

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Roblfs, Matthias Jensen Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Scott County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 19 Apr 1816 Janders, Schleswig Holstein, Germany

2. Marriage (s) date place

Elise Dorothea Bode 29 Apr 1840 Germany

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Founded the Mutual Fire Insurance Company and was  
the president until 1 June 1900

B. Civic responsibilities Independent Order of Odd Fellows

C. Profession Jensen; teacher; music teacher; pianist

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1866, 1868, 1870, 1872

6. Public Offices

A. Local Scott County treasurer for 14 years; Justice of the Peace

B. State He served on the first Board of Immigration

C. National

7. Death 6 Sept 1900 Davenport, Iowa; buried Fairmount Cemetery, Davenport, Iowa

8. Children Theodore; August; Emma (Mrs. Meier); Emil;  
Rudolph; Maria (Mrs. Charles Hitzel - predeceased her father in death); Meta;

9. Names of parents Augustus and Mary Roblfs

10. Education Educated in schools of home in  
Germany

11. Degrees He received education at the University of Jundemur, Germany  
(a teacher training school) and graduated

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He taught school in Germany, following his father's profession in Germany.
- 1847 came to America settling in Davenport, Iowa, intending to  
teach, but instead found farming to earn more money  
and so farmed 2 miles north of Davenport.
- He conducted a German school and started the Liedertafel,  
later called the Maennerchor, singing society.
- In 1850 he moved to a farm in Lincoln Township of Scott County  
until 1873
- He was so enthralled about Iowa that he wrote a book "Iowa, the Home  
for Emigrants" and a copy is sealed in the cornerstone of the Iowa  
capital building.



**Combine.**  
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**Raised.**  
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**Bryan.**  
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R.R.

**Endowing an Iowa College.**  
Chicago Tribune: The news that \$300,-  
000 of the proposed \$500,000 endowment for  
Cornell College, at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, has  
been subscribed, will give great satisfac-  
tion to Iowa Methodists, many of whom  
received their higher education at the in-  
stitution. The \$300,000 has been sub-  
scribed within the last three years in  
small sums, the largest contribution be-  
ing \$20,000, and the trustees now an-  
nounce that the remaining \$200,000 is as-  
sured. Most of the gifts have been made  
by alumni and students of the college.  
The alumni have a vigorous organization  
with about 300 members, who have been  
especially active in raising the money  
for the endowment, which may be taken  
as a tribute to the president of the in-  
stitution, the Rev. W. F. King, who has  
been at its head for twenty-five years.  
Cornell College is often confounded with  
the larger institution at Ithaca, N. Y.,  
yet, in fact, the Iowa college is four years  
older, the university having been founded  
in 1858. The similarity in names is un-  
fortunate, but the Iowa institution gets  
its name from that of its early friend,  
W. W. Cornell, just as the New York  
university was given its in honor of Ezra  
Cornell, on whose farm at Ithaca it was  
located. The Iowa institution has had an  
enviable career, and its history is so in-  
terwoven with that of the state that  
every Iowan will rejoice at its assured  
prosperous future.

**Discharges in Bankruptcy.**  
Dubuque, Sept. 5.—Special: Today  
Judge Shigas, of the Federal Court, en-  
tered a number of discharges on the re-  
cords covering men and firms in the east-  
ern, central and western divisions. The  
following are the lists:  
Central division—William Juhn, Algona;  
James A. Stacy, Algona; Horace Kelly,  
Fort Dodge; Frederick F. Weiss, Humboldt;  
Mary L. Weiss, Humboldt; Nichol & Cook,  
North English.  
Western division—Pew Bros, LeMars; Al-  
bert J. Schutt, Superior; William B. Luken,  
LeMars; Francis Borman, Fonda; Charlie  
Middlekauff, Woodbury; James H. Struble,  
LeMars; Daniel Morfitt, Philby; Josiah P.  
Stone, Sheldon; Milton P. Hilman, Sergeant  
Bluffs; Gustave Victor Jacobson, Sioux  
City.  
Eastern division—Charles C. Marshall,  
Manchester; Charles H. Robinson, Man-  
chester.

**Death of a Noted Chief.**  
Sioux City, Sept. 5.—Special: The In-  
dians of Cheyenne agency, S. D., have  
been called upon to mourn the death of  
a noted member of their race, Chief  
Charger. Charger was one of a party  
which helped rescue a number of cap-  
tives from the hostiles after the New Ulm  
massacre. The surviving members of the  
party are Swift Bird, Little No Heart,  
Four Bear and White Swan. Three of  
them attended the funeral, White Swan  
being prevented from doing so by sick-  
ness. Each of these Indians lived in a  
good house. The houses were built for  
them by the government several years  
ago as a tribute to their services to the  
whites at the time they made the rescue.

