

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Rogers, John Newton Senator  
Represented Scott County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 7 Nov 1830 New York, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Mary Norman VanDerswever 1857

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was admitted to the bar in July 1852; from 1866-1867  
he lectured on constitutional law in the law department of University of Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Lawyer;

4. Church membership Reformed

5. Sessions served 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1866

6. Public Offices

A. Local Council Bluffs city attorney;

B. State In 1875 the Governor of Iowa offered him to be judge of the  
7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, but declined

C. National

7. Death 20 May 1887 Iowa post office buried Warwick Cemetery, Warwick, New York

8. Children Ferdinand V. (died 6 Apr 1885 in accidental drowning)

9. Names of parents Edmund J. and Rebecca (Platt) Rogers

10. Education Preparatory studies were pursued at  
Fairfield, Connecticut and afterwards at  
Northampton, Massachusetts

11. Degrees He entered the University of New York City in 1844  
graduating with honors in 1848

12. Other applicable information Whig, later Republican
- After college he went to Augusta, Georgia where his elder  
brother lived. There he spent a year in teaching
  - He returned to the north in 1849 where he studied law at  
Northampton, Massachusetts in the office of the Honorable  
Jamison Boker and Honorable Charles DeLancey as well as  
prominent members of the bar of Hampshire County, Massachusetts
  - He then moved to New York City and in the fall of 1853 he became  
a professor of pleading, practice and evidence in the State  
and National Law School in Poughkeepsie, New York. He stayed  
in this position for 2 years
  - In fall 1854 he made a trip to the west and visited  
Davenport, Iowa. The result was that he moved to  
Davenport in Feb 1857
  - He formed a law firm with H. H. J. Gurley which dissolved  
in 3 years
  - In 1860 he formed a partnership with Charles E. Putnam lasting 25 years.
  - His wife, Mary, died in 1867.
  - The drowning of his son, Jeremiah in the Mississippi River in 1885, was deeply  
devastating to Mr. Rogers from which he never fully recovered.



THE COMMUNITY MOURNS.

Judge Rogers Unexpected Death

Sketch of the Life of the Eminent Jurist—His Career at the Bar and as a Man—His Great Ability and Reputation—His Brief Judgeship—The Feeling in the City—Action of the Bar.

The community was stirred and grieved yesterday and to-day as is not often the case, by the report of the death of Judge John N. Rogers, which took place Sunday morning at 8 o'clock. It was unexpected. Nearly all his friends believed he was recovering from his illness; his own household did not think death was near until it gave signs of approach a few hours before the end came. The cause of his death was heart disease primarily, and Bright's disease secondarily, resulting in uræmia. Judge Rogers is gone, and the whole city is in grief. He was a distinguished lawyer, a just judge, a noble man—and his career has been one of marked interest.

ANCESTRY AND CAREER.

John Newton Rogers was born in the city of New York on the 7th day of November, 1830, his parents being Edmund J. and Rebecca Platt Rogers. His father was a native of Southampton, Rhode Island, and an active and successful merchant in New York city till his death, which occurred suddenly in the year 1835, at the age of forty-seven years. His mother was the daughter of Judge Ebenezer Platt, long a prominent citizen of Huntington, Long Island. Mrs. Rogers survived her husband some eighteen years, and died in 1858 at Northampton, Massachusetts, where her home had been during the latter part of her life. She was a woman of rare symmetry and beauty of character, and to her influence and example much of what was excellent in the character of the Judge is due. The ancestors of the family were among the early colonists of New England, arriving about the year 1640, and claiming descent from Rev. John Rogers, who suffered martyrdom in England during the reign of "Bloody Mary". The preparatory studies of Judge Rogers were pursued at Fairfield, Oppenheim, and afterwards at Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1844

seek the aid of rhetorical embellishments to give charm to his argument, yet he was always listened to by courts with the greatest pleasure, and he carries along his auditors by the resistless sweep of his logical force. He was stronger with the court than with the jury, for the reason that he seemed to aim exclusively at strength and certainty, discarding the arts and embellishments of the popular advocate. Hence the trained mind of the jurist follows him with ever increasing interest. His arguments in the higher courts were not unfrequently reproduced, phrase for phrase, in the ruling of the judge delivering the opinion. Yet he was eminently successful before juries, and his candor with them always commanded respect and confidence. In addition to his legal attainments, he had a fine literary culture, possessing a memory that retains everything once read. He had the power of recalling at will large passages from his favorite authors, which in the company of congenial friends, he did with great aptness and facility. The natural habitude of his mind was reticent, hence his circle of intimate acquaintances was limited. He had but few of the popular arts, and those who did not know him well, misjudged his disposition and thought him exclusive when he was only shy. To his friends he was warm hearted and sincere, and those who knew him best esteemed him most highly. He was known chiefly as a lawyer, and his reputation in that capacity was the result of earnest and persistent efforts exerted in the interest of his clients, and not to make a display. His tastes and character of mind induce a love of legal study for its own sake. In the summer of 1872 he visited Europe and spent four months in travel through that distinguished quarter of the globe. Mr. Rogers was for many years a member of the Reformed church, but was not ill content in his views, being in sympathy with all evangelical Christians. In politics, he was in early life, a whig. He has been attached to the Republican party since its organization, and has always supported it, though of late years he has taken no active part in politics. Shortly after removing to Iowa, in 1857, he married Miss Mary Niermer, daughter of the Rev. F. H. Vanderveer, D. D., of Warrenton, New York. His union with her was terminated by her death. One child, a son, named Ferdi-

Rogers made the remark that he would be the next one to go—a prophecy that has been fulfilled.

THE BAR IN SORROW.

When the district court assembled at 10 o'clock this forenoon, Judge Leflingwell said to the Bar that he believed the death of Judge Rogers was such an affliction that neither the Bar nor business would, therefore, adjourn until 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The members of the Bar remained in their places, and immediately after adjournment Hon. James T. Lane referred to the loss which had brought so many of them together, and said it was desirable that the Bar take action in preparation for the funeral and in expression of their feelings. He moved that Hon. John C. Bills be requested to act as chairman.

