

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Leffingwell, William E. Senator Leffingwell,
William E. - Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 9 Oct 1822 New London, Connecticut

2. Marriage (s) date place

Celinda Walrod

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Admitted to the bar before Iowa became a state

B. Civic responsibilities Mayor

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 1st General Assembly 1846 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 3rd, 4th General Assemblies 1850, 1852 - Senate

A. Local

B. State Chief clerk of the House of Representatives 1848; district judge of Clinton, Scott, Jackson and Muscatine counties

C. National

7. Death 13 Aug 1884 Lyons, Iowa; buried Oakland Cemetery, Clinton, Iowa

8. Children William Bruce; Frank; Mrs. Dr. Mitchell

9. Names of parents William and Jannet (Lewis) Leffingwell

10. Education Attended school until age 12

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

- He came with his parents in 1839 to Iowa settling on a farm in Muscatine County. Later they moved into the town of Muscatine.
- His father was prominent and held several important positions in Muscatine County.
- He studied law in the office of Judge Hastings in Muscatine
- He practiced law with his brother, A. J. Lettingwell from 1867-1874
- Military service - Civil War - Captain of 15th Cavalry but relieved of duty of his "Hawkeye Rangers"

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>Obituary - The Clinton Weekly Age, Clinton, Iowa, Fri. Aug 15, 1884, p. 1, col. 4</u>			
- <u>Album of Clinton County, Iowa, 1886, p. 239-240</u>			
- <u>History of Clinton County, Iowa, 1916, pp. 33, 38, 58, 65-66, 184, 353, 366, 417, 502, 559</u>			
- <u>Recollections and Sketches by Stiles, 1916, p. 9-38</u>			
- <u>Funeral notice - The Clinton Age, Clinton, Iowa, Fri. Aug 22, 1884, p. 8, col. 2</u>			

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Hon. Wm. E. Leffingwell, one of Clinton county's oldest settlers and a prominent jurists of the Northwest, died at his home in Lyons last Wednesday at the age of 63 years. For over thirty years Judge Leffingwell has been well and favorably known all through the Northwest not only for his brilliant powers as an attorney and statesman but for the many sterling qualities which go to make the man. Since his removal to Clinton county Mr. Leffingwell has held many positions of honor and trust. At the outbreak of the war Mr. Leffingwell was among the first to put his shoulder to the wheel in raising troops.

For many years deceased has been a Free Mason and at one time held the highest state office in the gift of that order. At the time of his death he was a member in good standing of the various higher degrees of Scottish rite masonry and was highly esteemed by all the fraternity.

For a number of years past he has resided in Chicago, but his failing health compelled him to relinquish practice in the courts, and he returned to his home in Lyons in hopes of regaining his health. But it was too late; hard mental work had so thoroughly undermined his constitution that a rally was impossible and he passed quietly away, surrounded by friends and relatives. The entire community are sincere in their sympathy with the bereaved family.

He leaves a widow, two sons, Frank and W. B. and a daughter, Mrs. Dr. Mitchell. The funeral will take place under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity to-day.

The Democratic Caucus
Will be held at City Hall on Saturday evening Aug. 23, at 7:30 o'clock, to select twenty-five delegates to attend the County

THE CLEVELAND AND HENDRICK CLUB.

The Organization Wednesday Event

Pursuant to call the Democrats of city met at Music Hall, Wednesday night to organize a Cleveland and Hendrick club. The hall was filled with earnest terminated Democrats, representing the boring and other classes of our city.

The meeting was called to order by E. H. Thayer, upon whose motion E. Larkin Upton was chosen as temporary chairman, with A. L. Schuyler, Esq. Secretary.

On motion the temporary officers were made permanent. Mr. Thayer from committee appointed to draft a constitution reported that the committee had discharged its duty in the premises and stated that the constitution was in the hands of Secretary.

The constitution as presented by committee was then read and certain blanks filled and adopted by a unanimous vote.

