden and Effie, and for his second wife wedded Miss Maggie M. Johnson, by whom he had four children—Shirley, Charlotte, Georgia and William. This family now resides in Denver, Col. R. Flint married Miss Gertie Christy, who is now deceased, and unto them were born four sons, of whom three are living—Carl, Harry and R. Guy. Mrs. Nancy Meek died June 1, 1853, and a third time Mr. Meek was married, that union being with Mrs. Abigail P. Barber, widow of Dudley C. Barber. She was born in St. Lawrence County N. Y., and by her second union became the mother of four children—Alma I. who died at the age of five years; Lewis Cass, of Bonaparte; Robert E., who is living in this county; and Oscar L., of Polk County, Iowa.

Robert Meek, whose name heads this sketch, was

identified with many of the leading interests of Van Buren County. Being among its earliest settlers, he shared in the trials and hardships of pioneer life. He made his home in the community when the Indians far outnumbered his white neighbors, when wild animals, such as wolves, were frequently seen and when deer and other wild game was found in abundance. The growth of the county he witnessed, watching its transformation from an unbroken wilderness to a tract of rich fertility, whose well-cultivated farms are equal to any in the State. He saw the pioneer log cabins replaced by commodious and substantial residences, villages transformed into cities and towns springing up on every hand, while churches and schools have been built, thus showing the onward march of civilization.



**C**HARLES P. SIPPEL, of Fairfield, Jefferson County, has been Clerk of the District Court since 1883, and during the seven years in which he has discharged the duties of that office, has won hosts of friends, alike for his courteous treatment and the able manner in which he fills the position. He is of German birth, and a son of Justus P. and Gertrude (Dippel) Sippel, who were also natives of the same country, and passed their entire lives in that land.

Our subject was born on the 3d of March, 1841, in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and when a lad of sixteen years, bidding good by to home and fatherland, he sailed for the New World, determined to try his fortune in the country of whose prospects and opportunities he had so often heard. He spent the succeeding year after his arrival in New York, and then went to Lebanon County, Pa., where he remained until the war. The condition of the slaves in the South appealed to his sympathies, and seeing that his country's honor and freedom were imperiled, he resolved to strike a blow in her defense. Enlisting in September, 1861, he was assigned to Company G, of the Ninety-third Pennsylvania Infantry, and served for three years, receiving his dis-

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A MEMORIAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

RECORD OF IOWA

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ILLUSTRATED

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"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."—MACAULAY.

"Biography is by nature the most universally profitable, universally pleasant, of all things."—CARLYLE.

"History is only biography on a large scale."—LAMARTINE.

VOL. I

CHICAGO  
THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

1896

Fairfield, where he has since maintained his abode.

In his early life our subject was an adherent of the Whig party, and he continued his allegiance to the same until 1853, when he joined the ranks of the Democracy and practically began his political life in active opposition to Know-nothingism and the principle of protective tariff. While a resident of Cedar township he served for many years as School Director, and in 1871 he was the candidate of his party for Representative in the State Legislature and won a decisive victory at the polls, serving with fidelity and marked ability through the session of 1872 and the special session of the General Assembly of 1873. In 1885 distinguished preferment was conferred upon Mr. Campbell by President Cleveland, who appointed him United States Marshal for the southern district of Iowa, which incumbency he retained for four and one-half years. For many years our subject has been an active and influential factor in the ranks of the Democratic party, having served for a full decade as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee and having contributed liberally of his time and tangible means to the support of his party and its principles.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell became the parents of eight children, of whom five are living. A record concerning the children is in brief as follows: Amelia died in infancy; John M. is in the grain business in Chicago; Mary Belle is the wife of N. S. Bright, a hardware merchant of Fairfield; Alice married Joseph M. Acheson, a prominent lawyer of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, now deceased, and she later became the wife of William E. Thompson; Robert died in infancy; Anna Cora is the wife of Samuel C. Farmer, Jr., of Chicago; Conlin E. is a resident of Chicago; and William Clifford died at Fairfield, in December, 1887, at the age of twenty-seven years.

Mr. Campbell has been an indefatigable student from his early youth, and possesses scholarly attainments of a high order. His reading has been varied and comprehensive,

and with his retentive mentality, his power of classification and assimilation and his taste for the intellectual, he has familiarized himself with the best literature of both ancient and modern times and possesses a versatility of knowledge rarely found in one who has made his own way in the world and who has been denied the advantages of a collegiate education. During his thirty years' residence in Iowa Mr. Campbell has acquired an extensive acquaintance among the leading men of the State, and in his business relations he enjoys the reputation of being upright and honorable in every particular and of being liberal and public-spirited wherever he can aid any worthy enterprise. In social relations he is deservedly popular, and possessing, as he does, a rare fund of information and a spontaneous humor, he is a most graceful *reconteur* and interesting companion.