In taking the chair Mr. Bills said that the death of Judge Rogers was sad in every way and unexpected. He had been a greatly respected member of the Bar for thirty years. Everywhere in Iowa he was regarded as one of the very ablest lawyers in the state—at the very head of the Bar of the state. Every attorney in Scott county felt proud of him. He was accomplished in every way—in law, in literature—he was an educated gentleman. Mr. Bills said that he became acquainted with Mr. Rogers before he came to Davenport—he was a member of Mr. R's class in the Poughkeepsie law school and the acquaintance was renewed when Mr. Rogers entered upon the practice of his profession in Davenport. Mr. Bills then alluded to the physical difficulties under which Mr. Rogers labored—and to the sympathy that ought to have been his. He said that he himself had such abundance of physical health, that it was hard for him to understand how a man could be affected as Mr. Rogers was, hard to appreciate his sufferings. Mr. Rogers had been without good health for years, and he was in no condition to conduct the term in Muscatine after the close of his term here. He ought not to have returned to Muscatine to adjourn the term when he was ill after the first week. The last time he was in this court-room he was so feeble that, as an attorney said, he could scarcely stand. But he had the remarkable idea of duty as a judge which characterized him as a

family were among the first to support the Rev. John Rogers, who suffered martyrdom in England during the reign of "Bloody Mary". The preparatory studies of Mr. Rogers were pursued at Fairfield, Connecticut, and afterwards at Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1844 he entered the university of the city of New York, from which he was graduated in 1848 with the first honors of his class. Soon after leaving college he went to Augusta, Georgia, where his elder brother then resided, and spent a year in teaching. Returning to the north in 1849 he commenced the study of law at Northampton, then the family home, in the office of the Hon. Ormyn Baker and Hon. Chas. Delano, then prominent members of the bar of Hampshire county, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in the month of February, 1852. He removed to New York city soon after, and in the autumn of 1853 accepted an invitation to become professor of pleading, practice and evidence in the State and National Law School, then located at Poughkeepsie, New York. He continued to occupy this chair for two years, after which he returned to New York city and commenced the practice of his profession. In the autumn of 1856 he made a trip to the west and visited Davenport, being induced to do so chiefly by the circumstance that his friend and fellow student, the late W. H. F. Gurley, who, during the administration of President Lincoln, was United States district attorney for Iowa, resided here. The result was that in the following February (1857) he removed to Davenport, where he has ever since resided. He formed a law partnership with his friend Gurley, which lasted three years, and was then dissolved, and in 1860 he formed a partnership with Ones. E. Putnam under the firm name of Putnam & Rogers, which long had a leading place at the bar of Iowa, having been connected with some of the heaviest suits and most important questions of law coming before the state and federal courts during the last 25 years of partnership with the most flattering results. The practice of Mr. Rogers was confined to no special department of the law, and he was equally powerful in all. He was instrumental in settling points of underwriting and commercial law, as well as the more delicate and complicated questions of constitutional and statutory interpretation. One of the most notable instances of his power was exhibited in the case of the United States, on the relation of Hall and Morse against the Union Pacific railroad

organization, and he always supported the Union. In 1857, he removed to Iowa, in 1857, he married Miss Mary Neizer, daughter of the Rev. F. H. Vanderwever, D. D., of Warwick, New York. This union lasted until 1867, when it was terminated by her death. One child, a son, named Ferdinand V., was the result of the union. The son died on the 6th of April, 1885. This affliction, sudden and all unexpected, as the death was by drowning in the Mississippi, was a most grievous stroke for the father. It affected his health seriously, and for some time it was feared he could not bear the burden of grief long; but Christian fortitude sustained him.

In the summer of '86 Mr. Rogers and his sister Harriet, who has been his home companion since the death of his wife, visited Colorado, in the hope that the change of climate would relieve him of the distress caused by asthma, but the experience of six weeks showed that the air of the mountains was deleterious instead of beneficial—and there was return home.

ON THE BENCH.

In September last Mr. Rogers was nominated for District Judge by a convention of the Bar of the Seventh Judicial district held in Davenport. Judges Brennan of Muscatine and Leffingwell of Clinton being his colleagues on the ticket. All were elected—though Mr. Rogers belonged to the minority party in the district. After his nomination, the leading papers in the state and in Chicago and St. Louis spoke of him as one of the most eminent lawyers in the west, and some of them wondered at his abandoning practice for the bench, not knowing that it was believed the change would benefit his health.

Judge Rogers opened his first term of court in Davenport on the 8th day of February last—and he presided throughout the term of four or five weeks with an ability and conceded correctness in ruling, and clearness in statement of decisions, that won the encomiums of the Bar. The only fault found was, that he gave too close attention to matters that needed no vigilance from the bench. But he was regarded as a superior Judge. On the 19th of April he opened the spring term of court in Muscatine county. The end of the second week he returned home, ill, but Judge Leffingwell was to preside next week, as Judge Rogers had been attorney in important cases to be heard, and Judge R. was to preside in Davenport, when he was unable to do so. But next day after the close of Judge Leffingwell's duties at Muscatine, Judge

here. He ought not to have returned to the bench. In this court-room he was so feeble that, as an attorney said, he "looked as if he was struck with death." But he had the remarkable idea of duty as a judge which characterized him as a lawyer—that he must attend to duty if possible regardless of consequences to himself. When he was in practice he always thought it his duty to win his case; he believed he was right, and, if defeated, that something was wrong in his conduct of the case, that he hadn't done all he might have done, and it affected him seriously. Defeat seemed to crush him for a time. Many of us believed when he went on the Bench, that he would get rid of this friction which affected him and rendered him nervous and unhappy. But the change was only in kind. He manifested the same feeling as to duty on the Bench that he did at the Bar, he seemed to be oppressed with the feeling that something was going wrong—and the same intense watchfulness that would unsettle the nerve of a strong man characterized him. He was so well qualified in attainments, so true, so just, so thorough—and he is dead. It is very sad. The entire Bar looked upon his judicial career as one that would be very able and satisfactory, and he is cut off in the midst of our hopes. Mr. Bill's was much affected during his remarks, as were all the other members of the Bar, especially the older ones who commenced their career here with Mr. Rogers.

On motion, L. P. Dosh was chosen Secretary.

Mr. Hubball stated the arrangements for the funeral, and then said as he was one of the oldest members of the Scott County Bar, that it would be proper for him to state his views of Judge Rogers as a man and a lawyer. Whatever path John N. Rogers traveled in he adorned. He added lustre to all the virtues which render man noble, by his life and singleness of heart. He was distinguished for the clearness of his understanding of all judicial questions submitted to him. He had a clear, analytical mind that enabled him to reach conclusions directly. He never assumed a point or theory to be right that he did not believe to be right. He sought after the truth. With other attorneys he believed in seeking justice for his client—that his client had right on his side—but he could not bear to be compelled to construct theories of right; he wanted it to be self-evident.

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In personal appearance, he was of medium height, slender make, a frame rather delicate than robust, a pleasing countenance and well shaped head, surmounted with a luxuriant growth of smooth, dark brown hair.

THE FAMILY OF MR. ROGERS had remarkable experience in one respect. The band of three sisters and two brothers was unbroken for thirty years. Then the elder brother, Rev. E. P. Rogers, many years pastor of the largest Dutch Reform church in New York, died in '81; in '84, the elder sister, Mrs. Caldwell, of Cleveland, Ohio, passed away. While at the funeral Mr.

Secretary.