On motion the club proceeded to the election of permanent officers to consist of President, a Vice President from each ward, Secretary and Treasurer which are as follows:

- President—Larkin Upton.
- Vice Presidents—1st Ward E. C. Walker
2d " C. M. Baldwin
3d " W. M. Desmoulin
4th " T. W. Hall.
- Secretary—A. I. Schuyler.
- Treasurer—L. B. Wadleigh.

Mr. Upton made a brief speech in which he thanked the club for the honor thus conferred upon him.

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

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The Congregational Sunday school had a pleasant picnic at Stony Point, Tuesday. The ferry boat did the transportation.


The lawn sociables of last week were so well attended and such enjoyable affairs that several others are "cooking" and will be announced soon.

A tramp was nipped off the street car Saturday night on suspicion of having been implicated in the robbery at Bryant, but as no evidence was introduced against him he was discharged.

Our citizens are beginning to find out more than ever that it pays them to go to Clinton to trade, and an increased number do their shopping in that city. The real cause of this must be the bargains offered by the Clinton merchants.

The funeral of the late Wm. E. Leffingwell occurred Friday morning at 10 o'clock, with brief services at the house and the elaborate ritual services of Delphic Chapter Rose Croix, Scottish Rite Masons. The services at the house were conducted by Rev. Sidney Crawford. At 10:30 the body was taken in charge by the Masonic fraternity and the funeral cortege moved to Oakland cemetery where the Masonic funeral services were conducted by G. M. Curtis, Master. W. W. Sanborn, Esq., had general charge of the funeral. The following gentlemen, members of Delphic Chapter, were pall bearers: Chas. M. Curtis, H. A. Hart, H. F. Bowers, Z. DeGroat, Artemus Lamb, J. S. Jenkins, R. A. Lyon, C. A. Warner.

There was some dissatisfaction expressed last Saturday because the Heywood combination went to Clinton for their hotel accommodations. This was not the fault of the manager but was for lack of hotel accommodations in this city. It is not the show people alone who give Lyons hotels the go-by but commercial travelers prefer to put up at Clinton hotels. A new and commodious hotel put up in this city and conducted in a first-class manner, would pay



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~~was again subdivided into two circuits.~~ The circuit judges who held court in Clinton county are as follows:

1869 to 1872, Geo. B. Young, Clinton; 1872 to 1881, Daniel W. Ellis, Lyons; 1881 to 1885, Charles W. Chase, Clinton; 1885 to 1887, A. J. Leffingwell, Lyons.

The county court was established in 1851. The first county judge for Clinton county was A. R. Cotton, who served from 1851 to 1853. He was succeeded by Edward Graham from 1853 to 1856; Daniel McNeil, 1856 to 1860; John C. Polley, 1860 to 1864; Pitkin C. Wright, 1864 to 1866; George B. Young, 1866 to 1868, when the court was abolished.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

So far as can be ascertained, at the time of holding the first term of court in Clinton county no lawyers resided in the county. The first resident attorney, as reported upon the authority of Hon. A. R. Cotton, himself one of the earliest in the county, was Samuel R. Murray, who located in Camanche in 1840. He died at Dubuque in 1844, while in attendance upon the public land sales. J. S. Stowers came to DeWitt in 1844. He is still living at Wheatland, though not in active practice. Others soon followed.

William E. Leffingwell came from Muscatine county in 1845, and located at DeWitt. It is reported that for a time he lived upon a farm near Elvira, which report is probably true. Mr. Leffingwell afterwards moved to Lyons, and later practiced in Chicago, but retained his residence in Lyons, where he died August 13, 1884. Judge Leffingwell was tall, erect, dark of hair, eyes and complexion. He was prominent in Masonic circles and a full length picture of him in full Masonic uniform is one of the ornaments of the consistory rooms in Lyons. He was a natural orator, and among the traditions of the Clinton county bar are the stories of his eloquence and legal victories. His fame as an orator and advocate soon became more than state-wide.