**Tax Ferrets at Work.**  
Charles City, Sept. 5.—Special: After six  
months of clerical work the tax ferrets are  
closing their tabulations and preparing to  
go gunning for tax evaders. It is esti-  
mated that the amount of unpaid and legiti-  
mate taxes due the county for five years  
past is \$25,000. Hundreds of delinquents  
have been found, the unpaid taxes amount-  
ing in some cases to many hundreds of dol-

warned as they do toward this one.  
Some people may not think "Joe" Flory  
is big enough for governor of Missouri.  
More people disagree with them, as might  
have been seen in Sedalia today. This  
thing of taking the horse out of the car-  
riage and hauling a candidate through  
the streets may seem rather out of date  
to city folks. When Mr. Flory left the  
train this morning he did not know what  
was going to happen. Members of the  
committee were not apprised. The whole  
thing came about so suddenly and so un-  
premeditatedly there is no story to it but  
what appeared on the surface. Before he  
or the committee realized it, Mr. Flory  
was in the carriage and the horses were  
whisked away. A rope was handy. A  
hundred men from a dozen counties were  
strung out and "Joe" Flory was being  
taken up the street with such cheering  
as sent people flying to doors and win-  
dows to learn what was the matter.

**Death of M. J. Rohlf.**  
Davenport, Sept. 5.—Ex-County Treas-  
urer M. J. Rohlf died yesterday at his  
home in this city. Matthias J. Rohlf  
was 84 years of age, and a native of  
Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where he  
was educated and taught school. In 1847  
he came to the United States, and almost  
directly to Davenport, intending to teach.  
He found farming more remunerative,  
however, and on a farm two miles north  
of the city demonstrated extraordinary  
ability as an agriculturist. His bound-  
less energy and many-sided nature found  
occupation at the same time, however,  
and he conducted a German school,  
which is still remembered for the excel-  
lence of the instruction it gave those who  
attended it. A singing society, the Lie-  
dertafel, the predecessor of the Manner-  
chor of today, was also started by Mr.  
Rohlf in the interest of music and the  
general culture of the people of the new  
settlement. In 1850 he moved to a farm  
in Lincoln township, and resided there  
until 1873, making a great reputation for  
the beauty of his yards and fields. Here,  
too, he served as justice of the peace,  
and was elected four times successively  
to the lower house of the state legisla-  
ture from Scott county, where he made  
an enviable record as an intelligent and  
energetic representative. In 1873 he was  
chosen county treasurer, and held the  
place for fourteen years. Meantime he  
engaged successfully in a number of  
business enterprises, being the founder of  
the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and  
its president until June 1, 1900, when he  
resigned on account of the ill health  
which he suffered for over a year. Other  
honorable positions he filled were those  
of president of the German school and  
second speaker of the Turngemeinde.  
He was also a member in good standing  
of Odd Fellow Lodge, No. 37. The de-  
ceased was married in 1840 to Eliza Rode,  
who died twenty years ago. Of six chil-  
dren born to them, five are still living, as  
follows: Theodore, of Avoca, Iowa; Au-  
gust, near the same place; Mrs. Emma  
Meier, also of Avoca; Emil, of Eldridge,  
and Rudolph, of the firm of Rohlf &  
Bischoff, of this city. The deceased  
daughter was the wife of Charles Helzel,  
of the present board of public works.

**I. A. C. Veterinary Department.**  
Ames, Sept. 5.—Special: At a meeting of  
the board of trustees of the Iowa State Col-  
lege the reorganization of the veterinary  
department of the college was perfected.  
The president of the college was made dean  
of the department and two new professors

farm, a mile and a half  
that has been occupied  
the past year. This is  
per acre, but includes  
machinery. It was a  
congratulate Mr. Mahan  
fine farm, one of the best  
What's the matter with  
vicinity, anyway? We're  
splendid railroads, two  
business blocks and a ne-  
by the course of construc-  
tion. What will turn  
cans of corn this year?  
water works, a planing  
chine shops, flouring mil-  
lands finding a ready ma-  
an acre. Move to La-  
happy.

Lake Mills, Sept. 5.—St-  
sion of the school board  
our school house bonds  
ing 4 per cent running  
payable after five years  
H. Johnson, of Osage, I  
mium.  
Ed Gregerson, a demen-  
of age, living with his pa-  
wandered away Sunday  
up to this writing not to  
be found. Diligent search  
and it is feared he may  
the lake and drowned.