Mr. Hubball stated the arrangements for the funeral, and then said as he was one of the oldest members of the Scott County Bar, that it would be proper for him to state his views of Judge Rogers. Mr. Rogers traveled in his path adorned. He added lustre to all the virtues which render man noble, by his life and singleness of heart. He was distinguished for the clearness of his understanding of all judicial questions submitted to him. He had a clear, analytical mind that enabled him to reach conclusions directly. He never assumed a point or theory to be right that he did not believe to be right. He sought after the truth. With other attorneys he believed in seeking justice for his client—that his client had right on his side—but he couldn't bear to be compelled to construct theories of right; he wanted it to be self-evident. He believed that Mr. Rogers rejected many cases because he couldn't see clearly that justice was on the side of his client. He disliked to argue cases before a jury because he believed that the ordinary jurics did not possess sufficient intelligence to understand and weigh a case as its conflicting issues deserved. But he was a born jurist. He looked at legal propositions as a jurist and not as a partisan. Few lawyers had his thoroughness of conducting a case for the right there was in it and not for mere victory for his client. He was not an orator in the common acceptation of the term—but when he was before the court, either before a supreme bench or before a single judge, there he was at home. There he shone with a lustre equalled by few and excelled by none in Iowa. Mr. Rogers had one of the best hearts—there never was a more generous hearted man—but it was restricted by his constant illness. He ought to have had greater credit for geniality than was given him. The speaker had been with him on social occasions when he was alive with wit and humor. He had the faculty of making the most apt quotations—quoting the best hits of the best wits and most eminent authors—in the happiest way—the life of a social assembly. Mr. Rogers helped young lawyers—took delight in placing them in the right path, as he conceived it. Many failed to to approach him because they didn't understand him—but those who did remember him as a benefactor. He was a thorough Christian gentleman.

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afternoon at 4 o'clock at the  
Congregational church. Wednesday  
morning the casket will be borne  
to the Perry street depot, and placed  
aboard a train for the east—for convey-  
ance to Warwick, N. Y., for interment  
beside the wife and son who sleep  
there.

GENERAL MENTION.

The Renwick electric light company  
and the Davenport electric light com-  
pany were consolidated yesterday.

One couple was made happy to-day  
by taking out a marriage license; it  
being William Wolters and Kate Toney,  
both of this city.

Yesterday occurred the funeral  
of Martin Lorenson from his residence,  
417 west Second street. The interment  
took place at the city cemetery.

Saturday night at 12 o'clock Fred  
Wooten and Josephine Brader were  
united in marriage at the residence of  
Justice Kramer.

Yesterday occurred the funeral of  
the late Rebecca M. Clark. The pro-  
cession to Oakdale was very large, where  
the remains were laid to rest.

Yesterday morning Mr. Hubbell filed a  
motion to set aside the verdict of the  
jury in the case of Wm. Perry, tried for  
murder, and for a new trial. The mo-  
tion will be heard next Wednesday  
morning.

President Stern, of the Philadelphians,  
has offered the St. Louis club \$3,500  
for the release of Pitcher Hudson, form-  
erly of Rock Island. Von der Ahe wired  
him to double it and he would give the  
matter a serious thought.

At the meeting of the German Kampf-  
genossen society held Sunday the fol-  
lowing officers were elected:

- President—Jurgen Brandt.
- Vice President—Hans Boettger.
- Secretary—Henry Boldt.
- Financial Secretary—John Martens.
- Treasurer—Walf Koll.
- Banner Carriers—Wm. Lemburg and  
Reimers Bolling.

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JUDGE ROGERS DEAD.

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OTHER AFTERNOON NEWS.

The community was stirred and grieved Sunday and yesterday as is often the case, by the report of the death of Judge John N. Rogers, which took place Sunday morning at 8 o'clock. It was unexpected. Nearly all his friends believed he was recovering from his illness; his own household did not think death was near until it gave signs of approach a few hours before the end came. The cause of his death was heart disease primarily, and Bright's disease secondarily, resulting in uraemia. Judge Rogers is gone, and the whole city is in grief. He was a distinguished lawyer, a just judge, a noble man—and his career has been one of marked interest.

ANCESTRY AND CAREER.

John Newton Rogers was born in the city of New York on the 7th day of November, 1830, his parents being Edmund J. and Rebecca Platt-Rogers. His father was a native of Southampton, Rhode Island, and an active and successful merchant in New York city till his death, which occurred suddenly in the year 1835, at the age of forty-seven years. His mother was the daughter of Judge Ebenezer Platt, long a prominent citizen of Huntington, Long Island. Mrs. Rogers survived her husband some eighteen years, and died in 1858 at Northampton, Massachusetts, where her home had been during the latter part of her life. She was a woman of rare symmetry and beauty of character, and to her influence and example much of what was excellent in the character of the Judge is due. The ancestors of the family were among the early colonists

ments of the popular advocate. Hence the trained mind of the jurist follows him with ever increasing interest. His arguments in the higher courts were not unfrequently reproduced, phrase for phrase, in the ruling of the judge delivering the opinion. Yet he was often eminently successful before juries, and his candor with them always commanded respect and confidence. In addition to his legal attainments, he had a fine literary culture, possessing a memory that retains everything once read. He had the power of recalling at will large passages from his favorite authors, which in the company of congenial friends, he did with great aptness and felicity. The natural habits of his mind was retiring, hence his circle of intimate acquaintances was limited. He had but few of the popular arts, and those who did not know him well, misjudged his disposition and thought him exclusive when he was only shy. To his friends he was warm hearted and sincere, and those who knew him best esteemed him most highly. He was known chiefly as a lawyer, and his reputation in that capacity was the result of earnest and persistent efforts exerted in the interest of his clients, and not to make a display. His tastes and character of mind induce a love of legal study for its own sake. In the summer of 1872 he visited Europe and spent four months in travel through that distinguished quarter of the globe. Mr. Rogers was for many years a member of the Reformed church, but was not all sectarian in his views, being in sympathy with all evangelical Christians. In politics, he was in early life, a whig. He has been attached to the Republican party since its organization, and has always supported it, though of late years he has taken no active part in politics. Shortly after removing to Iowa, in 1857, he married Miss Mary Norman, daughter of the Rev. F. H. Vanderveer, D. D. of Warwick, New York. This union lasted until 1867, when it was terminated by her

paration sion of t Hon. Joh as chair In tak the death every wa been a g Bar for in low one of ti state—the the stat county f complet literatur man. A acquaint came to of Mr. E law scho renewed the prac port. A physical Rogers that ou that he physical him to affected precise had be years, dition Muscati here. Muscati was ill time he so feebl "locked But he as a jed lawyer- possible himself. always sars: I if det wrong i

de at Darda's. Maggie Stev- ties Kramer yester- get with keeping a inkment. She was has issued, through itation to the school to be present at the t the soldiers monu- as of the late Judge the Congregational this afternoon in- lence as heretofore as met with misfor- an as Smoot's Obain, Canton, Mo. She and sunk in five on formerly clerk in of stores in this Chicago recently to e master on the C. Davenport and Chi- mmittee for Memor- all those willing to be decoration of sol- e kind enough to A. B. hall on Third ly and Perry, on Sat- onnoisseur in sweets, sweetest thing on ater which arrived rning at his home. py he put a big box ler his arm for the ls he met. uletin received last raris and Watt, ad train robbers and ntenced to the peni- esterday. Leave was oners to file a bill of and State Legislators Collection compiled by Volunteers and Staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa. 1887.

yesterday. Leave was  
prisoners to file a bill of  
August 23, 1887.

