

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Almstead, Samuel Baldwin Senator _____

Represented Delaware, Clayton, Delaware, Fayette, Buchanan and Black Hawk Counties Iowa

1. Birthday and place _____ 1810 _____ Otsego County, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place _____

Lucy Howard _____ 1 Oct 1831 _____ Columbus, Warren County, Pennsylvania

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was cler and Indian agent in Minnesota

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Farmer, explorer, lumberman, hotelkeeper, contractor

4. Church membership _____

5. Sessions served 15th General Assembly 1846

6. Public Offices

A. Local He was a member of the 2nd 5th and 6th Minnesota Territorial Legislature and was president of the Council

B. State He was a delegate to the Iowa Constitutional Convention, 1844.

C. National _____

7. Death 27 Jan 1878 Burnett County, Iowa

8. Children Lafayette; Clarence; Esther A.; Samuel Baldwin, Jr.; Lucy A.; Emily

9. Names of parents _____

Olmstead, Samuel B.

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

- He came to the northwest from New York as a young man,
living in both Iowa and Minnesota and perhaps Wisconsin.
- In 1849 when Fort Ripley, Minnesota, he and his family moved from Prairie du
Chien Wisconsin to what became Cross King County, Minnesota. Here he could
raise crops and livestock.
- He left Minnesota after the Civil War ended and settled on a farm in
Barnett County, Texas where he died.

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SEARCH KEY TO THE CITY

SAMUEL BALDWIN OLMSTEAD

EARLY CROW WING CO. PIONEER

Crow Wing County was established 23 May 1857 and organized soon after. Crow Wing, at that time, consisted only that part of the present county located east of the Mississippi and bounded on the south by the line between townships 42 and 43, on the east by the line between ranges 27 and 28, and on the north and west by the Mississippi River. C.H. Beaulieu appears to have been the first white man to locate within the county boundaries. He established a trading post as early as 1837 near the mouth of the Crow Wing River. Other well-known names of that time period include Morrison, MacDonald, and Beaupre, who was in these parts as early as 1844.

One name which may not be too familiar to many is Samuel Baldwin **Olmstead**. When Ft. Gaines, later known as Ft. Ripley, was built in 1849, Mr. **Olmstead** and his family moved from Prairie du Chien to what became Crow Wing County. He built and improved a farm opposite the fort on the east bank of the river and engaged himself in contracts to provide the fort with meat and vegetables. It hasn't been determined exactly what brought **Olmstead** to this part of Minnesota. Perhaps this market for his farm produce may have played a part in is settling where he did. Initially, the cattle for meat were housed and cared for at the fort. This was not cost effective nor was the meat of good quality. Cattle housed at the fort and kept the winter were deemed too poor to kill. It was decided that the fort would be much better off if they contracted out the providing of supplies like meat, vegetables, etc. **Olmstead** managed to secure most of the beef, hay and wool contracts for the fort. Samuel Baldwin **Olmstead** was born in Otsego County, New York in 1810. He came to the Northwest as a young man, living in **Iowa** and Minnesota. He may also have lived in Wisconsin since some sources state that he came from Prairie du Chein when he moved his family to the Ft. Gaine/Ft. Ripley area. Prairie du Chein's location on the Wisconsin/**Iowa** border could very well account for some confusion as to exactly where he was living prior to removing to Benton/Crow Wing County.

The **Olmstead's** home was listed in the 1850 Federal Census of Benton County as dwelling #19. It was said to have been the first house in Crow Wing County. In the house, besides Mr. **Olmstead**, his wife and three

children, were eleven men without occupations and two others listed as lumbermen. Some of these men were undoubtedly assisting in Mr. Olmstead's lumbering operations. One man, Freedom Howard, was the brother of Mr. Olmstead's wife. Two men listed in the household with no occupation were Thomas Cathcart and Joseph Tesrow, who later played important roles in the development of the county. One source calls Mr. **Olmstead** a hotelkeeper. The census would seem to indicate that he and his wife took in boarders and might more likely be called operators of a boarding house.

The house where the Olmsteads lived stood until 1940. For many years, it was considered the oldest structure in the county. It was added to and remodeled numerous times. The Olmsteads sold the house to D.S. Moores and upon the later's death it went to Peter Johnson. Peter's son, J.A. Johnson, a great grandson of the early missionary, Ayers, made it his home for many years.