**Murderer Peyton**  
Sioux City, Sept. 5.  
grand jury indicted Fran-  
ing him with the murder  
in this city the night of 1  
He is still in jail at St. I  
eral days ago he made  
Chief of Police Melon th  
cated in the murder. Hi  
and another man were i  
safe when Robson surr  
they attacked him. The  
cers have applied to Gov  
requisition on governor  
It is expected Peyton  
City in a short time.

**Prostrations rec**  
Dubuque, Sept. 5.—Spe-  
two prostrations from 1  
Bessie Adams and Dan  
Adams was unconscious  
will recover. Moore is i  
very precarious conditio  
recover.

**Death at Iowa**  
Iowa City, Sept. 5.—Spe-  
garet Kane passed away  
this city today. She wa  
and same from Irelan  
county 47 years ago. She  
and two daughters.

You can spell it cough,  
kauf, kaff, kough, or ka  
harmless remedy that qu  
One Minute Cough Cure.

**Death of Arthur**  
Bath, Maine, Sept. 5.  
died at 8:30 this morn  
at his summer home  
twelve miles from this  
the stroke having been  
Sunday. He was 64 year  
has not been in good  
time and was advised b  
to rest as early as last J

Ulcers, open or obstin-  
and piles, quickly cure  
SALVE, the most healing  
world.

**YOU ARE**

THE UNITED STATES  
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

AND

PORTRAIT GALLERY

OF

EMINENT AND SELF-MADE MEN.

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IOWA VOLUME.

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CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:  
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1878.

dren, only four of whom are living. The eldest son is a book-keeper in the "Republican" office.

When Mr. Holmes settled in Linn county thirty-five years ago, Marion had about one hundred and fifty inhabitants, Cedar Rapids a single cabin, and

the county between three and four hundred voters. He has lived to see the population swell to more than thirty thousand souls, and a city of ten thousand inhabitants surround the site of the single log cabin of 1841.

### HON. MATTHIAS J. ROHLFS,

DAVENPORT.

AMONG the men who have taken a high and leading part in the Iowa legislature, none deserves a more honorable mention than Hon. M. J. Rohlf. He was born at Tondern, Germany, on the 19th of April, 1816, and is son of Augustus and Mary Rohlf, both natives of the above place. His father was a professor in the University at Tondern, and was much noted for his learning and his excellence as a teacher.

Mr. Rohlf received his education at the University at Tondern (which institute was devoted to the training and culture of teachers), where he graduated and commenced teaching, following this occupation for several years. In 1847 he immigrated to the United States, and, coming west, located at Davenport, Iowa, which has since been his home. On his arrival he at once rented a farm, and assumed the arduous duties of a farmer's life, until 1866, when he was elected to the state legislature on the republican ticket by a large majority. He was reelected to this office three times, and during his last session was elected speaker, pro tempore, in which position his impartial rulings were to the

satisfaction of both sides of the house. He left the republican party and joined the liberals, and was a delegate to the Cincinnati convention which nominated Greeley for President, and in the following campaign stumped part of the state. In 1872 he received the nomination for state treasurer, but was defeated. In 1873 he was elected treasurer of Scott county, to which position he was reelected in 1875.

He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows for the past twelve years. His travels have extended over much of northern Europe, and parts of the United States.

He is liberal in his religious opinions, and although educated among very orthodox influences, has changed his views very much. In politics, he is a liberal, and earnestly advocates reform; as a speaker, he is earnest and eloquent.

He was married on the 29th of November, 1840, to Miss Eliza Rode, a lady of high attainments, and distinguished for her womanly virtues.

Mr. Rohlf stands high in the community as a useful and respected citizen, and fully merits the confidence and respect of his fellow-citizens.

### HENRY P. BUTTON, M. D.,

IOWA CITY.

WHILE the lives of self-made men seldom abound in incidents of a sensational character, there is yet an energy, a perseverance and an underflow of character that lends to them a charm,—an attractiveness and worth that merit admiration and careful thought. Henry P. Button began life a poor boy, and by his own efforts has risen to an honorable position, both in his profession and in social life. He was born in Lower Sandusky, Ohio, on the 24th of October, 1835, and is the son of Elijah Button and Mary N.