Davenport butchers  
last evening to attend  
are. Among those  
at the trade in Daven-  
Helbig, E. S; Ohanan,  
J. D. Struve, A. Rueffel,  
Zoeckler, J. Houghthor,  
and J. Muhl. A number  
accompanied by their  
families.

at the Bridge, Second  
Western street railway  
rush. The subscription  
Mr. H. F. Petersen alone  
subscriptions amounting to  
has three subscriptions  
besides numerous smaller  
are ten other lists out  
enough subscriptions to  
amount to over \$20,000.  
are to be built and it will  
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shows that we are on the  
and vigorous growth.

the post guard is prepar-  
thousands of strangers  
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celebration at Schuetzen  
prisoners have been sent to  
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neighborhood and to about  
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directed by the Second Regi-  
miment drill, reading of  
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firminess drill with blank  
a big display of fireworks

all had a narrow escape  
yesterday morning through  
the side of his horse. The  
accustomed to the  
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ready street it was badly

to her influence and example much of  
what was excellent in the character of the  
Judge is due. The ancestors of the  
family were among the early colonists  
of New England, arriving about the  
year 1640, and claiming descent from  
Rev. John Rogers, who suffered martyr-  
dom in England during the reign of  
"Bloody Mary". The preparatory  
studies of Mr. Rogers were pursued at  
Fairfield, Connecticut, and afterwards at  
Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1844  
he entered the university of the city of  
New York, from which he was grad-  
uated in 1848 with the first honors  
of his class. Soon after leaving col-  
lege he went to Augusta, Geor-  
gia, where his elder brother then re-  
sided, and spent a year in teaching.  
Returning to the north in 1849 he com-  
menced the study of law at Northamp-  
ton, then the family home, in the office  
of the Hon. Osmyn Baker and Hon.  
Chas. Delano, then prominent members  
of the bar of Hampshire county, and  
was admitted to the Massachusetts bar  
in the month of February, 1852. He  
removed to New York city soon after,  
and in the autumn of 1853 accepted an  
invitation to become professor of plead-  
ing, practice and evidence in the State  
and National Law School, then located  
at Poughkeepsie, New York. He con-  
tinued to occupy this chair for two  
years, after which he returned to New  
York city and commenced the practice  
of his profession. In the autumn of  
1856 he made a trip to the west and  
visited Davenport, being induced  
to do so chiefly by the circumstance  
that his friend and fellow student, the  
late W. H. F. Gurley, who, during the  
administration of President Lincoln,  
was United States district attorney for  
Iowa, resided here. The result was  
that in the following February (1857)  
he removed to Davenport, where he has  
ever since resided. He formed a law  
partnership with his friend Gurley,  
which lasted three years, and was then  
dissolved, and in 1860 he formed a part-  
nership with Chas. E. Putnam under the  
firm name of Putnam & Rogers, which

Miss Mary Norman, daughter of the  
Rev. F. H. Vanderveer, D. D., of War-  
wick, New York. This union lasted un-  
til 1867, when it was terminated by her  
death. One child, a son, named Ferdi-  
nand V., was the result of the union.  
The son died on the 6th of April, 1885.  
This affliction, sudden and all unex-  
pected, as the death was by drowning  
in the Mississippi, was a most grievous  
stroke for the father. It affected his  
health seriously, and for some time it  
was feared he could not bear the burden  
of grief long; but Christian fortitude  
sustained him.

In the summer of '86 Mr. Rogers and  
his sister Harriet, who has been his  
home companion since the death of his  
wife, visited Colorado, in the hope that  
the change of climate would relief him  
from the distress caused by asthma, but  
an experience of six weeks showed that  
the air of the mountains was deleterious  
instead of beneficial—and there was re-  
turn home.

#### ON THE BENCH.

In September last Mr. Rogers was  
nominated for District Judge by a con-  
vention of the Bar of the Seventh Ju-  
dicial district held in Davenport, Judges  
Brannan of Muscatine and Leffingwell  
of Clinton being his colleague on the  
ticket. All were elected—though Mr.  
Rogers belonged to the minority party  
in the district. After his nomination,  
the leading papers in the state and in  
Chicago and St. Louis spoke of him as  
one of the most eminent lawyers in the  
west, and some of them wondered at his  
abandoning practice for the bench, not  
knowing that it was believed the change  
would benefit his health.

Judge Rogers opened his first term  
of court in Davenport on the 8th day of  
February last—and he presided through-  
out the term of four or five weeks with  
an ability and conceded correctness in  
rulings, and clearness in statement of  
decisions, that won the encomiums of the  
Bar. The only fault found was, that  
he gave too close attention to matters  
that needed no vigilance from the  
bench. But he was regarded as a for

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ree was caught before  
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**Arnica Salve.**  
in the world for cuts  
cers, salt rheum, fever  
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ptions, and positively  
o pay required. It is  
a perfect satisfaction, or  
Price 25 cents per box.  
Ballard & Co.

pols, 10 per cent  
price. H. Deunson.

#### UNION.

Illinois infantry holds  
annual reunion in Rock

promises to be one of  
society has ever held.  
m has been prepared.  
o meet at the Harper  
:20, and march  
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nt, and the veterans re-  
and for dinner. In the  
usiness session will be  
of Veterans' hall. In  
banquet will be held at

Thirteenth infantry  
J. M. Beardsley,  
Secretary—Martin A. Abel  
Secretary—Dr. R. C.

