

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Wright,
George Manablin - Represented Pottawattamie and Mills Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 5 Dec 1833 Warren, Washington County, Vermont

2. Marriage (s) date place

Ellen E. Brooks 26 Oct 1863 Chicago, Illinois

3. Significant events for example:

- A. Business Admitted to the bar in Van Buren County in 1857. in 1866 he helped
organize the Omaha and Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge Company; organized the
Whitney Street Railway Company of Council Bluffs in July 1868
- B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Attorney; formed in his youth on highway ferry

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th General Assemblies 1876, 1878

6. Public Offices

- A. Local In 1867 he helped organize the Lake Manawaug Railway Company whose lines connect with
Lake Sacraun near Council Bluffs. Organized Council Bluffs Gas & Light Company Oct 1871;
organized, also owned Gas Light Company Nov 1872; Cedar Rapids Gas Light Company Jan 1877.
- B. State In 1896 he was elected Vice president for the State of Iowa of the American Mississippi
and International Exposition to be held at Omaha Nebraska. Organized Cedar Rapids
Light Company Jan 1877 and Iowa City Gas Light Company Feb 1877
- C. National

7. Death 12 Dec 1906 Council Bluffs, Iowa; buried Walnut Hill Cemetery, Council Bluffs, Iowa

8. Children Manablin Prentiss, George Spencer, Caroline Eiza, Ellen Elizabeth (Mrs. Benson)

9. Names of parents Manablin Asahel and Caroline Susanna (Tillotson) Wright

10. Education Educated in the common schools near his home

11. Degrees He was educated under Honorable Austin Adams at West
Roxbury, Vermont

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He was raised on a farm in his native town in Vermont, which, in later years, was held largely responsible for his successful management and working of a farm.
- He taught school in the winter
- He did not enter college, but came to Iowa in 1855, settling in Keosauqua, Van Buren County.
- He started studying law with Knight, Knapp, and Caldwell
- In 1858 he was admitted to partnership with Judge Knapp, his uncle, under the name of Knapp, Caldwell and Knight
- Military service - Civil War - raised a company of volunteers - 15th Regiment of Iowa Volunteers
- after moving to Council Bluffs^{in 1865}, he, along with associates, organized and put into successful operation plants for the manufacture and supply of coal illuminating gas in several cities, he being the president of the Council Bluffs company
- In 1868, with associates, he constructed and operated the Council Bluffs Street Railway Line
- In 1886, with associates, he organized the Omaha and Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge company
- In 1889 he organized the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company of Ottawa, Illinois.

GEORGE WRIGHT DEAD

PIONEER BUSINESS MAN AND
ATTORNEY OF CITY.

HAS BEEN ILL FIFTEEN DAYS—
FUNERAL SUNDAY.

IS PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE
HISTORY OF IOWA.

Came to State in Early Manhood—
Active and Successful
Career.

George Franklin Wright, pioneer attorney and business man, died at 3:30 o'clock Thursday morning at his home, 130 South Sixth street, after an illness of about fifteen days.

While the end had been anticipated for several days by his immediate family and more intimate friends, the community generally was not aware that his condition was so serious. He was widely known and his death is a great shock and serious loss.

Mr. Wright was a sufferer for years from a complication of kidney troubles, but it was not until the latter part of November that his condition became alarming. He suffered a severe attack at that time and was confined to his bed. Hopes that he might rally were not realized and he continued to fall rapidly. Two days ago his condition became critical, but with the pertinacity which characterized his long career, he battled for life until Wednesday morning when he sank into semi-unconsciousness and so remained until the end. Until Wednesday he suffered no pain and remained in the full possession of his faculties.

Mr. Wright completed his seventy-third year December 5, eight days ago. He is survived by his widow, two sons, Franklin P. Wright and George S. Wright of this city, and two daughters, Miss Eliza Caroline Wright of this city and Mrs. William Benson of Dubuque. The members of his family were at his bedside when the end came.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the residence. Rev. Marcus P. McClure, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, will officiate. The burial will be in Walnut Hill cemetery.

George Franklin Wright was born in Warren, Washington county, Vermont, December 5, 1833, and was the eldest son of a family of four children of the late Franklin Asher Wright who died in Council Bluffs, October 5, 1875. Both his parents were of English-Scottish ancestry.

He was reared on a farm in his native town, and early in life was held largely responsible for the successful manage-

ing the two cities and constructed and put in successful operation the first electric street railway line in the states of Iowa and Nebraska. In 1880, in connection with associates, he organized a company and constructed and put in operation in the city of Ottawa, Illinois, the first electric street railway in that state.

During his later years Mr. Wright seldom took part in court work, but continued the practice of his profession and was actively engaged in numerous business enterprises up to the time of his last illness.

Mr. Wright was a man of the most generous impulses. Few have had such wide acquaintance among men of affairs. His death is a personal bereavement not only to his family and immediate circle of intimate friends, but to a great number who were the beneficiaries of his helpful spirit and willing assistance. Such acts were done so quietly and unobtrusively that they were but little known, but the universal expression of sorrow is an eloquent testimonial of the loss which the community suffers in his death.

PURCHASES A FACTORY SITE

ALFALFA MEAL COMPANY WILL
MAKE ITS PERMANENT
HOME HERE.