*nee* Miner, both of whom were natives of New York and of Scotch-Irish descent. Both his paternal and maternal grandfathers were participants in the war of 1812. Henry's early life was that of a farmer-boy, and he was early taught those habits of economy and industry which have marked his subsequent life. His early education was gained at the common schools, but later, from 1854 to 1857, he attended an academy at Painesville, Ohio. He early developed a great fondness for the study of medicine, and having decided to enter the

HISTORY  
OF  
SCOTT COUNTY,  
IOWA;

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS CITIES, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, CIVIL, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

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HISTORY OF IOWA,

EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, ABORIGINES, FRENCH, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CONQUESTS, AND A GENERAL REVIEW OF ITS CIVIL, POLITICAL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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CHICAGO:  
INTER-STATE PUBLISHING CO.,  
1882.

with 12 children, 9 living—Thomas M., George W., Samuel B., Mary E., Wilson P., Ella, M. B., Charley D. and Minnie. Mr. Robinson is a member of I. O. O. F., Davenport Lodge, No. 7. He was educated in the Democratic school of politics, and has always adhered to that party. He cast his first ballot for Old Hickory Jackson.

*Ferdinand Roddewig*, importer and jobber in wines and liquors, 413 and 415 Harrison street, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, Germany, June 26, 1828. He was a son of Frederick and Charlotte Roddewig, natives of Germany, who was clerk of the court in the city of Biedfeld, Prussia, Germany. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and she of the Catholic church. They had eight children, five living. Ferdinand lived with his father, attending High School until he was 15 years of age. Then clerked in a wholesale linen store until 20 years of age, when he came alone to America; was 64 days coming from Bremen; landed at New Orleans, November, 1848. He worked here 18 months, and learned the cigar trade. Then went to St. Louis, Mo., and worked until January, 1851, when he opened a cigar manufactory, and in 1853, he returned to Germany, and visited his parents. Some months after he went to Sheboygan, Wis., and married Miss Metta H. Koehler, Nov. 26, 1853. She was born in Biedfeld, Germany, and was a daughter of Ferdinand and Ernestena Koehler, natives of Germany. After his marriage Mr. Roddewig went to St. Louis and ran his cigar factory until 1855, when he came to Davenport, Iowa, and opened a grocery and liquor store, where he now is, at 413 and 415 Harrison street; and in 1869 he opened his wholesale liquor store, his present business, where he carries a full line of the finest native and imported wines and liquors, and is the oldest wholesale liquor man in the city. He and wife had four children, viz.: Lena, Paul, Peter E. and Ferdinand, Jr. Mrs. Roddewig died Sept. 2, 1875, and was buried in Davenport. Mr. Roddewig is a member of the Turner Society, Harmonia Society, and of the Shooters' Association; in politics, Independent, and is one of the representative men of Davenport, having been here since 1855.

*M. J. Rohlf's*, Treasurer of Scott County, was elected to this position in the fall of 1873, and entered upon the duties of his office Jan. 1, 1874, and has been elected four times continuously. He is of German nativity, born in 1816, and was educated in the Gunoznim and a seminary of his native country. He emigrated to the United States in 1847, and came directly to Davenport, and has been a resident of Scott County over one-third of a century. On his arrival here he at once engaged in agricultural pursuits which he continued with some interruptions until he was elected to his present office. He has been identified with the Republican party since its organization and cast his first vote for John C. Fremont. He was elected as representative from Scott County to the Iowa General Assembly, and has held the office eight years successively. Upon retiring from that position he was immediately elected to his present

office. Mr. Rohlf's was married in Germany in 1840 to Miss Eliza Rode; they are the parents of five children, all residing in Iowa. His son, Rudolph Rohlf's, is his deputy in the treasurer's office. Mr. Rohlf's is a member of the Davenport Turner Society, and is vice-president of the Turner's District Society, composed of the societies of that order in Iowa. He is an Odd Fellow and a member of Davenport Lodge, No. 37. During his connection with the Legislature he served with many of the men who have since helped to shape the political history of Iowa. He was one of the pioneer Germans who settled in Scott County and helped to lay the foundation for the large German settlement made here since.