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ever since resided. He formed a law  
partnership with his friend Gurley,  
which lasted three years, and was then  
dissolved, and in 1860 he formed a part-  
nership with Chas. E. Putnam under the  
firm name of Putnam & Rogers, which  
long had a leading place at the bar of  
Iowa, having been connected with some  
of the heaviest suits and most important  
questions of law coming before the state  
and federal courts during the last 25 years  
of partnership with the most flattering  
results. The practice of Mr. Rogers  
was confined to no special department  
of the law, and he was equally powerful  
in all. He was instrumental in settling  
points of underwriting and commercial  
law, as well as the more delicate and  
complicated questions of constitutional  
and statutory interpretation. One of  
the most notable instances of his power  
was exhibited in the case of the United  
States, on the relation of Hall and  
Morse against the Union Pacific railroad  
company, begun in the United States  
circuit court of Iowa, and carried thence  
to the supreme court of the United  
States, in which Mr. Rogers as attorney  
for the citizens of Council Bluffs, Iowa,  
succeeded in establishing, against very  
able lawyers, and the strenuous opposi-  
tion of the railroad company, the fact  
that the eastern terminus of the line was  
at Council Bluffs, on the eastern side of  
the Missouri river, instead of at Omaha,  
and consequently that the bridge be-  
tween the two cities was a part of the  
railroad and must be operated as such.  
The case involved several new and intri-  
cate questions, as well as the construc-  
tion of several acts of congress. Judge  
Dillon, of the United States circuit  
court at Des Moines, and finally the  
supreme court of the United States  
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protracted and exciting struggle. Mr.  
Rogers devoted himself almost con-  
stantly to his profession, evading all  
public offices, except one term (1866-7)  
which he served with ability in the state  
legislature. In 1875 he was offered by  
the governor of Iowa the appointment  
of judge of the seventh judicial district,

and clearness in statement of  
decisions, that won the encomiums of the  
Bar. The only fault found was, that  
he gave too close attention to matters  
that needed no vigilance from the  
bench. But he was regarded as a  
superior Judge. On the 19th of April  
he opened the spring term of court  
in Muscatine county. The end  
of the second week he returned home,  
ill, but Judge Leffingwell was to pre-  
side next week, as Judge Rogers had  
been attorney in important cases to be  
heard, and Judge R. was to preside in  
Davenport, which he was unable to do.  
But next day after the close of Judge  
Leffingwell's duties at Muscatine, Judge  
Rogers went there to attend to minor  
matters and adjourn court until he  
should recover. When he returned to  
Davenport he was so weak that  
he had to be assisted from the  
carriage into his house. His  
ailment was regarded as nervous pros-  
tration. Shortly after this his sister,  
Mrs. J. G. Allen, of New Canaan, Conn.,  
arrived with her husband. They had  
spent the winter in California, and  
stopped here on return, for a brief visit  
with Judge and Miss Rogers. Dr. Middle-  
ton advised a longer stay for the benefit  
of his patient. On Friday last, the  
Judge sat up about five hours,  
and seemed to be improving. But  
that night a hiccough began that  
could not be stopped. Saturday he  
was weaker—and at 7 o'clock in the  
evening he passed into a comatose  
condition from which he never  
emerged. At 8 o'clock Sunday morn-  
ing he expired.

In personal appearance, he was of me-  
dium height, slender make, a frame  
rather delicate than robust, a pleasing  
countenance and well shaped head, sur-  
mounted with a luxuriant growth of  
smooth, dark brown hair.

THE FAMILY OF MR. ROGERS  
had remarkable experience in one re-  
spect. The band of three sisters and  
two brothers was unbroken for thirty  
years. Then the elder brother, Rev. E.  
P. Rogers, many years pastor of the

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of parasols, 10 per cent at . H. DEURSON.

REUNION.  
h Illinois infantry holds annual reunion in Rock

promises to be one of society has ever held. am has been prepared. to meet at the Harper 8:20, and march. avenue to Seven- hance. cars are to be tak- atch tower, where an ent, and the veterans re- land for dinner. In the business session will be ns of Veterans' hall. In banquet will be held at

of the Thirteenth infantry

J. M. Beardley,

secretary—Martin Abels,

g. Secretary—Dr. S. C.

Island.

we Mer Youth.

Chealey, Peterson, Clay ells the following remark- truth of which is vouched outs of the town: "I am years old, have been kidney complaint and any years, could not dress t help. Now I am free d soreness, and am able to housework. I owe my ric Bitters for having re- h, and removed complete- se and pain." Try a bottle, S. Ballard & Co's drug

y better at O'Shaugh- h-ton street.

ISLANDS  
i society please, please For terms apply to John

States, on the relation of Hall and More against the Union Pacific railroad company, begun in the United States circuit court of Iowa, and carried thence to the supreme court of the United States, in which Mr. Rogers as attorney for the citizens of Council Bluffs, Iowa, succeeded in establishing, against very able lawyers, and the strenuous opposition of the railroad company, the fact that the eastern terminus of the line was at Council Bluffs, on the eastern side of the Missouri river, instead of at Omaha, and consequently that the bridge between the two cities was a part of the railroad and must be operated as such. The case involved several new and intricate questions, as well as the construction of several acts of congress. Judge Dillon, of the United States circuit court at Des Moines, and finally the supreme court of the United States sustained Mr. Rogers throughout the protracted and exciting struggle. Mr. Rogers devoted himself almost constantly to his profession, evading all public offices, except one term (1866-7) which he served with ability in the state legislature. In 1875 he was offered by the governor of Iowa the appointment of judge of the seventh judicial district, but declined it. For two years (76-77) he filled the chair of lecturer on constitutional law in the law department of the Iowa State University, a position on which he has reflected high distinction. His mental qualities were of a keen analytical and logical cast. His language limpid and finely chosen to express his exact and clear-cut ideas. His statements were made with extreme accuracy of expression, and although he did not seek the aid of rhetorical embellishments to give charm to his argument, yet he was always listened to by courts with the greatest pleasure, and he carried along his auditors by the resistless sweep of his logical force. He was stronger with the court than with the jury, for the reason that he seemed to aim exclusively at strength and certaint

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In personal appearance, he was of medium height, slender make, a frame rather delicate than robust, a pleasing countenance and well shaped head, surmounted with a luxuriant growth of smooth, dark brown hair.

THE FAMILY OF MR. ROGERS had remarkable experience in one respect. The band of three sisters and two brothers was unbroken for thirty years. Then the elder brother, Rev. E. P. Rogers, many years pastor of the largest Dutch Reform church in New York, died in '81; in '84, the elder sister, Mrs. Caldwell, of Cleveland, Ohio, passed away. While at the funeral Mr. Rogers made the remark that he would be the next one to go—a prophecy that has been fulfilled.

THE BAR IN SORROW.

When the district court assembled at 10 o'clock a. m. yesterday Judge Lettingwell said to the Bar that he believed the death of Judge Rogers was such an affliction that neither the Bar nor himself desired to proceed with business. The court would, therefore, adjourn until 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The members of the Bar remained in their places, and immediately after adjournment Hon. James T. Lane referred to the loss which had brought so many of them together, and said it was

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IOWA VOLUME.