After rather extended negotiations a deal has just been closed for the last of the lots involved in the tract bought by the Alfalfa Meal company, and the company is now in possession of about thirty lots on which it will

THE STORE
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that of last year. While money is sent directly to foreign countries, it is assumed money finds its way through foreign banking agencies in Chicago and Pittsburg. Money are made out in favor of bank of New York, which ally of handling money in this country, or the First of Pittsburg, which has persons of nearly every ally. These agencies receiveances from the Italian, and other laborers and for these institutions are clerk the business in the language of the sender. But few Italians who have been so mitances through the department of the postoffice English. As a rule they issued by the banks on their own tongue and explain by which the money to the foreign countries. of these circulars is printed the bank in English. They sent this circular to the together with their money to the name of the bank as say, "Money order," and

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\$1,800 DAMAGES

ges Wrongful Attach- Mrs. O. H. Black,

an alleged wrongful writ issued on about \$10,000 and notes in her posses- Fuller has served notice \$1,800 damages against k and the United States uranty company. The ided as a defendant hel- U bond under which was de.

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Franklin Asher Wright who died in Council Bluffs, October 5, 1876. Both his parents were of English-Scotch ancestry.

He was reared on a farm in his native town, and early in life was held largely responsible for the successful manage- ment and working of the farm. At the age of 17 he commenced his academic edu- cation at West Randolph, Vt., under the tutorage of the late Hon. Austin Adams of Dubuque, Ia., who was twice chief justice of the state. Teaching district school winters, as was customary with many New England boys, he completed his preparatory studies and one year of his college course. He did not enter college, however, but in the spring following his majority, 1855, he came to Iowa and settled in Keosauqua, Van Buren county, when he at once commenced the study of law with the firm of Wright, Knapp & Caldwell, composed of ex-United States Senator George G. Wright of Des Moines, the late Hon. Joseph C. Knapp of Keosau- qua, who was his uncle, and ex-Judge Henry C. Caldwell. His law studies were pursued under the tutorage of Senator Wright. He was admitted to the Van Buren county bar in 1857, Judge H. B. Hendershott being the presiding judge.

The same year he was admitted to part- nership with his uncle, Judge Knapp, and Judge Caldwell, under the firm name of Knapp, Caldwell & Wright, and so con- tinued until Judge Caldwell was called to the United States bench at Little Rock, Arkansas. His education, founded in the old-fashioned New England schools, and in the old-fashioned New England ways, was rounded out under the training re- ceived from these eminent lawyers and jurists. Aided by their ripe business ex- perience, and his own extensive acquaint- ance with business affairs, he became a good lawyer, and an active, persevering and successful business man. It was in this practical way that he acquired the educational elements which insured his success much more effectually than could have been attained by a university or col- lege course, or both combined.

Early in 1861 Mr. Wright enlisted in re- sponse to President Lincoln's call for vol- unteers, and in connection with Captain afterward General J. M. Tuttle, raised a company of volunteers in Van Buren county, of which he was elected first lieu- tenant, receiving his commission from the hands of Governor Kirkwood at Daven- port, Iowa. His company rendezvoused at Keokuk, and after being some time in camp, the first call being full, the com- pany was accepted in the second call for volunteers and became a part of the Sec- ond regiment of Iowa volunteers. Imme- diately before this Judge Caldwell hav- ing enlisted, the business of the firm de- manded Mr. Wright's return to Keosau- qua. He immediately raised a company of militia, was elected captain, and ten- dered the services of the company to Governor Kirkwood for the protection of the Iowa border in Van Buren county. The offer was accepted, and the organi- zation was kept intact, being frequently called to the border and into the state of Missouri, until the rebels were driven out of that state, when most of the company enlisted in and became a part of the Fif- teenth regiment of Iowa volunteers.

On October 25, 1863, he was married in the city of Chicago to Ellen E. Wright, nee Brooks, of Northfield, Vt., daughter of the late Josiah Prentice Brooks.

In the spring of 1868 Mr. Wright moved with his family to Council Bluffs and formed a law partnership with the late Judge Caleb Baldwin, and the firm at once became one of the leading law firms of the state. This law connection continued up to the time when Judge Baldwin was appointed by President Grant as one of the judges of the court of commissioners of Alabama claims, requiring his resi- dence in the city of Washington, when the firm was dissolved.

Hon. Amos J. Rising and John N. Bald- win. After several years of successful practice Judge Rising retired from the firm moving to Colorado, and the firm

MAKE ITS PERMANENT HOME HERE.

After rather extended negotiations a deal has just been closed for the last of the lots involved in the tract sought by the Alfalfa Meal company, and the com- pany is now in possession of about thirty lots on which it will commence the con- struction of a large factory building next spring. All of the lots except five were secured some time ago but this last tract was in the hands of H. J. Nichols of Boston, who had made his price too high. He finally came down to a satis- factory figure and the purchase was made. Wallace Benjamin handled the negotiations on the entire tract and near- ly all the property owners involved made sacrifice prices to assist in furnishing the company a satisfactory site.

The lots secured lie between Thirty- second and Thirty-fourth street, on Broadway, extending through to First avenue. Nearly all of the lots in the two blocks are included in the tract.

Omaha was a strong bidder for the Alf- alfa Meal company and had offered a free site. One of the strongest influences, it is said, in keeping the factory in Coun- cil Bluffs was Senator John T. Brooks of Hedrick, who is one of the principal stockholders. Having his personal and political interests in Iowa he was very much opposed to locating the factory in another state. Senator Brooks looked the ground over thoroughly and concluded that Council Bluffs offered all desired advantages for the factory. The rather trifling investment involved in securing a site did not, in his opinion, constitute sufficient reason for removal.

SERVING CREEK NOTICES

Authorities Will Prosecute for Filling Creek With Refuse.

Work was commenced yesterday in serving residents along Indian creek with notices to refrain from dumping re- fuse into the stream under penalty of being called on the carpet by authority of a special ordinance enacted a few months ago.