*Isaac Rothschild*, the leading clothier and merchant tailor of Davenport, located at Nos. 102 and 104 Brady street, was born in Mordstetten, Wittenberg, Germany, Dec. 6, 1844, of Moses E. and Augusta (Ettlinger) Rothschild, natives of Germany. Isaac Rothschild learned the tailor's trade in his native country, and came to America when 18 years old. He landed in New York, and from there came to Davenport, arriving May 22, 1863, with 50 cents in his pocket, as a nest-egg for a fortune. He worked for his board for the first three months, but made \$50 extra by putting strips on officers' suits for the soldiers. After the expiration of the three months his employer offered him \$25 a month, which he accepted and remained with him four years. Then went to Terre Haute, Ind., and controlled L. Rothschild's store for him during a nine months' visit in Europe. He returned to Davenport and clerked for his brother, E. Rothschild, one year, then went into partnership with him, under the firm name of E. Rothschild & Bro. In 1878 he purchased his brother's share and now conducts the business alone. He occupies a double store fronting on Brady and Second streets, and has what few stores, in much larger cities than Davenport, do not possess, and that is an exact duplicate on the upper floors of his stock on the first floor. He keeps first-class cutters, and goods from almost every country in the world. He gives employment to 40 men. He has just contracted for an enlargement of his already mammoth establishment. In a word, Mr. Rothschild is one of Davenport's most enterprising business men. Commencing in limited circumstances, he has by honest dealing and close application to work placed himself at the head as a clothier and merchant tailor. He was married Feb. 5, 1871, to Rosa Auerbach, daughter of Abraham and Paulen Auerbach, and a niece of the poet, Berthold Von Auerbach, of Germany. Their union has been blessed with five children—Jennie, Ida, Hannie, Fannie and Maudie. Mr. Rothschild is a Mason and a member of Trinity Lodge, No. 208, from Blue Lodge to the Davenport Capital Lodge, No. 16. He is a member of Davenport I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 7, and of the State, No. 3, Encampment; of State Lodge No. 3, A. O. U. W.; of the Mutual Brotherhood of Iowa; of the V. A. S. L. of H.; of the I. O. B. B.; the Davenport Boat Club; the Academy of Science; and the American Legion of Honor, Davenport Council, No. 718.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
IOWA STATE COLLEGE  
AMES, IOWA

*D. C. Watt*

July 31, 1930

Annals of Iowa  
Des Moines, Iowa

Gentlemen:

A short time ago, the writer received from Professor Herman Knapp and from Professor Cox a letter from Mrs. Emma Rohlf's Maier of Avoca, Iowa, concerning some published comments on a novel "A Journey's End" by Marque Maier, son of Mrs. Maier and grandson of Rudolph Rohlf's. The grandson is professor of Mathematics at Peddie School, Hightstown, New Jersey.

This interested me and since I have had several students of the name of Rohlf's who came originally from Scott County and are now prominent in scientific work in various parts of the United States and in Brazil, I corresponded with her.

It seems that her father, Mr. M.J. Rohlf's, was a very prominent citizen of Davenport in the early days and also was interested in Iowa State College and was an intimate friend of the late lamented E.M. Stanton.

She has written me this interesting letter concerning some of the pioneer work of this man along educational lines in Iowa.

Yours very truly,

*L. H. Pammel*

LHP:RVC

L. H. Pammel.

*I hope that you can find a place in your publication for the material*

Mathias Jensen Rohlfs, known as M.J. Rohlfs, was born April 19, 1816 in Tandern, Germany, and died September 6, 1900. His father was Superintendent of Schools, died when my father was twelve years old, of pneumonia. My father was then raised and educated by his grandfather, Christian Rohlfs, Lutheran minister in Geldingen, Germany. He studied to follow his father's profession. In 1840 he was married to my mother, Elise Dortha Rode, daughter of a professor. As far back as we can find out, both my parents came from teachers and preachers. Father was a great lover of nature and his ambition was to till the soil. So when Iowa was admitted as a State, in 1847 he resigned as teacher in Hornsmuclen Germany and with his wife, three children, relatives and friends emigrated to Davenport, Iowa. Started in April and landed there on a Canal-Boat in August--fourteen weeks on the Ocean! While on the Canal-Boat, it began to rain and rain, got so muddy that the horses could no longer pull the boat, so each family was obliged to give up some of their heavy luggage, which was just thrown ashore; it was either one of mother's chests of beautiful fine homespun linnen or my father's Piano--so the chest of linnen was thrown ashore and my father's Piano was the first Piano to come to Davenport, Iowa. No one had a place to go to, some Official opened up a great big freight baggage room, and allowed them to put their belongings and selves into that. Sheets were sewed together, hung up so as to make little apartments for each family. After the Piano had been unpacked and set up, my father sat down to play on it; soon the whole building was surrounded by Indians dancing and singing, delighted at what they had never