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CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:  
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
1878.

remaining in it for three years, but being ambitious and anxious to build up his own fortune, he emigrated to the United States in 1853, settling at Cincinnati, Ohio. He taught school at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, a short time, and there made the acquaintance of Hon. James Brown, a noted lawyer and celebrated jurist, and commenced the study of law under his instructions. During his studies he was appointed deputy recorder, and on the death of the recorder took his position. He attended the law college in the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, and received his diploma, and at the same time he pursued such classical studies as would be of use to him in his profession. He was admitted to the bar at Lawrenceburg, Judge Holmon, since member of congress, being the presiding officer of the board. In 1857 he commenced the practice of his profession in Keokuk, Iowa. He was clerk of the house of the Iowa legislature in 1861, and was appointed by the governor as commissioner to receive the votes of the soldiers. By special act of the legislature he was also made translator of the law for German publication. In 1864 he was elected vice-president of the school board, and was

unanimously elected alderman on an independent ticket. In the fall of 1864 he was elected and served two terms as county judge of Lee county; and on that office being abolished, he held the position of county auditor, to which he was reelected. During this time he lived at Fort Madison, but in 1872 he removed to Keokuk and organized the Commercial Bank, of which he is cashier and director. In 1872 he was nominated for congress on the democratic ticket, but was defeated. He has been tendered the nomination of superintendent of public instruction for the state, but declined. Was elected mayor of Keokuk in 1874, which office he yet (1876) holds.

He was married on the 15th of November, 1866, to Miss Addie G. Ayres. Through his industry and economy he has acquired an ample competency; and when we consider that on his arrival in this country he was not only without means but utterly ignorant of the English language, his success is truly remarkable. His character for integrity and uprightness is unimpeachable, and he occupies in the community in which he lives a position that commands respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

HON. JOHN N. ROGERS,

DAVENPORT.

FOREMOST among the many eminent names that adorn the bar of Iowa stands that of John Newton Rogers, the subject of this sketch, who was born in the city of New York, on the 7th of November, 1830, his parents being Edmund J. and Rebecca (Platt) Rogers. His father was a native of Southampton, Long Island, and an active and successful merchant in New York city till his death, which occurred suddenly in the year 1835, at the age of forty-seven years. His mother was a daughter of Judge Ebenezer Platt, long a prominent citizen of Huntington, Long Island. Mrs. Rogers survived her husband some eighteen years, and died in 1853 at Northampton, Massachusetts, where her home had been during the latter part of her life. She was a woman of rare symmetry and beauty of character, and to her influence and example much of what is excellent in the character of our subject is due. She had nine children, four of whom died in infancy, and five of whom survive. The eldest son, Rev. E. P. Rogers, D.D., is a prominent and successful

clergyman of the Reformed church in New York city. Our subject is the only other son.

The ancestors of the family were among the early colonists of New England, arriving about the year 1640, and claiming descent from Rev. John Rogers, who suffered martyrdom in England during the reign of "Bloody Mary."

The preparatory studies of our subject were pursued at Fairfield, Connecticut, and afterward at Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1844 he entered the university of the city of New York, from which he was graduated in 1848 with the first honors of his class. Soon after leaving college he went to Augusta, Georgia, where his elder brother then resided, and spent a year in teaching. Returning to the north in 1849 he commenced the study of law at Northampton, then the family home, in the office of the Hon. Osmyn Baker and Hon. Chas. Delano, then prominent members of the bar of Hampshire county, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in the month of February, 1852. He removed to

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New York city soon after, and in the autumn of 1853 accepted an invitation to become professor of pleading, practice and evidence in the State and National Law School, then located at Poughkeepsie, New York. He continued to occupy this chair for two years, after which he returned to New York city and commenced the practice of his profession.

In the autumn of 1856 he made a trip to the west and visited Davenport, Iowa, being induced to do so chiefly by the circumstance that his friend and former fellow-student, the late W. H. F. Gurley, who, during the administration of President Lincoln, was United States district attorney for Iowa, resided there. The result was that in the following February (1857) he removed to Davenport, where he has ever since resided. He formed a law partnership with his friend Gurley which lasted three years and was then dissolved, and in 1860 he formed his present partnership with Chas. E. Putnam, Esq., formerly of Saratoga Springs, New York, under the firm name of Putnam and Rogers, which has long since taken a leading place at the bar of Iowa, having been connected with some of the heaviest suits and most important questions of law coming before the state and federal courts during the last seventeen years, with the most flattering results. The practice of Mr. Rogers has been confined to no special department of the law, and he is equally powerful in all. He has been instrumental in settling points of underwriting and commercial law, as well as the more delicate and complicated questions of constitutional and statutory interpretation. One of the most notable recent instances of his power was exhibited in the case of the United States, on the relation of Hall and Morse against the Union Pacific Railroad Company, begun in the United States circuit court of Iowa and carried thence to the supreme court of the United States, in which Mr. Rogers, as attorney for the citizens of Council Bluffs, Iowa, succeeded in establishing, against very able lawyers and the strenuous opposition of the railroad company, the fact that the eastern terminus of the line was at Council Bluffs, on the eastern side of the Missouri river, instead of at Omaha, and consequently that the bridge between the two cities was a part of the railroad and must be operated as such. The case involved several new and intricate questions, as well as the construction of several acts of congress. Judge Dillon, of the United States circuit court at Des Moines, and finally the supreme court of the United States, sustained Mr. Rogers throughout the

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The natural habitude of his mind is retiring, hence his circle of intimate acquaintances is limited. He has but few of the popular arts, and those who do not know him well misjudge his disposition and think him exclusive when he is only shy. To his friends he is warm-hearted and sincere, and those who know him best esteem him most highly. He is known chiefly as a lawyer, and his reputation in that capacity is the result of earnest and persistent efforts exerted in the interest of his clients, and not to make a display. His tastes and character of mind induce a love of legal study for its own sake.

In the summer of 1872 he visited Europe and spent four months in travel through that most distinguished quarter of the globe.

Mr. Rogers has been for many years a member of the Reformed church, but is not at all sectarian in his views, being in sympathy with all evangelical christians.

In politics, he was in early life a whig. He has been attached to the republican party since its first organization, and has always supported it, though of late years he has taken no active part in politics.

Shortly after removing to Iowa, in 1857, he married Miss Mary Norman, daughter of the Rev. F. H.

Van Derveer, D.D., of Warwick, New York. This union lasted until 1867, when it was terminated by her death. One child, a son, named Ferdinand V., who survives, is the result of the union. Since then Mr. Rogers has remained a widower.

In personal appearance, he is of medium height, slender make, a frame rather delicate than robust, a pleasing countenance and well-shaped head surmounted with a luxuriant growth of smooth, dark brown hair.

## JOHN E. GOODENOW,

### MAQUOKETA.

JOHN ELLIOTT GOODENOW, "the father of Maquoketa," as he is called by the early settlers, is a native of Vermont, and was born in Springfield, Windsor county, on the 23d of March, 1812. His parents, Timothy and Betsy White Goodenow, were hard working people of the agricultural class, and raised a family of fourteen children.

