

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator **Rowen**, John English - Represented Hamilton, Hardin and Wright Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 26 Jan 1837 Thompsonville, Connecticut

2. Marriage (s) date place

① Catherine McHatt 1856 Wright County, Iowa

② Kate Edwards 1861 Wright County, Iowa

③ Mary Jones Warner 23 Oct 1872 Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Agent for the Hawkeye Insurance Company for 22 years

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Minister

4. Church membership Brethren

5. Sessions served 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1894, 1896

6. Public Offices

A. Local

B. State He was appointed to the Iowa Conference of the United Brethren to organize the work in Wright County

C. National United States Council - Falkland Islands 10 years, Prairie Press, Chiles - Hooper

7. Death 1 May 1914 Iowa Township, Wright County, Iowa, Buried Grace Land Cemetery, Rowen, Iowa

8. Children John English, Jr.; Margaret M.; Josephine J.; Winifred; Charles J.; James H.

9. Names of parents Robert and Elizabeth Rowen

Rowen, John E.

10. Education He attended school in Thompsonville, Connecticut

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- The family came to Wright County when he was age 15.
- At age 9 he started working in woolen and carpet mills and worked until they came to Iowa in 1852.
- The family first settled in Cedar County, Iowa about 4 miles from Tipton, Iowa where he worked on a farm to help support his parents who were poor.
- He was licensed to preach at age 21 at Iowa Falls, Iowa and given work in Butler and Franklin counties. He was known as the "Boy Preacher."
- He labored as a minister for 14 years
- He was at one time the owner and editor of the Belmont Herald newspaper.
- He was the first person ever baptized by immersion in the Iowa River at Belmont, Iowa



**J. E. ROWEN.**

By J. M. Overbaugh.

The subject of this article was born on the 26th day of July, 1837, at the town of Thompsonville, Conn., and died at the old homestead in Iowa township, May 1, 1914. He came of good old Irish stock, his parents having emigrated from Ireland and settled in Thompsonville a short time before the boy, J. E. Rowen, was born.

His father, Robt. Rowen, and his mother, Elizabeth, were substantial, industrious people and during their lives raised quite a numerous family, and also accumulated quite a nice fortune.

They came to Wright county in an early day and remained here during the rest of their lives. They remained in Thompsonville, Conn., however, until J. E. was 15 years old. During the childhood of John, he had but little schooling, attending the public school for only about two years up to the time he was 15, so his education was almost all acquired by his own efforts outside of school. At the age of 9 years he commenced to work in the woolen and carpet mills and continued to so work until he came to Iowa with his parents in 1852, and settled in Cedar county, about four miles from Tipton.

There he worked on a farm to help support the family. His parents were poor, bringing with them to Cedar county only \$50 in money. When a child he had a great thirst for reading and read everything within his reach, including Neal's History of the Puritans, Shapesspeare, Allison's General History of Europe, History of the Indian, New England Wars, etc. Before he was 12 years old he had read the histories of Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, Egypt, Rome and Carthage—a good knowledge of which he retained. It is those things we learn and the books we read in early life that

are the best retained and which, in fact, we can never forget. He also read history of the crusades and works on natural history. This same penchant for reading continued all through his life. He had made himself familiar with the great works of fiction, including Dickens, Thackery, Geo. Eliot, Charles Lever any others, but for the trashy and superficial class of fiction he had no use.

The writer heard Mr. Rowen deliver a lecture many years ago on the subject of literature, in which he showed a fine judgment and discrimination. Mr. Rowen had always had a religious cast of mind, commencing with the little prayers at his mother's knee. He was converted at a campmeeting in Benton county, Iowa, when 21 years old, and united with the United Brethren church at Belmont almost immediately afterward. He was licensed to preach at Iowa Falls and given work in Butler and Franklin counties. During the early part of his ministry he was known as the "Boy Preacher."

For fourteen years he labored in the ministry with success—holding many important revivals in which about 1,200 people were converted. During this time he organized and started twelve churches, several of which are still in a flourishing condition. In trend of thought Mr. Rowen's mind has been liberal and tolerant of the opinions and views of others. He was at one time owner and editor of the Belmont Herald, in which field he was quite successful—doubling the circulation and largely increasing the advertising patronage in a short time.

It was, perhaps, in the field of fire insurance where he made his greatest success in a business way. For twenty-two years he was agent for the Hawkeye Insurance Co., and during that time he did business for that company to the extent of a quarter of a million dollars, and

in all of this time there was no friction between him and the company, nor his integrity called in question.

He served four years as state senator from the Wright, Hamilton and Hardin county district, during which time in one session of the legislature he succeeded in getting nine bills enacted into laws, being surpassed in number by only one senator. He also served fourteen years as United States consul—ten years at the Falkland Islands and nearly four years at Punta Arenas, Chile. As consul Mr. Rowen attained eminent success, giving perfect satisfaction to the people among whom he labored, as well as to the government which he served.