**H**UGH H. MEEK.—The subject of this review is concerned with an industry which is not only the most important in the thriving village of Bonaparte, but one which is distinctively conspicuous among the manufacturing and commercial enterprises of the great State of Iowa. It is also interesting to note the fact that our subject is a native son of Bonaparte, and that his paternal grandfather was one of the pioneers of the place and the founder of this magnificent undertaking which has had such an important influence upon the progress and prosperity of the little city. Our subject is senior member of the firm of Meek Brothers, proprietors of the celebrated woolen and flouring mills and pants factory at Bonaparte, Van Buren county.

These mills had their inception in the year 1853, the original industry having been established by William Meek and his three sons, Robert, Isaiah and Joseph. They erected the first flouring and saw mill in this county, in 1838. The rise of such an industry has many points of interest, and in the case at hand we can not trace the personal and ancestral history of our

subject without taking due cognizance of the great enterprise with which the family have been concerned since the early pioneer days. The grandfather, William Meek, first came to Bonaparte in the year 1837, and his prescience of future developments and the maturity of his judgment were unmistakably shown in the circumstance that in the then primitive community he secured the now very valuable water-power of Bonaparte. He and his three sons continued to operate the little grist and saw mill until 1844, when the old buildings were torn down, and they erected what are now known as the Bonaparte Mills, the original designation, however, having been the Meek Mills. For a radius of forty miles in every direction the people came to award their patronage to these mills in the early days, and after a time the work so accumulated that many patrons were compelled to camp out in the vicinity and await their turn to be served,—often encountering a delay of two weeks before their work could be accomplished, though the mills were run to their fullest capacity.

Although the original founder, William Meek, died in 1863, his three sons continued operations very successfully until 1878, at which time it became imperative that greater accommodations be provided; and the old mills were accordingly torn down to give place to the present commodious and substantial brick structure, which is 40 x 50 feet in dimensions and three stories in height, in addition to the basement. The mill is equipped with the latest improved machinery and all modern conveniences for facilitating the work of production, and its capacity is for the output of seventy-five barrels of flour per diem. The flour milling industry was attended with so eminent a degree of success that, in 1853, Mr. Meek and his sons enlarged their scope of operations by erecting what were known as the Bonparte Woolen Mills, these being the first of the sort in southern Iowa. The original building in which this industry was installed was a brick and stone structure, and this was utilized until July, 1863, when it was destroyed by fire.

The firm immediately rebuilt, and the result is the present well equipped factory, which is 50 x 85 feet in dimensions, four stories in height, besides attic, and substantially constructed of stone and brick. The cost of the building was \$25,000, while the mechanical equipment of the factory entailed the expenditure of \$50,000. This mill furnishes employment to a corps of operatives varying from 190 to 200 individuals, and its products include cassimeres, blankets, flannels and stocking yarn.

In 1889 Isaiah Meek became concerned in the supplementing of the industry last noted by establishing a factory for the manufacture of pants, this enterprise demanding the retention of about seventy-five operatives, while the products are manufactured from the cassimeres turned out by their own looms. The trade controlled in this line ramifies throughout the most diverse sections of the Western States.

William Meek, the founder of this great enterprise, was a native of Pennsylvania, but passed the greater portion of his youth and early manhood in Virginia, where was consummated his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Johnson, who was a native of the Old Dominion State. In 1827 Mr. Meek emigrated westward, having passed some time in Wayne county, Ohio. In 1829 he located in St. Joseph county, Michigan, and was there engaged in farming and milling for a period of about eight years. In the month of July, 1837, he came to Iowa and took up his abode in Bonaparte, with whose history and development he became so conspicuously identified, having thus incidentally been a pioneer of three different States of the Union.

Hugh H. Meek, the immediate subject of this review, was born in the village of Bonaparte, Iowa, on the 4th of June, 1851, being the eldest of three brothers. His father, Isaiah Meek, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, January 31, 1821. The latter accompanied his parents on their removal to Bonaparte, in 1837, the genealogy of the Meek family trac-

ing back to stanch old Scotch-Irish stock. The honored father of our subject entered into eternal rest April 8, 1892, his demise occurring in the village which had been his home and field of endeavor for so many years. The mother of Hugh H. Meek was Cynthia Ann (Ingels) Meek, and she was born in the vicinity of Indianapolis, Indiana, in the year 1827, being the daughter of Joseph Ingels, who was of English descent.