The Whites, tradition reports, were descended from Peregrine White, the first child born after the Mayflower landed at Plymouth. It is a numerous family in this country. The great-grandfather of John Elliott had sixteen children, who lived to have families. Timothy Goodenow moved to Warren county, New York, when the subject of this memoir was eight years old, and there the son remained, tilling land with his father until a little past his majority, with no education except what could be had in attendance at a district school a few weeks each winter season. He bought a canal boat and ran it on the Northern canal, between Burlington, Vermont, and Albany, New York, until the close of navigation in 1837, and during the winter following started for the west with a four-horse team, driving it more than a thousand miles. He crossed the Mississippi on ice on the 10th of March, 1838, and being delayed by high water, did not reach the spot where Maquoketa now stands until the 19th. It was then a wild open prairie, with no improvement or human habitation in sight, though there were a few families in the township. Here Mr. Goodenow "squatted" on a hundred and sixty acres of land, which did not come into market till six years later; and he was a "sovereign," so far as he was conscious of any civil power. He put up a log cabin with the greatest possible dispatch, and that spring

planted three acres of sod corn, realizing a light crop. The next season he fenced his whole quarter section and broke forty or fifty acres of it. This being done, and not being partial to a bachelor's life in the wilderness, he returned to Warren county, New York, and on the 3d of October, 1839, received the hand, having long before had the heart, of Miss Eliza Wright, of Bolton. Before starting on their bridal tour, leading to the land of rattlesnakes and ague, Mr. Goodenow became ill, and was not able to leave eastern New York until after navigation had closed; so, instead of bringing his young bride to her new home on the Maquoketa by water, he purchased a span of horses, and started with both sleigh and wagon, sometimes using one and sometimes the other. They had relatives on the route in western New York, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan; made several visits; were nine weeks on the road, and had, on the whole, a pleasant wedding trip. Once they took the wrong track in Carroll county, Illinois, and found themselves on the open prairie eight or ten miles east of the Mississippi river, with no house in sight and the shades of night gathering around them. Their team was fatigued, they were at the end of a road, and, although the weather was decidedly wintry, they concluded to camp out. They had a plenty of covering; secured the horses; made a couch in the wagon box, and, supperless, went to bed. Many years afterward the writer of this sketch heard Mrs. Goodenow remark that when she saw that it was impracticable to try to find a shelter that night, she had a mind "to have a good cry," but cheered up, and she still smiles at the novelty of their bridal bed. Like Mrs. Wilkins Micawber, who resolved that she never would leave her husband,

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VOLUME I.

HON. CHESTER C. COLE, HISTORIAN  
HON. E. C. EBERSOLE, EDITOR

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and was the same year admitted to the bar, locating in the practice at Webster City, where he remained for ten years in a successful and extended practice, wherein he won a most enviable reputation. He then removed to Cedar Rapids and there became a partner of Judge Hubbard, and the firm of Hubbard and Clark was the general counsel for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company during their partnership, which continued for several years. Colonel Clark was a very able man and a very pure lawyer. This term is used with reference to his leading characteristic, which was to present to a court no other than a legal argument and the citation of well accredited decisions in support of the propositions which he presented. He never indulged in the presentation to a court of any consideration leading to the decision of a case other than that which was purely legal and proper. He always relied upon the strength of his case and its powerful presentation to the court in its purity. No man during his practice stood higher at the bar, or with the courts, than Colonel Clark. His style was neither vehement nor over deliberate, but always a calm, dispassionate and perspicuous presentation of his case, which commanded the attention, not only of the judge, but of every person within the sound of his voice. It may well be said of Colonel Clark that in his conduct as a lawyer he was a model, and his social relations with the members of the bar and with all with whom he came in contact were unexceptionable.

**John N. Rogers** was born in New York City, and was educated there and in Massachusetts, and was graduated from the New York University in 1848. His course of education was most thorough, and it was supplemented and broadened by teaching, both in literary and professional schools. He studied law in Northampton, Massachusetts, and was admitted to the bar in that state in 1852, and afterwards taught law in the State and National Law School in Poughkeepsie, New York. He removed to

Davenport, Iowa, in 1857, and formed a partnership there in the practice of the law with W. H. F. Gurley, who had been his fellow-student, and who was afterwards, by appointment of President Lincoln, United States district attorney for Iowa. Mr. Rogers was a very close, careful and painstaking lawyer. He was a man of high culture, endowed with a superior legal mind, and perhaps was the closest legal reasoner at the bar in the state during his residence here. He was engaged in many very important cases, and although there were no embellishments of florid phrases or collateral facts in his arguments, they were absolutely searching, thorough and exhaustive. He took special delight in the argument of legal questions before the court,—more than in the argument of law and fact before a jury, and yet it ought not to be said that he was more potent in the one than in the other. His taste led him to the purely legal, and it was with him as it is with men in general, that one likes best to do that wherein he excels. Mr. Rogers was fond of the law as a study, and of its practice, and he confined himself very closely to it, although he was persuaded to accept an election to the house of representatives of the state for one term. He was also persuaded to accept the office of judge of the district court for his district. In both positions he served with marked ability.

George H. Parker was also a native of New York, but later removed to Ohio, in each of which states he enjoyed the advantages necessary for a good education. He read law in Ohio, where he was admitted to the bar in 1852, and he continued the practice there for some two years, and removed to Davenport in 1854. He conducted a successful practice of the law in Davenport, in partnership most of the time with others. His firms successively had a good business, and it was well maintained during all the years of his practice there. Mr. Parker was a man of fine literary culture and capacities, and withal he was

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# Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

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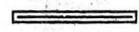
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Belonging to the First and Second  
Generations, with Anecdotes and  
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

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 eprived, 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.

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health been robust, he might have attained almost any judicial position in the State he desired.

*Abner Davison* entered upon the practice at Davenport in 1854. He and David S. True became partners, and so remained for many years, under the firm name of Davison & True. After the death of Mr. True he entered into partnership with James T. Lane, under the firm name of Davison & Lane, which for a number of years was one of the leading law firms of that part of the State. He was a man of high character, industry and perseverance, and early established himself as one of the leading lawyers of Central Iowa. He was born in Cooperstown, New York, in 1820, and died at Davenport in 1900, in the 81st year of his age. He was then a remarkable old man, who had not thrown off the professional harness until the beginning of the year in which he died. Coming to Iowa in its infancy as a State, he lived through most of its history, in which he played an active part. He was a useful man, and strongly impressed himself upon the affairs of his City and the commonwealth.

