

In 1836, Mr. Sterling resigned the sheriffalty, and was the same year elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Council of Michigan Territory, which met at Green Bay in January; and when, the same year, Wisconsin Territory was organized, he was appointed auctioneer of Iowa county. He was elected transcribing clerk of the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature, at the session held at Burlington in June, 1838; and was, the same year, appointed one of the commissioners to re-locate the half-breed Indian lands, reserved by the Winnebagoes under the treaty of 1829. He was, also in 1838, chosen a member of the Legislative Council from the county of Iowa, for the term of four years. He took his seat at the first session held in Madison, in November of that year; he served in the Council five sessions, including two extra sessions, and resigned in 1841. He was in that year appointed by the President, Receiver of Public Moneys of the Mineral Point Land District.

He was elected Sheriff of Iowa county in 1846, and re-elected to the same office in 1848; in 1850-51, he served a term in the State Senate; in 1851 he was appointed a deputy surveyor of U. S. lands, by the Surveyor-General of Iowa and Wisconsin; and in 1852 he was again chosen for a term of two years in the State Senate. He was again elected Sheriff of Iowa county in 1854; and he has this year (1857,) been appointed by Gov. Bashford, a commissioner, in conjunction with Ex-Gov. L. J. Farwell and Hon. John P. McGregor, for the location and erection of the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane. This long list of public services attest the worth and popularity of the man, whose ambition, with his natural modesty, probity and industry, seems to have been directed to serving faithfully those who confided important trusts to him; and to have done this for so long a series of years, is in itself high praise, and must carry with it ample satisfaction.