The formal notices are signed by Thom- as Maloney, chairman of the Indian creek committee, and are worded as follows:

"You are hereby notified that it is un- lawful for any person who shall place, or cause to be placed, in Indian creek or upon its banks, or over its banks, any substance whatsoever, and any owner, lessee or agent of any lot or premises abutting upon said Indian creek is re- quired to prevent the placing of any such material aforesaid and required to remove any such deposits of materials as afore- said, and if any such persons shall so place, fail to remove, or allow to be placed and not prevent the same from being so placed, he is guilty of a misde- meanor as provided in ordinance No. 327 of the ordinances of the city of Council Bluffs, to all of which you will take due notice."

SENDING CHRISTMAS MONEY

Large Sums Transmitted to Old Coun- try by Foreigners.

The registry department at the post- office reports an unusually large business in money orders on foreign countries, for the most part sent by the Austrians and Italians who have been working in the city during the summer. These remit- tances are sent home to relatives and friends as Christmas presents. Herman Rosch, the registry clerk, stated that he had been asked to avoid the ex- pense incident to sending packages through the mail by parcels post. By the issuance of a money order the laborers

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camp, the first call being full, the company was accepted in the second call for volunteers and became a part of the Second regiment of Iowa volunteers. Immediately before this Judge Caldwell having enlisted, the business of the firm demanded Mr. Wright's return to Keosauqua. He immediately raised a company of militia, was elected captain, and tendered the services of the company to Governor Kirkwood for the protection of the Iowa border in Van Buren county. The offer was accepted, and the organization was kept intact, being frequently called to the border and into the state of Missouri, until the rebels were driven out of that state, when most of the company enlisted in and became a part of the Fifteenth regiment of Iowa volunteers.

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In the spring of 1868 Mr. Wright moved with his family to Council Bluffs and formed a law partnership with the late Judge Caleb Baldwin, and the firm at once became one of the leading law firms of the state. This law connection continued up to the time when Judge Baldwin was appointed by President Grant as one of the judges of the court of commissioners of Alabama claims, requiring his residence in the city of Washington, when the firm was dissolved.

Mr. Wright then associated himself with Hon. Amos J. Rising and John N. Baldwin. After several years of successful practice Judge Rising retired from the firm, removing to Colorado, and the firm became and has since remained as Wright & Baldwin.

Mr. Wright has always been a staunch and active republican, and for many years was a leading worker in his party. During his residence in Van Buren county he was repeatedly tendered the nomination for the legislature, but invariably declined the honor. In 1875 he was elected senator from the Ninth senatorial district of Iowa, composed of the counties of Pottawattamie county and Mills, and served in the sixteenth and seventeenth general assemblies. He was again elected senator in 1879 in the Nineteenth senatorial district of Iowa, comprising Pottawattamie county, and served in the eighteenth and nineteenth general assemblies. During his senatorial career, his reputation as a lawyer and his energy and ability won for him substantial influences in that body.

Soon after taking up his residence in Council Bluffs, he began to engage in active business affairs outside of his profession and in 1870, and immediately following, he, with his associates, organized companies and constructed and put in successful operation plants for the manufacture and supply of coal illuminating gas in the cities of Council Bluffs, Ottumwa, Mt. Pleasant, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City, in Iowa, and in the cities of Elgin and Evanston, in Illinois. He was elected president of the Council Bluffs company, which position he held for over twenty years. In 1868, he, with Judge Baldwin and associates, constructed and operated the Council Bluffs Street Railway line, the first street railway in Council Bluffs, and was president of the company until it passed into the control of the Union Pacific.

In 1886, in connection with his associates, he organized the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway & Bridge company, procured from congress a franchise for a combined railway and wagon bridge across the Missouri river between Council Bluffs and Omaha; and during the next two years the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway & Bridge company, of which he was elected secretary, erected the present street railway bridge connect-

committee, and are worded as follows: "You are hereby notified that it is unlawful for any person who shall place, or cause to be placed, in Indian creek or upon its banks, or over its banks, any substance whatsoever, and any owner, lessee or agent of any lot or premises abutting upon said Indian creek is required to prevent the placing of any such material aforesaid and required to remove any such deposits of materials as aforesaid, and if any such persons shall so place, fail to remove, or allow to be placed and not prevent the same from being so placed, he is guilty of a misdemeanor as provided in ordinance No. 327 of the ordinances of the city of Council Bluffs, to all of which you will take due notice."

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The registry department at the postoffice reports an unusually large business in money orders on foreign countries, for the most part sent by the Austrians and Italians who have been working in the city during the summer. These remittances are sent home to relatives and friends as Christmas presents. Herman Rosch, the registry clerk, stated yesterday that this was done to avoid the expense incident to sending packages through the mail by parcels post. By the issuance of a money order the laborers may send to their relatives any sum of money they wish at a very small expense, and while a considerable amount of this business is done by the registry department all the year around, it is at the present time nearly doubled.

It is impossible to estimate the volume of this business, but it is nearly double

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YOUR CHILD

Will be the best. If you haven't a piano in the home those for whom you stand sponsor.

The time may have been when a piano was considered music in the home.

EXCEPTIONAL PIANO VALUE

A NEW GUARANTEED PIANO, sells elsewhere for \$
A NEW GOOD, RELIABLE PIANO sells elsewhere for
A NEW CABINET GRAND UPRIGHT, sells elsewhere
Cash or easy payments. Our small payment plan is

A. HOSPE

O. O. OVER, Manager.

Biographies and Portraits

...OF THE...

Progressive Men of Iowa

Volume 11

Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions

TOGETHER WITH THE
BEGINNINGS OF

A Western Commonwealth

... BY ...

Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Ph. D.