*John N. Rogers* was chiefly known as a lawyer; and was one of the best that ever graced the legal history of the State. He represented Scott County in the Eleventh General Assembly, in which we were fellow members, in 1866. It was then I first met him. He was as purely and distinctively a lawyer as any man I have ever known. He was not an orator in the popular sense, but his expressions were always well clothed, and so exact and logical that on every occasion he not only enlisted the closest attention of the court, but of every lawyer present, however dry the subject. In legal dialectics and luminous ratiocination, he had but few equals and no superiors. He was a forensic logician of the highest order and would have graced any bench in the world. In 1875 the governor tendered him the appointment of Judge of his District, but he declined that; he, however, accepted and for two years filled the chair of lecturer of Constitutional Law in the Law Department of the State University, which he greatly exalted. Later in life he was elected Judge of the District Court of his District. He had the trained mind of the jurist without the tropes of the eloquent advocate, but his clear and strong analysis expressed in well chosen language never failed to carry conviction where it was possible for that to be attained. For the qualities I have attempted to describe, he became highly distinguished throughout the State, and was frequently employed in cases of the highest importance. One of these was that of the United States, on the relation of Hall and Morse, against the Union Pacific Railroad Company, begun in the United States Circuit Court of Iowa and carried thence to the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Rogers represented the citizens of Council Bluffs, and succeeded in establishing, against able lawyers and the strenuous opposition of the railroad company, that the eastern terminus of the line was at Council Bluffs on the eastern side of the Missouri River, instead of at Omaha, and consequently the bridge between

the two places was a part of the railroad and must be operated as such. The case involved some new and intricate questions, as well as the construction of several acts of Congress. The views of Mr. Rogers were sustained by the United States Circuit Court and finally by the Supreme Court of the United States.

His father was Edmund J. Rogers, a successful merchant in New York City, where John was born in 1830. His mother was a daughter of Judge Ebenezer Platt, of Huntington, Long Island. Mr. Rogers received his early education at Fairfield, Connecticut, and Northampton, Massachusetts, and graduated with the first honors of his class from the University of the City of New York, in 1848. He studied law at Northampton, and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1852. In 1853 he accepted the chair of Professor of Pleading, Practice and Evidence in the Poughkeepsie Law School, which was afterwards removed to Albany and became the Albany Law School. His fellow student, W. H. F. Gurley, then a young lawyer of Davenport, and subsequently United States District Attorney under President Lincoln, induced Mr. Rogers to come to Davenport in 1857. He and Gurley became law partners. In 1860 he formed a partnership with Charles E. Putnam under the firm name of Putnam & Rogers, which continued with great success for many years. His wife was Mary Norman Van Derveer, a daughter of the Reverend F. H. Van Derveer, of Warwick, New York. She died in 1867, leaving a son, Ferdinand. The accidental drowning of this promising son when he had nearly attained manhood was a culminating sorrow that Mr. Rogers did not long survive.

In disposition, he was rather shy and reserved, on account of which those who did not know him well, thought him cold in feeling, but he was quite the contrary to those who knew him well. He was both kindly and appreciative, as the following incident will show: It had been my habit as Reporter, to publish in condensed form in connection with the cases, briefs of counsel, when such briefs were of a superior order. Following this custom, I published in connection with one of Mr. Rogers' cases, his brief and a note which were so superior in form and substance, that I called attention to them. In recognition of this courtesy which would have passed unnoticed by most lawyers, he wrote me the following appreciative letter, dated December 15, 1869:

I feel that it is due to myself no less than to you, that I should convey to you my sincere thanks for the very unexpected honor which has been done to my brief and note in the cases of *Viele* versus the Germania Insurance Company, in appending them to the report of the case in your 26th volume. That it has been thought worthy of preservation in this permanent form, and accompanied by so flattering a testimony to its value, is I assure you, exceedingly gratifying to their author, who begs you to accept his grateful acknowledgments of this very handsome compliment, and remains, your obliged friend.

In stature, he was slight and delicate of construction. He had a fine head, luxuriant dark brown hair, wore spectacles, and looked like a professor, and as we

have seen, had been one in the Poughkeepsie Law School. J. W. Dixon, of the Ottumwa Bar, was one of his students at that school, and often referred to him in terms of the highest praise. He died some years ago.

*Charles E. Putnam*, who has been mentioned in the previous sketch, was the partner of Mr. Rogers for many years. He was the office lawyer of the firm, and did not personally figure in the courts as conspicuously as did Mr. Rogers. He was, nevertheless, a learned and able lawyer. He was a native of New York, studied law, was admitted to the bar there, and practiced for several years in Saratoga and subsequently in New York City. He came to Davenport in 1853, and formed a partnership with G. C. R. Mitchell, which continued until the latter became Judge of that District. He later was a partner with Joseph B. Leake (afterward a General, and subsequently a leading lawyer in Chicago), which continued until the latter entered the army. Mr. Putnam some time after became the partner of Mr. Rogers.

He had a strong taste for literary pursuits, and was well versed in the classics. He had one of the largest private libraries in the West. But neither his law nor his literature prevented him from taking an active part in public affairs. He was for a number of years President of the Davenport Savings Bank, for a time President of the First National Bank, of the Davenport Plow Company, and of the Davenport Gas Light Company. He was regarded as one of the most benevolent, generous and useful citizens of Davenport. His wife was Mary Louisa Duncan, a daughter of Joseph Duncan, once Governor of Illinois, a member of Congress from that State, a soldier in the War of 1812, and received from Congress a sword of honor. In this connection I cannot forbear relating the following episode: On yesterday, January 6, 1913, I spent the afternoon with James H. Roberts, a resident of Chicago, for many years a prominent lawyer of that City, now in his 88th year, but as spry physically and intellectually as a man of fifty. He has spent nearly his whole life in Chicago, is coeval with its existence, and had a personal acquaintance with nearly all of its distinguished men. He asked me if I knew C. E. Putnam, of Putnam & Rogers, Davenport. I replied in the affirmative. He then said in these words which I took down:

I knew Mr. Putnam, but not so well as his wife. Her I knew intimately. I knew as a boy and remember distinctly, her father, Governor Duncan, of Illinois; and I will tell you of a romantic incident relating to them. It was after young Duncan had distinguished himself in the Mexican War, and while he was the Congressional representative of the new Illinois. It occurred, I think, during the administration of John Quincy Adams. The President had given a state dinner to which young Duncan was invited. Henry Clay was also a guest, and sat next to a Miss Smith, who was related to the wife of one of the Cabinet officers. In the course of their conversation, Mr. Clay, pointing his finger at Mr. Duncan further down the table, said, "There is a rising young man to whom I have taken a great liking; he is a splendid fellow, and has won his spurs in the Mexican War, and is now the Congressman from Illinois. He will make his mark in the world. You set your cap for him, and you will make no mistake." She did set her cap for him,

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# John Newton Rogers

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Birth: ~~unknown~~ *7 Nov 1830*  
Death: **May 22, 1887**

Inscription:  
[Burial Record](#)

Note: Age 56.6.15; son of Edmund J. Rogers & Rebecca Platt. Widower

Burial:  
[Warwick Cemetery](#)  
Warwick  
Orange County  
New York, USA

Created by: [Karen](#)  
Record added: Jan 08, 2008  
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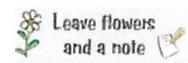


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