

to see the west. After investigating the advantages and resources of northwest Iowa, he bought a section of government land in Cherokee county, paying two dollars and fifty cents per acre. This is still owned by the family and is located near Aurelia.

At that time Cherokee county was a frontier district, with miles of unbroken prairie and the nearest market at Denison sixty miles to the south. The next year, 1869, brought the railroad and many settlers. The township was organized and named Pitcher in honor of one of the first settlers.

Mr. Pitcher returned to Boston for several years, but finally came to Iowa to establish his home. Throughout the succeeding years he carried forward the work of improving and developing his property, adding to his holdings until he owned 720 acres, also a farm of 200 acres in Minnesota.

Mr. Pitcher was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hersey of Bangor, Maine, in 1877. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are living at Aurelia.

Politically he was a Republican and served as supervisor, as a member of the school board, and held a seat in the state legislature at Des Moines in 1881, besides giving active cooperation to many movements for the public good. Living in Pitcher township for forty-nine years he was respected and honored by an extensive circle of friends. Through years of declining health his interest in his home and community, its churches and schools never lessened. His greatest contribution to life was his courage, never allowing discouragement to find lodgement within himself and sustaining many others through trying hours. He died April 11, 1927, at the age of eighty-eight years.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the state of Iowa takes this occasion to express its appreciation of the character and services of this valuable citizen, and,

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the Journal of the House, and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased in care of Miss Bess Pitcher, at Aurelia, Iowa.

C. C. R. BUSH,  
G. L. VENARD,  
J. PARK BAIR,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted April 8, 1929.

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#### HON. THOMAS PARSONS

MR. SPEAKER: We, your committee, appointed to draft suitable resolutions concerning the life and public services of Honorable Thomas Parsons, member of the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Fortieth extra General Assemblies, beg leave to submit the following:

On Sunday, April 1, 1928, occurred the death of Thomas Parsons, pioneer resident of Calhoun county Iowa, at Saint Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Fort Dodge, after an illness of about seven months.

He was born February 12, 1855, at Rigate, Surrey, England, a son of Henry and Hanna Parsons, and was the second child in a family of ten children. In the year 1867 the family came to the United States, making their home in Chicago, Illinois. In 1868 they removed to Lee county, Illinois, where this pioneer family laid out their home on a tract of uncultivated land. Thomas Parsons attended the district schools in Lee county and further continued his education in Dixon.

Mr. Parsons came to Iowa in 1878 with a brother, Henry Parsons, now a member of the board of supervisors of Calhoun county, Iowa. These brothers purchased adjoining farms in Calhoun county. After he had established his home in that county, he engaged himself in teaching school. Later he purchased an eighty-acre tract of land to which he added from time to time until he became an extensive, prosperous and wealthy land owner. He was interested in bringing his estate to a high plane of cultivation and was both a grain and stock raiser. He was truly one of the successful pioneer farmers of this state.

In 1899 he retired from his farm and took up his place of residence in Farnhamville, Iowa. This place was his residence until his death.

In 1879 he was married to Miss Mary Clutter, who predeceased him in 1900. To this union were born four children, namely: Alfred H., John L., Flora E., and a deceased daughter, Bertha M. He was a member of the Congregational church, and the Knights of Pythias lodge.

During his lifetime he served this state as a member of the board of supervisors of Calhoun county, mayor of the town of Farnhamville, and a member of the General Assembly.

Linked with the progress of this state is indelibly inscribed the name of Thomas Parsons, who was a true builder in every sense of the word. He was an able exponent of the thought of our state which gave to us the establishment of the secondary road system of Iowa, and no one had a better understanding of our drainage laws than he.

There are few men in Iowa who served in the legislature who were more useful to their constituency, and particularly to the agricultural interests of the state as a whole. While a member of the Iowa legislature he was a hard and conscientious worker. His earnest desire was to be of real service to the people of his county and state, and his highest ambition was to justify the trust and confidence the people had placed in him by giving to his duties the most exacting and painstaking attention possible.

He took more than ordinary interest in everything that concerned the welfare of the state at large, and his business activities were second to none whether it involved his personal interests or the interests of others. Always exceedingly fair, honest, and generous, yet at all times practicing economy which exemplified his success as a business man. The state has lost one of its best and leading citizens.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That in the death of Thomas Parsons the state has lost a valuable and honored citizen whose faithful and unselfish duty in business and private life is worthy of commendation and recognition. And the House of Representatives takes this opportunity to express its appreciation of his high character and public services to the state of

Iowa, and to extend to his family sincere sympathy in their sorrow and bereavement.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of this House, and that enrolled copies thereof be transmitted to the members of his family.

MARION R. MCCAULLEY,  
REYBURN L. RUTLEDGE,  
J. A. KING,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted April 8, 1929.

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HON. JOHN FREDERICK POTTER

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life and service of the Honorable John Frederick Potter, late of Cherokee county, beg leave to submit the following memorial:

John Frederick Potter was born February 27, 1834, in Bridgewater, Windsor county, Vermont, a son of John Potter, who served in the War of 1812, and Polly Wheeler, both of Scotch ancestry. When nine years old he moved with his parents to Rutland county, Vermont, where he lived until he came to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1856.

Mr. Potter followed Rufus Richardson to Iowa and assisted him in developing his farm, which was located southwest of McGregor, and in 1860 he purchased land nearby and in 1862, November 27, married Mary A. Bailey, who had come with her parents from Connecticut in 1859 and lived on a neighboring farm.

In 1868, Mr. Potter looked over a large part of northwestern Iowa, and decided to locate in Cherokee county. Consequently in the spring of 1869 he sold his Clayton county land and with his wife, his father-in-law and several neighboring men he came by covered wagon and ox team to Silver township, Cherokee county, where he purchased Iowa college land and established a home that was known far and wide for its generous hospitality.

Although they had no children of their own, they were the friends of youth everywhere and were Uncle John and Aunt Mary to an ever-widening group, and many were the picnics and gala times enjoyed in the Potter grove and orchard, all planted with their own hands.

Mr. Potter's political opinions were expressed by the Democratic party, voting for Buchanan in 1856. He served as Representative from Cherokee county in the Twenty-third General Assembly.

In 1900 Mr. and Mrs. Potter retired from the farm and moved to Cherokee where he continued to enjoy life and visiting with his many friends until his death, which occurred April 15, 1927, at the advanced age of 93. Funeral services were conducted by the Masons, of which fraternity he was an ardent member.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the state of Iowa take this occasion to express its appreciation of the character and services of this valuable citizen, and