Our subject passed his boyhood days in this his native village, receiving his preliminary educational discipline in the public schools, after which he took a commercial course at Burlington College, and later entered Bryant & Stratton's Business College of San Francisco. Returning to Bonaparte he assumed a position as traveling salesman for the firm of Meek Brothers, and he continued to represent the firm in this way for a period of twenty years, the trade territory covered by him comprising some ten of the Western States. After the death of his father he quit the road and has been engaged in the business, taking the position left vacant by his honored parent, and associating himself with his brothers, Byron F. and Kirk, in the carrying on of the great industry which had been established by their grandfather so many years previous. The firm name of Meek Brothers was retained and the three brothers still operate under that title, which is known and honored throughout a wide section of the West and Southwest. The firm is now represented to the trade through the medium of six traveling representatives, who cover the Southern States, as well as those of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Nevada.

In addition to his interests in the important line already noted, Mr. Meek is prominently concerned in a financial way with other enterprises, in which connection it may be noted that he is a stockholder and director of the Farmers & Traders' Bank, at Bonaparte, and that he is also a stockholder in the Van Buren County Bank, in Farmington. He is a man of broad mentality and notable business sagacity

and executive ability, but he has not been confined to selfish or sordid limitations, but has ever been animated by a generous public spirit, and has been foremost in promoting the welfare of the community through consistent and normal channels, and is distinctively one of Bonaparte's representative men.

In 1870, Hugh H. Meek was married to Mary C. Spaug, who died in 1871. His second marriage occurred in 1875, when he wedded Miss Narrie Duncan, of Mercer county, Missouri, the daughter of Hazzard and Susan Duncan.

In political sentiment and adherency Mr. Meek is a stalwart supporter of the Democratic party and its principles, and he has been a prominent worker in the cause of his party, both locally and as applied to State politics. Fraternally he is prominently identified with the noble order of Freemasonry, having advanced to the Knights Templar degree, retaining a membership in Elchanan Commandery, No. 28, at Keosauqua.

**J**OHAN W. ELERICK, M. D.—From no source have the learned professions and the ranks of those concerned with the great business industries of the Union been recruited so largely as from the farms, which in more senses than one represent the basis of our national prosperity. Here have been reared to manhood boys who have learned the value of consecutive industry and gained an appreciation of the higher and absolute ethics of life. Thus has been furnished the element of greatest strength and greatest permanency. The subject of this review is one of leading physicians and surgeons of Keosauqua, and his ancestral history is one of long identification with American annals, while his parents were entitled to be classed among the honored pioneers of the State of Iowa.

The Doctor is a native of the old Buckeye State, having been born on a farm in the vicinity of Centerville, Belmont county, Ohio,

# Family Group Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

## Husband's Name

[Robert MEEK](#) (AFN:S043-QF)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 25 Jan 1815      **Place:** , Wayne, Oh  
**Died:** 4 Sep 1885      **Place:**  
**Buried:**                      **Place:** Bonaparte, Van Buren, Ia, Bonaparte Cem.  
**Married:** 23 Apr 1838      **Place:** Bonaparte, Van Buren, Ia

**Father:** [William MEEK](#) (AFN:8X8F-PF)

[Family](#)

**Mother:** [Elizabeth JOHNSON](#) (AFN:8X8F-9C)

## Wife's Name

[Mary Ann ALLEN](#) (AFN:1VPJ-44P)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 10 Apr 1819      **Place:** <Bonaparte, Van Buren, Ia>  
**Died:** 3 Oct 1845      **Place:**  
**Married:** 23 Apr 1838      **Place:** Bonaparte, Van Buren, Ia

**Father:**

**Mother:**

## Children

### 1. Sex Name

**M** [Boneparte MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J5M)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** Abt. 1859      **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>

### 2. Sex Name

**M** [Milton MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J6T)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** Abt. 1861      **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>

### 3. Sex Name

**M** [Robert Elmer MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-HW1)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 21 Jan 1861      **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 16 Sep 1930      **Place:**

### 4. Sex Name

**M** [Oscar Lelan MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-HX7)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 23 Feb 1863      **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 29 Jan 1928      **Place:** Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Ca

### 5. Sex Name

**F** [Mary MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J37)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 22 Apr 1853      **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 11 Oct 1853      **Place:**

### 6. Sex Name

**M** [Lewis Cass MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-HVS)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 28 May 1859      **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 6 Jun 1928      **Place:** Rush, Ar

### 7. Sex Name

F [Elizabeth Ann MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J0L)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 1 Jul 1839 **Place:** Boneparte, Ia  
**Died:** 18 Jun 1900 **Place:**