heard before. They were peaceful. Father rented one of Judge Grant's farms, four miles north of Davenport. During the week he would teach school and preach on Sundays. Later he had a farm of his own. He was the first man elected three times in succession to the Iowa House of Representatives; he was there five sessions, elected four times, one extra session. During the time Ames was founded and father had to go there twice a year for some purpose--I cannot tell what. He was also commissioned to visit every city town and village in Iowa, to write a pamphlet "Iowa, the Home for Emigrants." That was translated into seven different languages, a copy of each is in the Cornerstone of Iowa's Capital; a commissioner, Mr. Lewis Oaks, of Davenport was sent to the 7 different countries, with thousands of those pamphlets to distribute. I have been told that they brought more good people to Iowa than anything else had done. When Father once, at a Political Festival, introduced me to Governor Carpenter, the latter said he hoped to see me in Des Moines next winter during the Session--my father said, "I will not be there, Governor." "What? You not there? I wont know how to act. You helped to inaugurate me, I have sat there ever since-- why not come again?" "So far I have been working for my state; I'm getting older and must begin to work for myself. I am nominated for County Treasurer." "You will be elected, no one can defeat you!" So it seemed, for he was elected seven times in succession, no matter how the parties were in power, father was elected. For several years he was the only Republican in Scott

County's Court House! Father would not accept the nomination again--then they wanted to nominate my younger brother Rudolph Rohlfis, but he said, "Let some other than a Rohlfis become Treasurer" so Col. Park Mc Manus was nominated and elected--but, when his term had expired there was no holding back--~~Rudolph~~ Rudolph Rohlfis was nominated per acclamation, elected, was County Treasurer seven years, being again the only Republican in office, he felt lonesome, and quit. When he died, April 8, 1926, the flag on the Scott County Court House hung at half-mast from the time Rudolph Rohlfis died until after he was buried.

WILLIAM S. AUSTIN  
Historical Library  
DES MOINES, IOWA

# SCOTT COUNTY HERITAGE



Second Scott County Court House (Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Iowa)

Published by  
Scott County Heritage Book Committee

And Written by  
The People of Scott County, Iowa

was born in 1968. She attended Scott Community College, and works at a medical laboratory. Richard Shane was born January 12, 1972. He attended Bettendorf schools and was an avid guitarist and song writer. He was killed in an auto accident January 21, 1989. Melinda Kay was born August 31, 1978. She attends a Bettendorf school.

John and Mildred's second child was Patricia Ann, born March 1944. She married Larry Galloway in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Davenport. They had four children. Roxanne Renee was born August, 1963. She married Richard Minor, March 10, 1984. They have one son, Reid Jacob, born August 31, 1987. Roxanne is employed at the Rock Island Arsenal. Richard, a farmer, works part-time for Pride Seed Corn and is a part-time mail carrier. They live in Calamus. John Paul was born January 1965, and served in the Marine Corps for four years. He now works in Idaho. Raelynn Marie is attending her third year at N.E. Missouri University. Jan Dean was born November 1970, is in the Marines, and training at San Diego. Patricia works for the Grand Mound School. Larry works for Smith Transfer in Davenport.

John and Mildred's third child, Cynthia Mae was born October 31, 1951, and married Marvin Henningsen June 8, 1974, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Davenport. Cynthia works for the Davenport Schools in a print shop. Marvin works with a carpenter. They live in Scott County near Long Grove. They have three children. Dustin Jay was born August 1975. Tracy Nicole was born November 1976 and Travis John was born July 1979. As of 1989, the John Rohlfs are living on their farm since 1948. We enjoy our family and have lots of gatherings, especially on the holidays. *Submitted by John Henry Rohlfs*

### MARK JENSEN ROHLFS DESCENDANT OF MATTHIAS JENSEN ROHLFS

Matthias Jensen Rohlfs, born in 1816 in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, was compelled to leave Schleswig because he criticized the policies of the Danish government. He sailed from Hamburg on May 18, 1847 aboard the *Barens* and arrived in Davenport on August 1st.

In Germany Rohlfs attended teacher's seminary of his native town and Kiel University. In Davenport he founded the first private German School. He also taught music. Mr. Rohlfs was elected to the Iowa General Assembly of the Republican party and was re-elected three times in succession. He was Scott County Treasurer for fourteen years. Rohlfs served on the Iowa Board of Immigration. Among his activities were Rifle Club, Singing Society, German School, and Turners.

His interest in the Fatherland never waned; he visited it in 1864, 1890, and 1891.

Rohlfs was married to M. Elise Rode of Schleswig, and they had seven children. One was Emil Matthias, born in 1850, married Fredericka Hacker in 1875.

Emil Matthias had five children. One was Richard Christopher Matthias Rohlfs, born 1877. One sister, Emma born in 1888, and Raymond born 1890. Two died in infancy.

Richard M.C. married Augusta Koch in 1904. To this union were born four children. Mae Leone born 1906, medical missionary nurse to China, died 1980. Three sons, Neal born 1909, Mark Jensen born 1912, and John Henry born 1914.

