

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Blair, David Evans Senator _____

Represented Des Moines County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 1793 Bourbon County, Kentucky

2. Marriage (s) date place
Sarah Johnson 9 Sept 1819 Ohio?

3. Significant events for example:
A. Business _____
B. Civic responsibilities _____
C. Profession _____

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served Territorial Legislature 1841-1842; 1st General Assembly 1846

6. Public Offices
A. Local _____
B. State _____
C. National _____

7. Death 9 Oct 1874; Buried Kossuth Cemetery, Yellow Springs

8. Children Marcus William; James Harvey; John Milton; Lydia Anne; Katherine Jane (Mrs. Ludwell G. Oliver)
John Milton, Des Moines County, Iowa

9. Names of parents William and Catherine (Evans) Blair

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

- The family moved from Pennsylvania to Bourbon County, Kentucky, and then in 1797 they moved near Chillicothe, Ohio
- In 1819 David and his family moved to Rush County, Indiana and in 1821 they moved to Cass County, Illinois. They came to Iowa in 1836.
- His wife, Sarah, born 1791, died in 1882, also buried in Kossuth Cemetery, Yellow Springs Township, Lee Monroe County, Iowa.

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146

THE
HISTORY
OF
DES MOINES 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 Des Moines County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

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201230

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,

YELLOW SPRINGS TOWNSHIP.

ALLISON, JOHN, far., S. 28; P. O. Mediapolis.

Archer, E. G., far., S. 32; P. O. Mediapolis.

Armour, R. R., merchant, Linton.

Antrobus, B., physician and surgeon, Kossuth.

BABB, JOHN, far., S. 30; P. O. Kossuth.

Bailey, J. R., far., S. 32, P. O. Kossuth.

Baird, John, far., S. 4; P. O. Linton.

Baird, J. W., far., S. 10; P. O. Linton.

Baird, S. C., far., S. 16; P. O. Mediapolis.

Barr, Samuel, far., S. 19; P. O. Kossuth.

Bandy, Elijah, far., Sec. 31; P. O. Kossuth.

Bishop, Joseph, far., S. 34; P. O. Mediapolis.

BLACK, J. H., far., S. 1; P. O. Northfield.

Blair, E. R., far., Sec. 20; P. O. Kossuth.

BLAIR, M. W., far., Sec. 29; P. O. Kossuth.

BLAIR, THOMAS AND DAVID EVANS, were Western pioneers and early settlers of Iowa; their father, William Blair, a native of Eastern Pennsylvania, entered the army of the Revolution at the age of 16; about the close of the war, he married and removed to what is now Bourbon Co., Ky., where most of his children were born; in the closing year of the last century, he brought his family to Ohio, settling near Chillicothe; there Thomas and David grew to manhood and began life for themselves, and there Thomas married Margaret Job, and David, her sister Sarah, emigrants from Virginia, and natives of Baltimore, Md.; in 1819, the two families removed to Rush Co., Ind.; thence, in 1821, to what is now Cass Co., Ill., and from there, three years later, to the west side of the Illinois River, near Rushville; in 1834, they made claims in the "New Purchase," and, in 1835, Thomas Blair moved his family over, followed by his brother in 1836; here they reared their families, cultivated their farms, and lived quiet and useful lives for forty years; to

neighborhood has always borne for attention to educational interests, good morals, and hearty support to religious institutions; in a new country, like gravitates toward like, and around them gathered men of like feelings, like character, and like purposes. Both were members and office-bearers in the Presbyterian Churches here from the beginning, and active in all church work; both were, under the local regulations of early settlement, arbitrators of claims for Louisa County, of which this township was then a part. Thomas Blair was a Representative in the first Wisconsin Legislature, and also in the first Iowa Territorial Legislature; David Blair was a member of the Iowa Territorial Legislature in 1842, and in the first State Legislature. But they now rest from their labors; their father died in 1840, aged 80, and is probably the only soldier of the Revolution buried in the county; David Blair died in 1874, at the age of 82, and Thomas Blair in 1875, at the age of 86; his wife, Margaret, two years later, aged 89; Mrs. Sarah Blair, now in her 88th year, still lives at her first Iowa home; their children have generally pushed farther west, only Mrs. Lydia Rankin, daughter of T. Blair, and M. W. Blair, son of D. E. Blair, now remaining; the latter was born near Rushville, Ill., but has spent his life in Iowa; under Lincoln's administration he was Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue for his county, but has ever been a farmer and knows no higher calling than the cultivation of his ancestral acres.