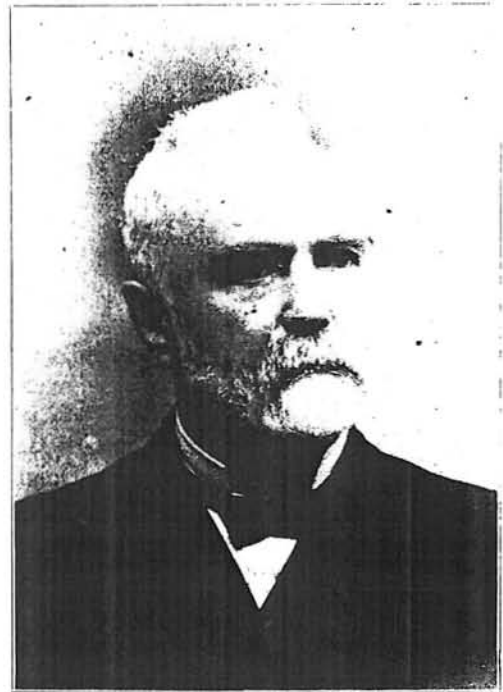
Des Moines
Conaway & Shaw, Publishers
1899

sons, Odd Fellows and United Workman. The Doctor is a leading member and a trustee of the First Methodist church of Sioux City. In politics he has always been a republican and his first vote was cast for R. B. Hayes for president. In 1883 he was married to Miss Gertrude Dugan, at her home in Iowa City. Mrs. White's father was a captain in the Civil War and was killed at the battle of Pleasant Hill.

WRIGHT, GEORGE FRANKLIN, was born in Warren, Washington County, Vermont, December 5, 1833, and was the eldest of a family of four children (he alone surviving) of the late Franklin Asher Wright, born in Hanover, New Hampshire, September 17, 1801, died in Council Bluffs, October 5, 1876, (he was of English descent), and of Caroline Susannah Wright, nee Tillotson, born in Berlin, Vermont, November 3, 1807, of Scotch and English parentage. They were married in Berlin, Vermont, February 27, 1833. Franklin A. Wright was a son of Asher Wright, of English descent, and of Irene Wright, nee Curtis, of English descent. His life was one of affairs, and he died leaving a comfortable estate for his surviving widow. Caroline S. Wright was a daughter of Captain Samuel Tillotson, of English descent, and of Petsy Tillotson, nee Wallace, of Scotch descent, and is now (1897), at nearly ninety years of age, living in the enjoyment of general good health with her son, the subject of this sketch.

George F. Wright was reared and spent his boyhood on a farm in his native town, and in early life, when a mere boy, was by his father, whose large business interests required his continued absence from home, left in charge of the home interests and held largely responsible for the successful carrying on and working of his father's farms, the labor on which was performed wholly by hired help. This training and the responsibility incident thereto became in after years of great utility to him when he became engrossed in the active operation and cares of his own business career. At the age of seventeen he commenced his academic education at West Randolph, Vermont, un-

der the tutorage of the late Hon. Austin Adams, of Dubuque, Iowa, who was twice elected chief justice of the state of Iowa. During his academic training, teaching district school winters, as was customary with many New England boys, he completed his preparatory studies for and one year in advance of his college course. He did not enter college, however, but the spring following his majority, in 1855, he came to Iowa and settled in Keosauqua, Van Buren county, where he at once commenced the study of the law with the law firm of Wright, Knapp & Caldwell, composed of the late ex-



Senator George G. Wright, of Des Moines, the late Hon. Joseph C. Knapp, of Keosauqua, (who was his uncle), and his honor, Judge Henry C. Caldwell, of Little Rock, Arkansas, now chief justice of the United States circuit court of appeals for the Eighth circuit of the United States. His law studies were pursued under the tutorage of Senator Wright, and as a member of a large class of law students then under his charge his advancement was such that he was admitted to the Van Buren county bar in 1857. Judge H. B. Hendershott, then presiding judge of the district court of said county. The same year Senator Wright being elected to the

supreme bench of Iowa, George F., as he was familiarly known, was admitted to partnership with his uncle, Judge Knapp, and Judge Caldwell, under the firm name of Knapp, Caldwell & Wright, which so continued until Judge Caldwell was appointed to the federal bench at Little Rock. His education, founded in the old-fashioned New England schools and in the old-fashioned New England ways, was rounded out under the training received from these eminent lawyers and jurists. Aided by their ripe business experience, by his extensive acquaintance with business affairs and with men of affairs, he became a good lawyer, as well as an active, persevering and successful business man. It was in this practical way that he acquired the educational elements which insured his success much more effectually than could have been attained by a university or college course or both combined.

Early in 1861 he enlisted in response to President Lincoln's call for seventy-five thousand volunteers, and in connection with Captain, afterwards General James M. Tuttle, since deceased, raised a company of volunteers in Van Buren county, of which he was elected the first lieutenant, receiving his commission from the hands of Governor Kirkwood at Davenport, Iowa. His company rendezvoused at Keokuk and after being some time in camp, the first call being full, it was accepted in the second call for volunteers and became a part of the Second Regiment of Iowa Volunteers. Immediately before this occurred, Judge Caldwell having enlisted and having been elected major of the Third Iowa Cavalry, the business of their law firm demanded Mr. Wright's return to Keosauqua. On his return there he at once, at the request of Governor Kirkwood, raised a company of state militia, was elected captain thereof, and his company was accepted by the governor for the protection of the Iowa border in Van Buren county, equipped with Springfield rifles and furnished with all the munitions of war. This organization was kept intact, being frequently called to the border and into the state of Missouri, until the rebels and guerrillas were driven out of the northern part of that state, when

most of the company enlisted in and became a part of the Fifteenth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers.