---

8. **Sex Name**

F [Alvira MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-HZF)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 1 Jul 1843 **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 23 Sep 1884 **Place:**

---

9. **Sex Name**

F [Alma Ida MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J4F)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 20 Jul 1857 **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 24 Apr 1863 **Place:**

---

10. **Sex Name**

M [Ralph Flint MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-HTL)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 11 Aug 1851 **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>

---

11. **Sex Name**

F [Alinda Pamela MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J1S)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 26 Aug 1848 **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>

---

12. **Sex Name**

M [William MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-HSD)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 29 Sep 1849 **Place:** <Lee County, Ia>

---

13. **Sex Name**

F [Sarah MEEK](#) (AFN:20PM-J21)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 23 Nov 1840 **Place:** <Boneparte, Ia>  
**Died:** 22 Sep 1892 **Place:** Milton, Ia

---

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You searched for **Robert Meek** in **Iowa**

### Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

Name: **Robert Meek**  
 Census Date: **1847**  
 Residence state: **Iowa**  
 Residence County: **Van Buren**  
 Roll: **IA\_117**  
 Line: **34**  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Robert Meek</a>	

#### 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. [Learn more...](#)

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You searched for **Robert Meek** in **Iowa**

### 1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **Robert Meek**  
 Home in 1880: **Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa**  
 Age: **65**  
 Estimated Birth Year: **abt 1815**  
 Birthplace: **Ohio**  
 Relation to Head of Household: **Self (Head)**  
 Spouse's Name: **A. P. Meek**  
 Father's birthplace: **Pennsylvania**  
 Mother's birthplace: **Pennsylvania**  
 Neighbors: [View others on page](#)  
 Occupation: **Manuf. Of Woolen Goods**  
 Marital Status: **Married**  
 Race: **White**  
 Gender: **Male**  
 Cannot read/write:  
 Blind: [View image](#)  
 Deaf and dumb:  
 Otherwise disabled:  
 Idiotic or insane:

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">Robert Meek</a>	65
	<a href="#">A. P. Meek</a>	57
	<a href="#">R. E. Meek</a>	19
	<a href="#">O. L. Meek</a>	17
	<a href="#">M. E. Wire</a>	23
	<a href="#">Alice M. Roderick</a>	14

**Source Citation:** Year: 1880; Census Place: *Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa*; Roll: 367; Family History Film: 1254367; Page: 463A; Enumeration District: 33; Image: 0253.

#### Source Information:



Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site.

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

#### Description:

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

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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

 **Robert Meek**

**Born:** 25 Jan 1815  
Wayne, Ohio, USA

**Died:** 4 Sep 1885  
Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA

[View person's info](#)

[William Meek](#)[Elizabeth Johnson](#)[Robert Meek](#)[Elizabeth Alexander](#)[Abel Johnson](#)[Anne Alexander](#)[See Pedigree View](#)

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## Family Groups

## Spouse 1

[Mary A Allen](#)**Born:** 10 Apr 1819 in Lee, Iowa, USA  
**Died:** 3 Oct 1845 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA**Marriage:** 23 Apr 1838 in Lee, Iowa, USA[View Info](#)

## Children

**Sex Birth**

<a href="#">Elizabeth Ann Meek</a>	F	1 Jul 1839 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Sarah Jane Meek</a>	F	23 Nov 1840 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Elvira Meek</a>	F	1 Jul 1843 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA

## Spouse 2

[Abigail P Flint](#)**Born:** 24 Oct 1822 in Potsdam, Saint Lawrence, New York, USA  
**Died:** 22 Apr 1892 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA**Marriage:** 12 Oct 1856 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA[View Info](#)

## Children

**Sex Birth**

<a href="#">Alma Ida Meek</a>	F	2 Jul 1857 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Lewis Cass Meek</a>	M	28 May 1859 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Robert Elmer Meek</a>	M	21 Jan 1861 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Oscar Lelan Meek</a>	M	23 Feb 1863 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA

## Spouse 3

[Nancy Flint](#)**Born:** 24 May 1815 in Potsdam, Saint Lawrence, New York, USA  
**Died:** 1 Jun 1853 in Van Buren, Iowa, USA**Marriage:** 10 Oct 1847 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA[View Info](#)

## Children

**Sex Birth**

<a href="#">Alinda Pamela Meek</a>	F	26 Aug 1848 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">William Meek</a>	M	9 Sep 1849 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Ralph Flint Meek</a>	M	11 Aug 1851 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA
<a href="#">Mary Alice Meek</a>	F	22 Apr 1853 in Bonaparte, Van Buren, Iowa, USA



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First Name  Last Name

Robert  Meek

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#### Source Information:

Ancestry.com. *Iowa Marriages to 1850* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 1997.  
Original data: Dodd, Jordan R, et. al., *Early American Marriages: Iowa to 1850*. Bountiful, UT, USA: Precision Indexing Publishers, 19xx.