Braden, J. C., far., S. 1; P. O. Northfield.

Braden, J. R., far., S. 1; P. O. Northfield.

Brackley, F., far., S. 32; P. O. Mediapolis.

Bridwell, E., far., S. 23; P. O. Mediapolis.

Bridges, John, merchant, Kossuth.

Bridges, Vincent, far., S. 23; P. O. Mediapolis.

Bridges, Silas, far., S. 26; P. O. Mediapolis.

BROWN, A. C., dealer in general merchandise, Mediapolis; born in Cler-

PORTRAIT AND

BIOGRAPHICAL

ALBUM

—OF—

DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA,

CONTAINING

Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent
and Representative Citizens of the County,

TOGETHER WITH

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE, AND
OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO:

ACME PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1888.

still with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Crowder are both members of the Presbyterian Church. While in Indiana, Mr. Crowder held the office of Justice of the Peace for eight years, during which time he performed sixty-five marriage ceremonies. Always an anti-slavery man, at the organization of the Republican party he at once enlisted in its ranks, and has always been firm in its support. As a business man and a good citizen, he is justly held in high esteem.



MORRIS WILLIAM BLAIR, a well-known resident of Yellow Spring Township, Des Moines County, was born in a log cabin in the Illinois Military District, now in Schuyler County, and is the son of David E. and Sarah Blair. He was but a child when his parents came to Iowa, as detailed below. His entire life since then has been passed on the farm where he now lives, engaged in the cultivation of his father's homestead, bought at the first public land-sale in Iowa. He is a man of more than ordinary culture and ability, a close reader and vigorous thinker, whose studies have been supplemented by extended intercourse with his fellow-men. He has held several township offices, and, on the organization of the department, was appointed under President Lincoln's administration as Assessor of Internal Revenue, holding the office until 1865, when he resigned. Mr. Blair stands high in the estimation of the community in which his life has been passed.

Thomas Blair and David E. Blair were western pioneers and early settlers in Iowa. Their father, William Blair, born near Lancaster, Pa., enlisted in the Continental Army, in May, 1778, and served three years. At the close of the war he married Catherine Evans, and settled on the Juniata River, and later moved by pack-horse, before wagon roads were made over the mountains, to Westmoreland County. From thence, by flat-boat, about 1785, he emigrated to Kentucky, stopping near where the town of Paris now stands. Here most of his family were born. From Kentucky, in 1799, again by packing, he removed to Ohio, near Chillicothe.

Here Thomas and David grew up and married: Thomas to Margaret Job, and David to her sister Sarah, emigrants from Virginia, but natives of Baltimore, Md.

In 1819 the two families removed to near Connersville, Ind.; thence, in 1821, to what is now Cass County, Ill.; and three years later crossed the Illinois River into Pike County. Thomas was appointed a Commissioner for the organization of the new county of Schuyler, and was Chairman of the first Board of County Commissioners of that county. David was the first County Assessor, and also County Treasurer, and purchased for the county the land on which Rushville, the county seat, is located. In 1824 they went to Atlas, a round trip of nearly 150 miles, by canoe and on foot, to vote against a Convention to amend the Constitution of the State, legalizing slavery in Illinois. In 1834 they made claims west of the Mississippi River, and in 1835 Thomas moved over, and his brother in 1836. They settled on what was known as Round Prairie, now in Yellow Spring Township, Des Moines County, Thomas on the place now owned by Daniel Matson, and David on the farm now owned and occupied by his son, M. W. Here they reared their families, cultivated their farms, and lived quiet and useful lives for forty years. In a new country like gathers to like, and around them settled men of like feelings, like character and like purpose. So to them much is due for the good name their neighborhood has always borne for pure morals, attention to educational interests, and hearty support of religious institutions. Both were members and office-bearers in the Presbyterian Church from the beginning, and active in all church work. Thomas Blair represented Des Moines County in the First Wisconsin Territorial Legislature and in the First Iowa Territorial Legislature. David E. Blair was a Representative from the county in 1841, and again in 1842, and also in the First State Legislature in 1846. But they now rest from their labors. Their father died in 1840, aged eighty, and is probably the only soldier of the Revolution buried in the county. David Blair died in 1874, at the age of eighty-two; Thomas in 1875, aged eighty-six; his wife, Margaret, two years later, aged eighty-nine; and Sarah, wife of David, in 1882, at

the age of ninety-one. Their descendants, in the pioneering spirit, have generally pushed farther west, none remaining in Des Moines County but Mrs. Lydia Rankin, daughter of Thomas Blair, and M. W. Blair, son of David E. Blair.