On October 26, 1863, he was married in the city of Chicago to Ellen E. Brooks, of Northfield, Vermont. She was born in Hancock, Vermont, September 21, 1830. She was the daughter of the late Josiah Prentice Brooks, born April 5, 1797, in Alstead, New Hampshire, died in Northfield, Vermont, January 10, 1883, of English descent, and of the late Betsy Parker Brooks, nee Robbins, born August 16, 1797, in Hancock, Vermont, died in Northfield, Vermont, November 4, 1885, and was of English descent. During their residence in Keosauqua there were born to them three sons, the oldest dying in infancy, and after their removal therefrom to Council Bluffs, two daughters, all now living, viz.: Franklin Prentice Wright, born March 2, 1866; George Spencer Wright, born January 21, 1868; Eliza Caroline Wright, born June 1, 1870, and Ellen Elizabeth Wright, born December 1, 1872.

In the spring of 1868 he moved with his family to Council Bluffs and formed a law partnership with the late Judge Caleb Baldwin and the law firm of Baldwin & Wright at once became one of the leading law firms of the state. The firm at once took high rank among the profession as practicing attorneys, and as the several railway companies representing the trunk lines made their termini in Council Bluffs, this firm became their local attorneys and has ever since retained that relation toward them. This law connection continued up to the time when Judge Baldwin was appointed by President Grant as one of the judges of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, requiring his residence in the city of Washington, when the firm was dissolved. Mr. Wright then associated with himself Hon. Amos J. Rising, since judge of the district court of Arapahoe county, Denver, Colorado, and Hon. John N. Baldwin, the second son of the late Judge Caleb Baldwin. After several years of successful practice Judge Rising retired from the firm, removing to Colorado, and the firm became and has since re-

mained as Wright & Baldwin, they having associated with them the two sons of Mr. Wright.

He early identified himself with the politics of his county, the state and the nation, and has always been a staunch republican, and for many years a leading worker in his party. During his residence in Van Buren county he was repeatedly tendered the nomination for member of the legislature from that county, which was then equivalent to an election, but invariably declined the honor. In 1875 he was elected senator from the Ninth senatorial district of Iowa, comprising the counties of Pottawattamie and Mills. After serving as senator in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth General Assemblies, he was again elected senator in 1879 in the Nineteenth senatorial district of Iowa, comprising Pottawattamie county, his place of residence. He served as senator from the Nineteenth district in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth General Assemblies. During his senatorial career, his reputation as a lawyer and his energy and ability won for him substantial influence in that body. He was from the first a member of the judiciary committee and being an earnest, industrious worker, he was enabled to prevent the enactment of many bad laws, as well as to aid in the passage of all good ones. He was ever vigilant and faithful to the trust imposed on him, never allowing his personal feelings or preferences to swerve him from the true path of duty and strict justice. He rendered the state and his constituency faithful and competent service and in such manner as to reflect great credit on himself and honor to his state.

In 1868 Hon. John F. Dillon, circuit judge of the Eighth circuit of the United States circuit court for Iowa, appointed him United States commissioner of said court for the state of Iowa, which position he has since held continuously, and now holds the same for the Southern District of Iowa under appointment from Hon. John S. Woolson, judge of the federal court in Iowa.

Soon after taking up his residence in Council Bluffs and in 1870 and immediately following, he began to engage in active business enterprises outside of his profession, and with his associates organized companies

and constructed and put in successful operation large plants for the manufacture and supply of coal illuminating gas in the city of Council Bluffs, Ottumwa, Mt. Pleasant, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City in Iowa, and in the cities of Elgin and Evanston, in Illinois. He was elected president of the Council Bluffs company, which position he held for over twenty years and until said company was consolidated with the Council Bluffs electric light plant, of which combined plants he is now the president and principal owner. In 1868 he, with Judge Baldwin and Hon. John T. Baldwin, his associates, constructed and operated the Council Bluffs street railway lines, the first street railway in Council Bluffs, and was the president of said company until it passed under the control of the Union Pacific Railway Company.

In 1881 he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Union Elevator Company, of Council Bluffs, composed of the six trunk lines of railway companies terminating therein, and had the supervision and construction of its Union Elevator building in said city, which has the largest capacity of any grain elevator west of the city of Chicago.

In 1886, in connection with his associates, he organized the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway & Bridge Company, procured from congress a franchise for a combined railway and wagon bridge across the Missouri river between the cities of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska, and during the next two years the company, of which he was elected secretary and member of its executive committee, erected one of the finest and most expensive steel bridges over said river, and in connection therewith constructed and put in successful operation over said bridge and between said cities the first electric street railway line ever constructed and operated in Iowa or Nebraska, and he is still a member of the executive committee of the company.

In 1887 he and his associates organized the Lake Manawa Railway Company, whose line connects the City of Council Bluffs with Lake Manawa, a beautiful sheet of water and pleasure resort lying four miles south of Council Bluffs, and progressed with its construction until it passed under the control of Hon. J. K. Graves, of Dubuque, who

completed, equipped and put it in successful operation.

In 1888 he and his associates organized the Sprague Iron Works Company of Council Bluffs and constructed and put in operation the principal foundry and manufactory of steam engines, boilers and other machinery in the city, and he is now the secretary of the company.

In 1889, in connection with his associates, he organized the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company, of Ottawa, Illinois, and constructed and put in operation in said city the first electric street railway constructed in that state.

In 1896 he was elected vice-president for the state of Iowa of the Trans-Mississippi & International Exposition, to be held at Omaha, Nebraska, in 1898, which appointment was ratified by Governor Francis M. Drake of Iowa, from whom he holds his commission, and he is ex-officio member of the Iowa Trans-Mississippi International Exposition Commission.