Sources call Samuel Baldwin **Olmstead** an explorer, lumberman, politician, hotelkeeper, and contractor. Anna Himrod in her History of Crow Wing County calls him one of the prominent businessmen of Minnesota Territory. Prior to coming to Minnesota, Mr. **Olmstead** was involved with **Iowa** politics. He was named a delegate to the 1844 State Constitutional Convention. In Minnesota on the local level, the **Olmstead** home was the polling places for the Nokasippi precinct, and Samuel Baldwin **Olmstead** was one of the judges. In state politics, Mr. **Olmstead** served as a member of the, 2nd, 5th, and 6th territorial legislature. In 1854, he was elected President of the Council.

In 1857, the government decided to close Ft. Ripley and sell the land. By virtue of settlement, a number of the early settlers of the area were given the opportunity to purchase 160 acres of the Ft. Ripley land at \$1.25 an acre. Public sales were to be held for the rest of the land. Controversy resulted since the public sales would most likely result in a much lower price per acre. Sales were halted until the problem could be ironed out. The sales at \$1.25 an acre were approved. Other sales were tied up in controversy until 1880 when all the problems were resolved.

Olmstead undoubtedly wanted to add to his holdings. The 1850 census states he had 30 acres of cultivated land and owned 9 cows. Olmstead's interest did certainly include farming since he and David Olmsted of Long Prairie were involved in the incorporation of the Benton County Agricultural Society. Samuel B., as Council President, was involved in getting up a committee to locate and mark a territorial road from Ft. Ripley to a point on the Red River in Pembina County. This was an effort to improve the Woods Trail, the only road going through Crow Wing County, first opened in 1844 from Pembina to St. Paul. Later, in the summer of 1855, he had a contract to build a government road from the Mississippi River at Swanville to Long Prairie. Samuel B. was also involved in lumbering. Lumbering operations were wide spread during the 1850s especially after the Indian were forced to live on reservations, and the pine forest of northern Minnesota was opened up to settlement. According to Himrod, the largest resident operator was **S. B. Olmstead**, who conducted operations along the Nokasippi River. Mr. **Olmstead** left Minnesota after the Civil War ended. He settled on a farm in Burnett County, Texas where he died 27 January 1878.

Up to this point, I've failed to mention anything about the family of Mr. **Olmstead**. Samuel B. married Lucy HOWARD, who was born in Columbus, N.Y. [4th child of Hopkins and Huldah (STEVENS) HOWARD]; She removed with her father's family to Concord, Erie county, Pa. in 1828. On 1 Oct. 1831, in Columbus, Warren County, Pennsylvania, she married Samuel Baldwin **Olmstead** of Crawford county, Pa; he was born in 1810 in Otsego Co., NY. They resided in **Iowa** and Minnesota. Her husband was prominent in public affairs, and assisted in the framing of the state constitutions of **Iowa** and Minnesota. In January, 1855, he was elected president of the Council (Senate) of Minnesota. He was also an Indian agent, and filled various other important official positions. They removed to Texas, and died in the vicinity.

Various census schedules list his family as follows:

Lafayette Howard born in Pennsylvania about 1833

Clara (Clarissa) born most likely in Clayton Co., IA about 1839

Esther A., born about 1844, possibly in Clayton Co, Iowa

Samuel Baldwin, born about 1851 in Iowa, possibly Clayton Co.

Lucy A., born in Minnesota about 1857

Emily, born in Minnesota about 1859

One census lists an Emma. Whether there is just a mixup in names or whether there is another child named Emma is unclear. The information about the Olmsteads is, for the most part, from census records --- Iowa Territory 1838; 1840 Clayton Co. Iowa; Minnesota Territory, Benton County, 1850; 1857 Minnesota Territory; 1860 Minnesota Federal Crow Wing Co.

Daughter Clara S. married Franklin Howard. Their children are:

Fred H. born about 1858

Franklin L. born about 1859

Curtis born about 1860

Esther born about 1861

Pearl born about 1866.

Clara's second marriage was to Louis Miller, born in Germany or Holland about 1834. Children from this marriage include the following:

Louis born about 1870

Otto born in 1872

Minnie Maud born about 1874

Baldwin born about 1876

Florence born about 1878

William Service born about 1880

Charles W. born about 1882

Toby born about 1884

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Baldwin Olmstead

Posted by: Carol

Date: February 20, 2002 at 15:53:48

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From: The Muster Roll, a biography of Ft. Ripley by Robert Baker

"One of the first new residents brought to this part of the country by the establishment of Ft. Gaines (later Ft. Ripley) was S. B. Olmsted who took up land on the east bank of the Mississippi and obtained a contract for furnishing the Fort with meat and vegetables."