When he finally gave up his position at Punta Arenas on account of old age, and that he might spend his declining years in quiet and retirement, he received a letter from the state department expressing the fullest satisfaction with his entire work and greatly regretting that he felt compelled to give up the position. Everyone who had been acquainted with Mr. Rowen knows of his great liberality, his unbounded hospitality and his readiness to help the needy and distressed. His home has always been open to anyone in want and many are those who have been fed and cheered on their way in his hospitable home. He bears in mind the saying of Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me."

**NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.**

**METHODIST.**

If all is well services regular next Sabbath.

There was no service at Lincoln Sabbath owing to the J. E. Rowen funeral.

The W. F. M. S. meets with Mrs. DeVore next week Tuesday.

The aid society meets at the church Wednesday afternoon.

Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30.

The services Sunday evening begin at 8 o'clock. A cordial welcome to all.

Prayer meeting at the church Wednesday evening at 7:30. N.

PINEAPPLES

# BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

AND

## PORTRAIT ALBUM

Historical Department of Iowa  
OF

### HAMILTON AND WRIGHT COUNTIES, IOWA.

3178a

CONTAINING PORTRAITS OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM WASHINGTON TO CLEVELAND, WITH ACCOMPANYING BIOGRAPHIES OF EACH; PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE; ENGRAVINGS OF PROMINENT CITIZENS IN HAMILTON AND WRIGHT COUNTIES, WITH PERSONAL HISTORIES OF MANY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS AND LEADING FAMILIES.

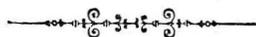
*Presented to the Historical  
Department of Iowa by  
H. K. Curran*

LEWIS BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.,

113 ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO.

1889.

istry, at a conference held at Lisbon, Linn County, Iowa. He has during the years since his ordination done pastoral work at the following places: Castalia, Chickesaw, Cedar Falls, Bowen's Prairie, Butler Centre, Rockford, Rolfe, Dakota City, Emmetsburg and Clarion. He is now under appointment of the Iowa Conference of the United Brethren to organize its work in Wright County, and although it is but eighteen months since the work was commenced, there are already two societies, with a membership of seventy. He lost his first wife by death, and he was again married to Miss Kate Edwards, of Chickesaw, with whom he lived two years, when his home was again darkened by death. In 1872 he was married to Miss Mary J. Farmer, of Goldfield, Iowa, and the union has been a singularly happy one. They have been blessed with six children, three boys and three girls. United in their religious and social opinions, their home life is one of continuous joy. Far from rich in the world's goods, it is one of the rules of the house always to share with the needy, and not even a tramp has ever been turned away hungry from their door. Mr. Rowen was the first person ever baptized by immersion in the Iowa River at the town of Belmond.



**R**OBERT ROWEN, farmer and stock-raiser, section 33, Iowa Township. The subject of this sketch is one of the first settlers of Wright County, coming here in 1855. He is a native of Ireland, born in Colderain, County Derry, June 17, 1803, a son of James and Agnes (Quig) Rowen, natives of the same county. The youth of our subject was spent in assisting his father on a farm, and after the death of his father, which occurred when our subject was nineteen years

of age, he continued to reside with his mother until he emigrated to America in 1839. He sailed from Liverpool on the Armadella, and was six weeks and three days on the water; he landed in New York and went to work at weaving, and resided there about a year, and then went to Long Island and worked at farming and various other occupations until 1836, when he went to Alabama and lived for about a year and then sailed for Boston, where he remained for a short time, and again went to New York. While there he was married to Miss Elizabeth McMullen, a native of County Armagh, and a daughter of John McMullen. She came to the United States when a child. After his marriage he went to Thompsonville, Connecticut, and engaged in carpet weaving, where he remained for eighteen years, and during the time there he wove carpet for the White House at Washington. In the summer of 1851 he came West, and after looking over Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, he finally entered 160 acres of Government land in Cedar County, where he settled and began to improve his farm. Here he lived for three years, and then sold out and came to Wright County and purchased two claims of Ford & Murdoch, for \$350, then went to Des Moines and entered the Section; here he erected a log cabin, and in the spring of 1855 he moved his family here and began the task of improving his frontier home and began building his present residence. He hauled his logs to Alden, Hardin County, to be sawed. The siding and most of the trimmings were of black walnut. In 1858 he moved into it. Mr. and Mrs. Rowen are the parents of five children, two of whom still survive. Elizabeth, died in Thompsonville at four years of age; John, of Clarion; William, who was drowned at Belmond; Robert, who died while serving his country at Little Rock,

# IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

---

**John English Rowen**

Male

[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

---

**Event(s):****Birth:** 26 JUL 1837 Thompsonville, Hartford, Connecticut**Christening:****Death:** 01 MAY 1914**Burial:**

---

**Marriages:****Spouse:** [Kate Edwards](#)[Family](#)**Marriage:** < 1861> <, Wright, Iowa>

---

**Messages:**

Record submitted after 1991 by a member of the LDS Church. No additional information is available.  
Ancestral File may list the same family and the submitter.