As a lawyer Mr. Wright is prominent, leading and able, never seeking to deceive court or jury, but in open, manly, earnest contest endeavoring to secure the rights of his clients. Gifted with sound judgment, endowed with great good common sense, a fine analyzer of character, and the motives of men, he is ever ready to meet his adversary, in court or in the field of compromise, confident in his resources and ability to secure better results for his clients by negotiations than by prolonged and expensive litigation.

As a business man he is possessed of fine executive ability, is untiring and energetic, continually adding to the cares and burdens of his life new enterprises, which by his constant perseverance and the vigor of his never failing energy, he pushes to successful proportions and generally attains satisfactory results.

As a citizen he is active, progressive, public spirited and liberal, and since his advent in Council Bluffs he has ever been loyal to her best material interests, advocating all measures looking to her prosperity that the best elements therein strove to advance or establish. Of strict and upright manhood, he constantly labors for her welfare, often

at the expense of his own personal interests, and is always found in the line of the best citizenship.

As a friend he is true, honest, faithful and sacrificing to all who show themselves worthy of his confidence and friendship, generous in his praises, slow in his criticisms, and always happy in contributing to the wants and needs of his fellows.

As a man he is amiable, temperate, honorable, benevolent, just and upright, with fine literary tastes and broad culture.

WILLIAMS, FRANCIS MARION. To rise above the common plane in the legal profession in Iowa requires that one possess more than ordinary ability. Of Lawyer Williams, of Iowa Falls, it may be said that he has that distinction. He was born in Perry County, Ohio, on January 9, 1852. His father, B. F. Williams, was by occupation a farmer, and owned one of the model farms of the county where he resided. His death occurred in 1892. He left a family consisting of six sons, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth. Of his early ancestors little is known except that a pretty romance comes down the line on his mother's side. The Larkins were a notable Irish family, and one beautiful daughter, not unlike pretty daughters of this day and age of the world, would not take kindly to the young man her parents had chosen for her, although he was of noble birth, but became infatuated with a young man of humble though honorable parentage. When all arrangements had been made for the ceremony which was to unite her to the young nobleman, she eloped with the man of her choice, was married and came to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania. A daughter was born to them, and this daughter was the great-grandmother of Mr. Williams.

Following a term of years in the district and high schools, Mr. Williams took a course in the academy at Mt. Gilead, Ohio. Being naturally of a literary turn of mind he engaged in teaching to raise funds with which to carry on his higher education. He then entered the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, from which institution he

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1878.

he died the next year. Left with a family of seven children, the widow removed to Joliet in order to obtain better school privileges. Three years later she removed to Monmouth, where she married Judge Daniel McNeil.

In 1853 Samuel came to De Witt with the family, and in 1856 entered the office of the De Witt "Clintonian," O. C. Bates, editor and proprietor, remaining there two years. With slight interruptions, he worked at printing until the rebellion broke out, enlisting three days after the president's first call, in a company whose services were not then required. In June, 1862, he again enlisted, this time in the 18th Iowa Infantry, going to the front two months later as second sergeant in company A, and returning the following January completely broken down in health. It was a long year before he recovered sufficiently to resume business.

In July, 1864, he started the "Observer," an outspoken republican paper, of which he is still the editor and proprietor. It is a good county as well as political paper, looks well to all local interests, and has a good support. Thoroughly appreciating his services to the national administration, in 1872 President Grant appointed Mr. Shoemaker postmaster, and so faithfully did he discharge his duties that at the end of four years he was reappointed for another term, which he is now serving. He is and always has been very industrious, and both as postmaster and newspaper conductor gives excellent satisfaction. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and of the Methodist Episcopal church.

He has a wife and two children, a son and daughter, having married Miss Rette Ferree, of De Witt, on the 4th of September, 1866.

HON. GEORGE F. WRIGHT,

COUNCIL BLUFFS.

GEORGE F. WRIGHT stands prominent among the leading lawyers of Iowa; his firm purpose from the beginning of his legal career has been to honor his profession; and his success in this regard is best attested by the high esteem in which he is held by the members of the bar.

He is a native of the town of Warren, Washington county, Vermont, and was born on the 5th of December, 1833. His father, Franklin A. Wright, of English descent, was a farmer by occupation, and a man of decided character, who exerted no small amount of influence in the community where he lived.

George received a good academic education, and designed to pursue a course of collegiate studies. At the age of seventeen, however, he engaged in teaching, and continued that vocation for four years; at the expiration of that time, in the spring of 1855, he settled in Keosauqua, Van Buren county, Iowa, and there began the study of law in the office of Messrs. Knapp and Wright. He was admitted to the bar in 1856, and became a partner in the firm with whom he had studied, taking the place of Mr. George G. Wright, who retired from the firm for the purpose of assuming his duties on the bench of the supreme court of Iowa.

Continuing in practice at Keosauqua until 1868,

with good success, Mr. Wright then removed to Council Bluffs, his present home, and resumed his profession as a partner with Judge Caleb Baldwin, whose sketch appears in another part of this volume. This partnership continued until the death of Judge Baldwin, which occurred in the winter of 1876, and since that time until the present (1877) Mr. Wright has conducted the business in his own name.

During the said partnership connection Messrs. Baldwin and Wright acted as attorneys for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad, and also for the Burlington and Missouri, and the Union Pacific railroads. His fellow-citizens recognizing in Mr. Wright a peculiar fitness for official positions, have honored him with various responsible trusts.