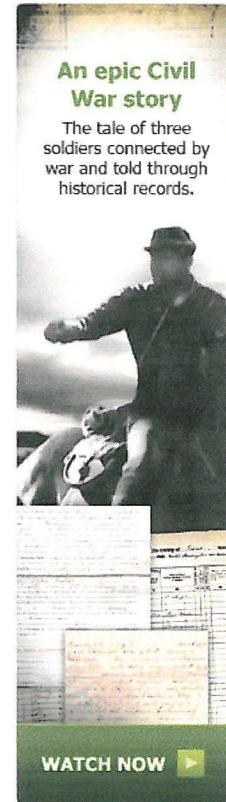
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## Robert Meek

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Abigail P. *Flint Barber* Meek (1822 - 1892)  
 Mary Ann *Allen* Meek (\_\_\_\_ - 1845)\*  
 Nancy *Flint* Meek (\_\_\_\_ - 1853)\*

## Children:

Alma Ida Meek (\_\_\_\_ - 1863)\*  
 Elizabeth Ann *Meek* Sanders (1839 - 1900)\*  
 Alvira *Meek* Miller (1843 - 1884)\*  
 Robert Elmer Meek (1861 - 1930)\*

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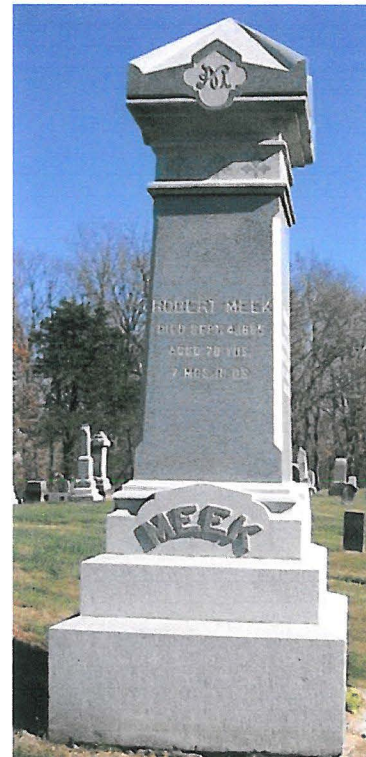
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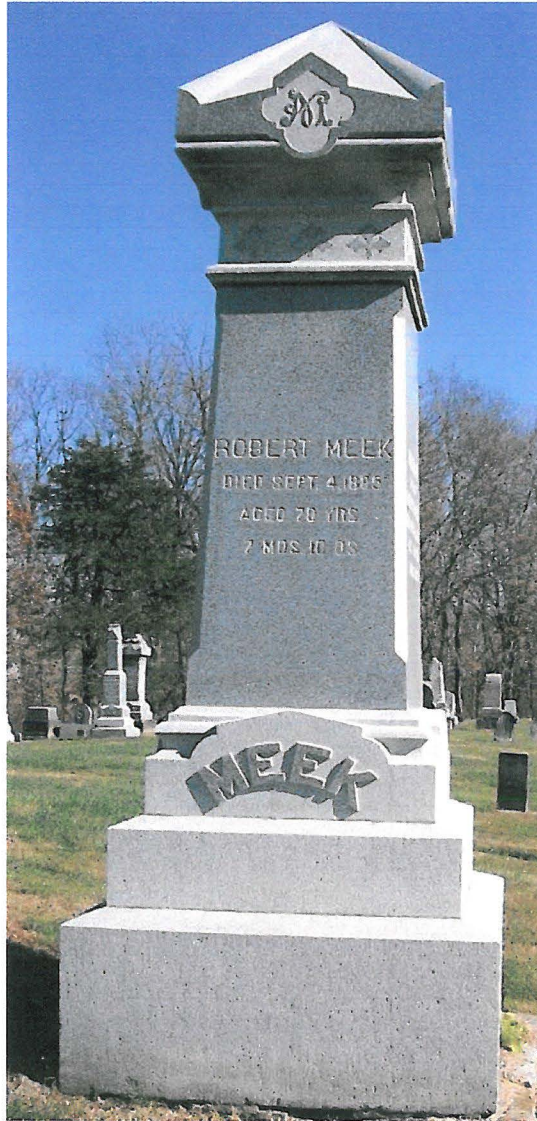
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