



Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

January 28, 2015

THIS WEEK: Freeman McClelland: Iowa Representative for One Month

BACKGROUND:

The 26th General Assembly convened January 13, 1896, and adjourned April 11, 1896, a 90-day session. There were 150 legislators. Of the 100 member House of Representatives there were 80 Republican and 20 Democratic members. The 50-member Senate included seven Democratic and 43 Republican members. Lieutenant Governor Matt Parrott presided in the Senate and Howard W. Byers served as Speaker of the House. Francis Drake was sworn in as Governor on January 16, 1896, at the age of 65. The 1890 census showed Iowa's population at 1,912,297.

**Freeman McClelland:
Iowa Representative for One Month**

Representative McClelland served only one month. The session convened January 13, 1896, and he died February 13, 1896. The following is from his Legislative biography:

FREEMAN MCCLELLAND One of the older members of the Republican party on the floor of the House this winter will be the Hon. Freeman McClelland, M. D., of Cedar Rapids. He was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, November 28, 1830.



Freeman McClelland

He lived in Pennsylvania 20 years, Indiana five years, Colorado two years, and has been a citizen of Iowa for 34 years. He received his education in Kittanning and Philadelphia. During the war he served as assistant surgeon of the 16th Iowa Infantry. The hardships of the war so impaired his health that he abandoned practice at the close of the war and has since been editor of the *Cedar Rapids Times*. He was married while a young man to Miss Mary E. Gardner. They have three children; Bertha Louise, aged 26; Clyde, 21, and Freeman, Jr., 19. He belongs to the G. A. R. and attends the Presbyterian church. In politics he has always been a Republican. The only office he has ever before held was that of visitor to the hospitals for the insane, which place he held for six years. He will take a special interest in all matters affecting the charitable institutions of the state this winter.

After Representative McClelland's death, David Brant was elected to fill the vacancy. Brant was sworn into office March 10, 1896. Representative Brant served in the 26th General Assembly and the 26th extraordinary session in 1897. Both McClelland and Brant were born in states east of the Mississippi, McClelland from Pennsylvania and Brant from Indiana. Both were newspaper editors.

David Brant was born in July, 1850, and died in June 1919.

From the Journal of the House of Representatives

The beginning pages of the journal list information about each of the Representatives, included in that information is a column noting the nativity of each member of the House. There were only 17 members who were native Iowans. The oldest, Thomas Lambert from Sabula in Jackson County, was 40, having been born in Iowa in 1856. Not surprisingly 73 members were from states east of the Mississippi. Only one other Representative, G. H. Van Houten, was born in a state west of the Mississippi. He came from Missouri. There were 10 members who were not born in the United States. Representatives Grote and Voelker were born in Germany. McDonald, Nolan, and Wheelan came from Ireland. Representative Johnson was from Sweden. Representative Marti came from Switzerland. Representative Morrison came from Scotland, Representative Parker from England, and Representative Tibbitts from Canada.

Total Representatives 101