While a resident of Keosauqua he was solicited to become a candidate for the legislature, but by reason of business engagements was compelled to decline the honor. In the year 1874 he was elected to represent in the state senate the district comprising Mills and Pottawattamie counties, for a term of four years. In public enterprises he has been especially active, and has been instrumental in organizing several corporations of prominence in the state, being owner of a large portion of their stock, and acting as their attorney.

Among these may be mentioned the Broadway

Street Railway Company, of Council Bluffs, organized in July, 1868; the Council Bluffs Gas Light Company; the Ottumwa Gas Light Company, organized in October, 1871; the Mount Pleasant Gas Light Company; the Elgin Gas Light Company, organized in November, 1871; the Cedar Rapids Gas Light Company, organized in January, 1872; and the Sioux City Gas Light Company, which he organized on the 22d of February, 1872.

While in the state senate he acted a prominent part, and to his efforts is due the securing of the appropriation for building the west wing of the institution for the deaf and dumb at Council Bluffs.

During the civil war he rendered very efficient

service to the state in raising troops, and through his efforts the necessity of a draft in Van Buren county was prevented. Upon the first call for volunteers by President Lincoln he was commissioned by Governor Kirkwood, and, raising a company, repaired to the rendezvous; but the call being already filled, his company was disbanded.

Personally, Mr. Wright is a man of admirable qualities, and possessing a wide range of experience and fine conversational powers, is a most excellent social companion.

He was married in 1865, to Miss Ellen E. Brooks, of Northfield, Vermont, and by her has two sons and two daughters.

GEORGE H. WRIGHT,

SIoux CITY.

IF there is a self-made man in Iowa it is the present register of the land office at Sioux City. He never spent three weeks in a school-room, yet sufficiently improved his mind as to be deemed worthy of a place in the councils of the state of his adoption and an important office under the United States government. It was not his fault that he had no school education. Even as late as his nineteenth year he entered an academy in Livingston county, New York, but the very first day he was taken sick and remained so until the end of the winter term, when, being a sailor, his services were required on the lakes. What education he has he picked up at odd intervals, both on the land and water.

George Henry Wright was born on the 3d of November, 1829, in Troy, New York, his parents being Allen M. and Abigail Valentine Wright. He lost his father when four years old. A few years later his mother married Daniel Morgan, and the whole family went, in 1838, to Black Rock, now a part of Buffalo. In 1843 the family moved to Grand Island. George worked with his step-father at the cooper's trade from eleven to fifteen years of age, but did not like the business, and went on the Niagara river and subsequently on the lakes, starting as a wheelsman on the steamboat Commerce, running on the river, and working his way up to the master of a vessel on the lakes at twenty-one.

Mr. Wright piloted the first vessel that went into the port of Tonawanda, the top-gallant-rig schooner Hudson, owned by Winslow and Co., of Cleveland,

Ohio. During his sailor life he had some dangerous adventures. In the spring of 1857 he swamped his vessel off Buffalo in a fearful squall. His wife was with him with an infant son, and for twenty minutes he held to a ring-bolt with his left hand and to his wife with the right hand, she, meanwhile, holding the child in her arms, with the sea rolling over them all the time.

Two years later the steam-tug Jenny Lynd was wrecked in the Niagara rapids between Chippewa and the head of Goat Island, and Mr. Wright was persuaded by her owner to superintend the perilous work of taking her off. It required a man of much aquatic experience and strong nerve to do it. Mr. Wright succeeded in two days, sleeping one night on the wreck with the waves foaming round him. He received two hundred dollars for his two days' work.

Like landsmen, sailors have their financial shipwrecks. In the summer of 1857 Mr. Wright had seven thousand dollars, all of his own earnings, invested in the Lake Navigation Company, and the hurricane of that season sank every dollar of it.

In July, 1859, Mr. Wright removed to the west, spending one year in Wisconsin, three years in Des Moines and Fort Dodge, Iowa, and eight years at Grant City, Sac county. He sold fruit trees and agricultural implements at Des Moines, bought furs at Fort Dodge, and sold goods and built and operated a flouring mill at Grant City. He was also an internal revenue assessor in Sac county in 1868 and 1869.

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.

I first met General Dodge at St. Louis in May, 1865, while he was in command of the Department of Missouri. He was not at first sight striking in appearance, though on close observation, it could readily be seen that his inherent genius glowed through his fine eyes and expressive countenance. He was what might be termed small in stature and, as I recollect, slightly stooping in shoulders. He was structured more after the form of Napoleon than that of Hercules.

During the progress of his numerous business enterprises, he resided for a number of years in the City of New York, where he became widely known and highly honored. He was made Commander of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, president of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, and when the remains of General Ulysses S. Grant were, on the 27th of April, 1897, transferred to the magnificent tomb which had been prepared for him in New York, and was to be dedicated for the occasion, General Dodge was chosen and acted as Grand Marshal and Master of the Ceremonies. General Dodge has made many contributions to the historical department of Iowa which are known as the Grenville M. Dodge Collection. In this collection there has been placed the large and fine equestrian portrait of General Dodge, executed by the distinguished painter, Charles A. Whipple, at the request of the members of the General's staff and aids-de-camp, on the dedication before referred to, and by them presented to the General. General Dodge never lost his affection for the people of Iowa, and in the latter part of his life returned to and established his office in Council Bluffs with whose history and development his name and memory will be perpetually associated. There he died in 1916.

George F. Wright, Winfield S. Mayne, Spencer Smith.

George F. Wright, Winfield S. Mayne and myself entered upon the practice of our profession about the same time in adjoining counties—Wright and Mayne at Keosauqua, and I at Ottumwa, in 1857. It will thus be seen that we were neighboring young lawyers at the outset of our professional career.

