



WILLIAM B. ALLISON
of Iowa

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William B. Allison, a Republican of Iowa, was chairman of the committee twice, from March 18, 1881, until March 4, 1893, and again from January 1, 1896, until his death on August 4, 1908. This combined record of more than 24 years exceeds that of any other Senate committee chairman. Allison served on the committee for all of his 35 years in the Senate.

Born in Perry Township, Wayne (now Ashland) County, OH, in 1829, Allison attended Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, and graduated from Western Reserve College at Hudson (now Cleveland), OH. Admitted to the bar in 1852, he practiced law in Iowa until 1861, when he accepted a commission as lieutenant colonel in the Union Army. In 1863 he was elected to the House of Representatives, declining to run again after serving four terms. After practicing law in Dubuque for a short period, he was elected to the Senate in 1872, serving from March 4, 1873, until his death in 1908.

For further reading: Johnson, Allen, ed. *Dictionary of American Biography*. 1935. Reprint. New York: 1946. Vol. 1.

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Garraty, John A. and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*. New York, 1999. Vol. 1.