Samuel Baldwin Olmstead, a farmer and contractor of Belle Prairie and Ft. Ripley, was of member of the territorial council in 1854 and 1855 and was president of the council in the former year. He was born in Otsego Co, NY in 1810; came to the Northwest in early manhood, and resided in Minnesota and Iowa. He was engaged in government contracts about Ft. Ripley for a time. He removed to Texas at the close of the Civil War, and settled on a farm in Burnett Co., where he died 27 Jan. 1878. (From: Minnesota Place Names published by the Mn Historical Society.)

There could be further mention of Olmsted in some of Anna Himrod's writings about Crow Wing co. The above quote was in the Brainerd Dispatch, 6 Aug. 1958 and was credited to Anna Himrod's manuscripts on early Crow Wing Co. History.

S.B. Olmsted was listed along with David Olmsted, Timothy Olmsted and Page Olmsted as one of Minnesota's early explorers. There is a lot of information about his homestead near Crow Wing and the nearby Ojibway and Sioux Indians in Minnesota Land Concerns at ancestry.com.

Ohio. Phineas Page Olmstead was married in Clayton Ohio to Hannah Cummings Rowe in 1843. He was the son of Timothy Olmsted married to Eunice Page, who was the son Nathan Olmsted married to Sarah Smith and Millicent Goodrich, who was my ancestor. I have lots of information on the Olmsteads going back from there, but I cannot place S.

Baldwin anywhere in the tree. Do you think he was a brother of David, Timothy and Page?

David Olmsted was the first mayor of St. Paul. He was quite prominent in Iowa before coming to Minnesota. He established a trading post in Long Prairie where he traded with the Winnebago Indians. He was a member of the council of the first territorial legislature in 1849 and 1850. He was the editor of the Mn Democrat. He eventually moved back to Vermont where he died 2 Feb. 1861.

Olmsted County in Minnesota was named for him.

Lucy HOWARD was born in Columbus, N.Y. [4th child of Hopkins and Huldah (STEVENS) HOWARD]; removed with her father's family to Erie county, Pa., in 1828; married Samuel Baldwin Olmstead of Crawford county, Pa; resided in Iowa and Minn. Her husband was prominent in public affairs, and assisted in the framing of the state constitutions of Iowa and Minnesota. In January, 1855, he was elected president of the Council (Senate) of Minnesota. He was also an Indian agent, and filled various other important official positions. They removed to Texas, and died in the vicinity of Lampasas

First there seems to be some confusion concerning Samuel and David. There is a slight difference in the spelling of the name and according to the one source I have the two are not related.

Timothy Olmsted b at Ridgefield, Conn., May 27, 1767 d Mar 13, 1845 m1) Huldah Sanford b Aug 29, 1770 d June 11, 1817 dau of Timothy and Esther (Sherwood) Snaford of Redding, Conn.

Timothy md 2) 1818 Eunice (Page) Ufford d Oct 28, 1865 dau of Phineas and Eunice (Larabee) Page, of Charlestown, N.H. and widow of Samuel Ufford. Mr Olmsted moved to Fairfax Vt in 1810 and died in Shelton, VT. When Mr Olmsted was ten years old the town was burned by the British. Three of his brothers were engaged in the battle in which Gen. Wooster was killed.

Children: 1st mg

(4478) Timothy Sanford +

(4479) Smith +

(4480) Lucretia +

(4481) Clara +

(4482) Le Grand +

(4483) Alanson b Nov 11, 1799 d Dec 5, 1803

(4484) Nathan Alanson b Sep 27, 1803 d Aug 27, 1827

(4485) Peter Alanson +

(4486) Rufus Burnett +

(4487) Zalmon +

(4488) Isaac Tichenor +

Children 2nd mg

(4489) Phineas Page +

(4490) David +

We don't know if Samuel Baldwin Olmstead was related to this family and forgotten on the list or if he was a stepson that took used the Olmstead name. (The second wife Eunice (LARABEE) Page was a widow of a man by the name of Samuel) or if it was all coincidence that he was was in NY, PA, Iowa, MN and Texas at the same time and same place.

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