George F. Wright was a native of Warren, Washington County, Vermont, where he was born in 1833. He was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools and at the West Randolph Academy. Austin Adams, the former well-known Judge of the Supreme Court of Iowa, was one of his tutors. George came to Keosauqua in 1855. He was then twenty-two years of age. He entered the law office of Wright, Knapp & Caldwell, the firm being composed of J. C. Knapp, George G. Wright and Henry Clay Caldwell. Upon the election of George G. Wright as one of the judges of the State Supreme Court, George F. Wright was taken into the firm, the style of which became Knapp, Caldwell & Wright. As I understand it, the subject of this sketch was not related to Judge George G. Wright, but was a nephew of Judge Knapp. In 1868 Mr. Wright

moved to Council Bluffs where he became a partner of Judge Caleb Baldwin, under the firm name of Baldwin & Wright. This firm became the most prominent one in that part of the State, and did a large and lucrative business. Mr. Wright proved himself to be a lawyer of decided ability and a business man of wide executive capacity. In 1875 he was elected to the State Senate and served in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth General Assemblies; was re-elected and served in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth General Assemblies. He was a member of the judiciary committee and left a durable impression on the laws and jurisprudence of his time. He became interested in various enterprises, became president of the first street railway company of Council Bluffs, was one of the organizers of companies for the manufacture of coal illuminating gas in various towns, and one of the organizers of the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway & Bridge Company.* He was one of the most useful men in the history of Council Bluffs, of high character and undoubted integrity. He died at Council Bluffs in 1906. He was succeeded in the practice by his son, George S. Wright.

Winfield S. Mayne was the son of Emanuel Mayne, one of the early county judges of Van Buren County. He is mentioned in connection with my sketch of Augustus Hall. Winfield was born in Ohio in 1833, and was educated in the private academy of the Rev. Daniel Lane, at Keosauqua, afterwards entering the Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, from which he was graduated in 1856, having the honor of being the first graduate of that institution. He read law in the office of Wright & Knapp and entered upon the practice at Keosauqua, where he remained until 1872, when he removed to Red Oak, Iowa, and became the partner of the late Judge Smith McPherson. After remaining here some three or four years he removed to Council Bluffs and was admitted into the firm of Baldwin & Wright, referred to in the previous sketch, which then became Baldwin, Wright & Mayne. While in Keosauqua he was for a time the law partner of W. A. Work, who afterward removed to and became a distinguished lawyer in Ottumwa. Judge Mayne was regarded as a sound and able lawyer and maintained a high rank in the profession. For very many years he was Referee in Bankruptcy, or Judge of the Bankruptcy Court, and served with ability and general satisfaction in that capacity until he had passed his eighty-second year. He was a man of high character, perfect integrity and a genial, lovable gentleman.

Spencer Smith was one of the young lawyers of Council Bluffs when I first met him some forty-five years ago; it was, if I remember rightly, on the excursion of the Iowa Editorial Association through Kansas and Missouri, to accompany which we had been invited. He was then a bright, sparkling, young man, a slim, good-looking, airy fellow, highly intelligent, and a favorite with the ladies, and I think gen-

* Annals of Iowa, Volume 8, Third Series, page 157.

STATE OF IOWA,
Office of Secretary of State,

Des Moines, October 20, 1875.

Hon.

Dear Sir: It has been the custom of each House of the General Assembly to cause to be prepared and published a table showing certain statistics in connection with the names of the members thereof. To make this historical data CORRECT is the object of furnishing you this blank, and it is hoped that you will aid me in making it as complete as possible by making a full return of the items below to this office as early as practicable.

PLEASE GIVE FIRST NAME IN FULL.

Name George F. Wright

P. O. Cornell Bluffs

County Pottawattomie

Occupation Lawyer

Nativity Vermont

Married or Single Married

If in the Service: Regiment and Rank

Years in Iowa Twenty (20)

Age Forty one (41) years

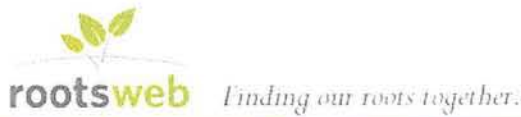
Weight 150 pounds

Herewith please find copy of Rules of the last Session, which, it is requested, you will preserve, owing to the scarcity of the edition.

Yours, very respectfully,

JOSIAH T. YOUNG,

Secretary of State.



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- *ID:* I32660
- *Name:* George Franklin Wright
- *Surname:* Wright
- *Given Name:* George Franklin
- *Sex:* M
- *Birth:* 5 Dec 1833 in Warren, , Vermont
- *Ancestral File #:* 1ZGQ-PDL
- *UID:* 6BE91889060CFE4CA0F3298EEE4152001C80
- *Change Date:* 12 Jun 2007 at 01:00:00

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Mother: [Caroline Susanna Tillotson](#) b: ABT 1812 in

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- *ID:* I8180
- *Name:* George Franklin WRIGHT
- *Sex:* M
- *Note:* Wright Connection an attorney in Council Bluffs, IA.

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Father: [Franklin Asher WRIGHT](#) b: in Council Bluffs, IA.

Mother: [Caroline Susan TILLOTSON](#)

Marriage 1 [Ellen Elizabeth BROOK](#)

- *Married:* 26 Oct 1863

Children

1. [George WRIGHT](#)
2. [Franklin Prentice WRIGHT](#) b: 2 Mar 1866
3. [George Spencer WRIGHT](#) b: 21 Jan 1868
4. [Caroline Eliza WRIGHT](#) b: 6 Jun 1870
5. [Ellen Elizabeth WRIGHT](#) b: 7 Dec 1871

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