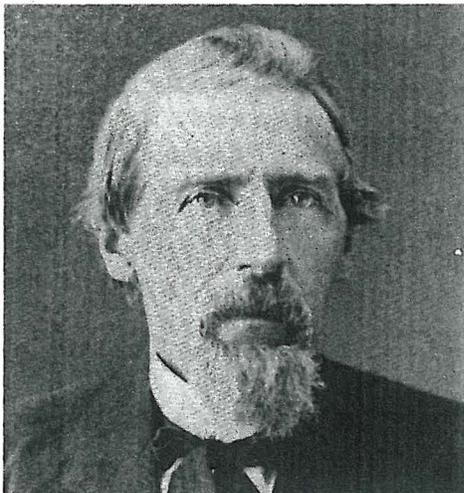
Now the Mark Jensen Rohlfs family follows: Born January 2, 1912, married Leola G. Frerichs November 24, 1938. They have two children: Margo Ann, born 1941, Vice-President of Trust Business Development at Northwest Bank and Trust Co. She married James Hancock on June 22, 1963. Allan Mark was born July 1944. He is a Psychotherapist in Chicago, Illinois. He married Karen Hanas on April 1, 1989.

Mark J. Rohlfs owned and operated the Alta Vista Nurseries, which property has been in the family since 1904. Mark was named after his great grandfather, Matthias Jensen, and has the original picture which hung in the State House in Des Moines, Iowa, for many years. During his time in the nursery business he have developed and put on the market three new flowering crab trees and one peony. The flowering crabs have been named Leola, Margo, and Allan after my family. The new peony has been named St. Matthew for his church.

The material in this story has been taken from Mark J. Rohlfs's own records and the book "The Iowa Journal of History and Politics" of January 1946. *Submitted by Mark J. Rohlfs*

### MATTHIAS JENSEN ROHLFS

On July 4, 1847 my great-grandfather, Matthias Jensen Rohlfs, (known as M.J.), and his wife Elise and their three children — August, Theodore and Marie, arrived in New York after a seven week journey from Probstei, Germany. They chose the route to Albany by steamboat, then to Buffalo, across the lakes to Chicago and then by wagon, arriving in Davenport August 1, 1847.



Matthias Jensen Rohlfs

Scott County appealed to them because it looked like the garden spot of the future. They settled on a farm north of Davenport, a little north of where the Vincent J. Neu auto agency is now on Brady Street. He was a music teacher and was known for bringing the first piano to Davenport. One day as he was playing his piano in his barn he heard a rustling noise behind him and when he turned, he saw a group of Indians were listening in "AWE". It was said this was the first piano recital in Davenport.

He was so enthused about Scott County and Iowa he wrote a book, "Iowa, the Home for Emigrants", a copy of which is sealed in the cornerstone of the capitol building. This encouraged many people in his native land to migrate to America and to our locality. He was the first man to be elected three times in succession as Scott County representative to the state legislature, serving for eleven years. He did many things to promote the growth of our community. He founded the "Liedertafel" and, with the help of many faithful friends, the German Forty-Eighters, who were responsible for the cultural growth of Davenport. These Schleswig-Holsteiners were cultured, well-studied, liberal minded and forward looking people. His portrait hung in the Historical Building in Des Moines.

He and Elise had four more children: Meta, Emma, Emil and Rudolph Rohlfs.

Emil was my grandfather. He married Fredericke Hacker March 19, 1875. Her father, Christopher Hacker, homesteaded a farm in Walnut Grove, where Fredericka was born in a log cabin May 30, 1853. They had five children — three who lived, Richard, Emma and Raymond. Emma was my mother, born September 5, 1888 in the Eldridge vicinity where my grandparents farmed in Lincoln Township. Emma married William Hill February 21, 1912 and had two children — Marvin, deceased, and myself, Martha Hill, born March 7, 1917. My parents farmed the family farm until retirement. After my husband, Arthur Dies, returned from the service, we then farmed there from March 1, 1947, until 1968, when we moved to Davenport.

We have three sons. Steven Kent, born May 6, 1941, married Sally Henningsen in 1963. They have two children — Todd, who served four years in the Air Force and is employed

at aerospace in Chicago, and Tammy, who is a student at Iowa University.

Billy Arthur, born February 14, 1944, married Barbara Johannsen in 1971. They have three children: Jay, Jena and Jared, students at the DeWitt schools, where they reside.