HON. JAMES BRUCE, deceased, of Yellow Spring Township, was a time-honored citizen of Des Moines County, and was numbered among the pioneers of 1837. He was born in Frederick County, Va., March 19, 1814, and comes of good old Revolutionary stock. His paternal grandfather, George Bruce, was a native of Virginia, but of Scotch descent, while his father, James Bruce, was also a native of the Old Dominion, born April 20, 1762. Notwithstanding the family were strict members of the Society of Friends, and therefore opposed to war and the shedding of blood, James Bruce enlisted as a teamster, during the latter years of the Revolutionary War, and was subsequently made Wagonmaster. He was induced to enlist by Lawrence Washington, a nephew of the General. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Morris Job, was a native of Maryland, and in the rank of Captain served his country faithfully in the War for Independence. He died in Baltimore early in the present century.

After the expiration of his term of service, James Bruce wedded Anna Job, a native of Baltimore, Md., born Nov. 20, 1780. They reared a family of five children: Lydia married Adam Smith, of Highland County, Ohio, and now resides in Henry County, Iowa; James the subject of this sketch; Jane L. married Sherman Terry, and both are now deceased; Lawrence W. died in Ohio, March 10, 1849; Sarah J. married John Anderson of this county. In 1816 the family moved to Highland County, Ohio, and settled at Monroe, where James Bruce, Sr., engaged in the hotel business, in which he remained until his death, which occurred Feb. 28, 1826, aged sixty-three years and eleven months. He was a leading man in his section of the country, and in whatever business he engaged was ever ranked among the foremost.

About one year after his death, the mother, with

her family, moved to Fayette County, Ohio, and purchased a farm, which she carried on with the help of her children. She died many years ago, leaving behind the precious memory of one who did what she could, and who reared a family of honorable men and women. She was of the old Quaker stock, descended from Richard Bond, who came with William Penn to America.

The subject of this sketch remained at home, assisting in the farm work, until he was sixteen years of age, when he went to Clinton County, Ohio, remaining four years, during which time he learned the trade of a tanner and currier, and afterward became associated with his old employer as partner. In the spring of 1837 he left Ohio to seek a more favorable location, and came directly to Iowa, which was then a part of Wisconsin Territory, and located a claim on section 17 of what is now Yellow Spring Township. This land he commenced at once to cultivate, making the improvements required by law. In the winter following he went to Burlington, was engaged by Sullivan Ross, and while in his employ tanned the first leather in what is now the State of Iowa. For the next few years he was engaged on his claim and doing odd jobs for others as he found opportunity.

Prior to this time Mr. Bruce had lived a bachelor's life, but realizing that "it was not good for man to be alone," on the 28th of March, 1839, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary H. Rankin, a native of Franklin County, Pa., and daughter of David and Frances (Huston) Rankin. Immediately after their marriage, he took his young bride to his pioneer claim, and in the rude log cabin erected by his own hands, for fifteen years they lived happily together, and there several of their children were born. In 1854 a more commodious residence was erected, in which the family lived until 1871, when they moved to Mediapolis, where Mr. Bruce ever after lived a retired life. At that time the home farm consisted of 210 acres of fine land, which had been brought under an excellent state of cultivation.

Their children, all born upon the old homestead, were as follows: Francis A. died at the age of six years; Martha is the wife of W. H. Cartwright, one of the leading citizens of Yellow Spring Township.

IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch? International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

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DAVID EVANS BLAIR

Male

[Family](#)

Event(s):

Birth:

Christening:

Death: 09 OCT 1874

Burial:

Parents:

Father: [WILLIAM BLAIR](#)[Family](#)Mother: [CATHERINE EVANS](#)

Marriages:

Spouse: [SARAH JOB](#)[Family](#)

Marriage: 09 SEP 1819 , Fayette, Iowa ?

Messages:

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Sheet: 05

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