Kendall Hill Dies, born May 20, 1949, married Terri Collins in 1969. They had sons Jamie and David. They reside in Bettendorf. Divorced, he then married Pamela Humiston. They have daughters, Michelle and Bridget, and reside in Lebanon, Indiana. *Submitted by Martha V. Dies*

### HARLAND GROVER ROHLK

Harland was born February 4, 1915 in Donahue, died August 9, 1988. Son of Grover William Rohlk (12/29/1888-5/31/1972) and Elfrieda Louise Wamser (10/19/1889-2/19/1985), both of Maysville. One sister, Verna Ewoldt, born October 1, 1917.



The Harland Rohlk Family, Silver Anniversary, 1961. Back row, left to right: Harland and Pearl. Front row: Doris, Marilyn and Judith.

Harland owned and operated Rohlk Lumber, Donahue, building many homes in Scott County. He started working for his father at Rohlk and Goetsch elevator and lumberyard in 1936. Earlier he drove livestock to Chicago for Horace Grell. He attended Brown's Business College. As a captain in the Civil Air Patrol, he was stationed in Maine during WWII. He also piloted his own plane and was known to buzz Donahue. He served 22 years on North Scott School Board and 16 years on Iowa School Board. Harland enjoyed serving his community and participated in a wide variety of organizations and committees.

Harland's father, besides owning and operating the elevator and lumberyard, was president of the Donahue Bank, on the board of Eldridge Telephone, and mayor of Donahue. He attended Brown's Business College. Grover was a whiz at math, doing it mentally, not on paper. His parents were William Roehlk (12/26/1864-10/23/1932) and Alvena Burmeister (9/27/1865-7/9/1949). She was born in a log cabin by Maysville, he came from Schleswig-Holstein. They farmed near Maysville. There were five children: Grover, Albert, Hugo, Mabel, and Adeline.

William's parents were Jochim Rohlk (12/1/1832-1882) and Bertha Arp (12/6/1841-7/23/1928). He came from Fielbergen, Schleswig-Holstein in 1862. Alvena's parents were Paul Burmeister (1832-1906) and Margretha Erick (1829-1913), both from Germany.

The family name has two spellings. Rohlk was apparently the old German version and was Americanized to Roehlk. Not all the brothers agreed, so both spellings were used.

Elfrieda's parents were Peter H. Wamser (5/6/1865-2/1/1956) and Mary Luethje (11/14/1868-8/19/1925). There were four children: Elfrieda, Hilda, Wilma, and Walter. Peter was born in Newberend, Schleswig-Holstein. He came to Maysville in 1884, then called Amity. He operated a tavern, hotel, and stagestop. Owned the first Buick dealership in Davenport. His parents were Friedrich C. Wamser, born 1824 and Maria Sophia Juergensen, born 1823. Mary's parents were Max



You searched for **M. J. Rohlfs** in **Iowa**

### 1860 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>M J Rohlfs</b>	
Age in 1860:	<b>44</b>	
Birth Year:	<b>abt 1816</b>	
Birthplace:	<b>Holstein</b>	
Home in 1860:	<b>Davenport, Scott, Iowa</b>	
Gender:	<b>Male</b>	
Post Office:	<b>Davenport</b>	
Value of real estate:	<a href="#">View image</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	John C Reed	1
	M J Rohlfs	44
	Eliza Rohlfs	46
	<a href="#">Augustus Rohlfs</a>	18
	Theodore Rohlfs	15
	Meta Rohlfs	11
	Emile Rohlfs	9
	Emma Rohlfs	7
	Rodolphus Rohlfs	5
	A H Barmeister	22
	John Gottsche	34
	Josiah Leuischer	30

**Source Citation:** Year: 1860; Census Place: Davenport, Scott, Iowa; Roll: M653\_340; Page: 460; Image: 462; Family History Library Film: 803340.

**Source Information:**



Ancestry.com, 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

**Description:**

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Eighth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age as of the census day, sex, color; birthplace, occupation of males over age fifteen, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1860 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



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## ROHLFS, M. J.

**Born:** 1816  
**Died:** 9-4-1900  
**Cemetery:** FAIRMOUNT  
**Location:** DAVENPORT  
**County:** SCOTT CO. - IOWA  
**Record Notes:**

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## ROHLFS, Elsie

**Born:** 1815  
**Died:** 5-20-1879  
**Cemetery:** FAIRMOUNT  
**Location:** DAVENPORT  
**County:** SCOTT CO. - IOWA  
**Record Notes:**

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ROHLFS, MATTHIAS J., Davenport,  
Scott Co.; farmer; born in Ger-  
many; Liberal; married; 22 years  
in Iowa, 52 years old, weighs 169  
pounds.

"The Mesquitar Expedier," *Mesquitar, Iowa*  
Thurs Jan 20, 1876,  
p. 1, col 4, 5, 6, 7