---

**Source Information:**No source information is available.

---

An official Web site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
© 2008 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.



You searched for **John E. Rowen** in **Iowa**

Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925

|                    |                                     |     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Name:              | <b>John E Rowen</b>                 |     |
| Birth Year:        | <b>abt 1838</b>                     |     |
| Birth Place:       | <b>Connecticut</b>                  |     |
| Gender:            | <b>Male</b>                         |     |
| Race:              | <b>White</b>                        |     |
| Census Date:       | <b>1895</b>                         |     |
| Residence State:   | <b>Iowa</b>                         |     |
| Residence County:  | <b>Wright</b>                       |     |
| Locality:          | <b>Clarion</b>                      |     |
| Roll:              | <b>IA1885_417</b>                   |     |
| Line:              | <b>28</b>                           |     |
| Family Number:     | <b>226</b>                          |     |
| Neighbors:         | <a href="#">View others on page</a> |     |
| Household Members: | Name                                | Age |
|                    | <a href="#">John E Rowen</a>        | 57  |
|                    | <a href="#">Mary J Rowen</a>        | 46  |
|                    | <a href="#">John E RowenJunior</a>  | 21  |
|                    | <a href="#">Maggie M Rowen</a>      | 19  |
|                    | <a href="#">Josephine F Rowen</a>   | 17  |
|                    | <a href="#">Winifred Rowen</a>      | 14  |
|                    | <a href="#">Charles I Rowen</a>     | 11  |
|                    | <a href="#">Jas H Rowen</a>         | 8   |

**Source Information:**

Ancestry.com. *Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.  
Original data: Microfilm of Iowa State Censuses, 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925 as well various special censuses from 1836-1897 obtained from the State Historical Society of Iowa via Heritage Quest.

**Description:**

This database contains Iowa state censuses for the following years: 1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925. It also includes some head of household censuses and other special censuses from 1836-1897. Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database though includes: name, age, gender, race, birthplace, marital status, and place of enumeration. [Learn more...](#)



Hi, helenjwh1 [Sign Out](#) [Message](#)

[Home](#) | [Family Trees](#) | [Search](#) | [Collaborate](#) | [Learning Center](#) | [DNA](#) | [Publish](#) | [Shop](#)

### A Family Affair 2010

**Entries:** 62109 **Updated:** 2010-02-16 17:45:36 UTC (Tue) **Contact:** Joyce Boren

[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Download GEDCOM](#) | [Add F](#)

ID: I676611963  
Name: John E. ROWEN  
Given Name: John E.  
Surname: Rowen  
Sex: M

**Ancestry Hints for John E. ROWEN**

[1 possible historical record matches](#)

Marriage 1 [Mary Jane FARMER](#) b: 22 Jul 1848 in Wheeling, Ohio Co., West Virginia

Married: 23 Oct 1872 in Iowa

Children

- [John E. Jr. ROWEN](#) b: 1873
- [Margaret ROWEN](#) b: 1876
- [Josephine ROWEN](#) b: 1878
- [Winifred ROWEN](#) b: 1880

[Index](#) | [Descendancy](#) | [Register](#) | [Download GEDCOM](#) | [Add F](#)

[Printer Friendly Version](#) [Search Ancestry](#) [Search AWT](#) [Join Ance](#)

Contact Us: [1-800-ANCESTRY](#) | [Ancestry.com Blog](#) | [Affiliates](#) | [Advertising](#)

© 1997-2010 Ancestry.com | [Corporate Information](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

FIND A GRAVE



Actions

- [Begin New Search](#)
- [Refine Last Search](#)
- [Cemetery Lookup](#)
- [Add Burial Records](#)
- [Help with Find A Grave](#)

Find all Rowens in:

- [Graceland Cemetery](#)
- [Rowan](#)
- [Wright County](#)
- [Iowa](#)
- [Find A Grave](#)

Top Contributors

Success Stories

Discussion Forums

Find A Grave Store

Support Find A Grave

Log In



Advertisement



WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR FUTURE ALL IN ONE PLACE.

MonsterCollege has the tools, jobs and internships to help guide your future.

Get Started



You've Got (1) Message!

Open Message Now

22:09 - Wednesday, 27 October 2010

# John E Rowen

Memorial

Photos

Flowers

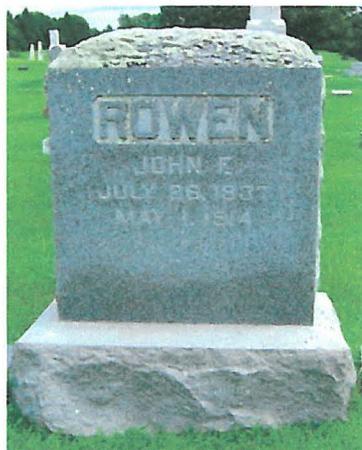
Edit

[Learn about upgrading this memorial...](#)

Birth: Jul. 28, 1837  
Death: May 1, 1914

Burial: [Graceland Cemetery](#)  
Rowan  
Wright County  
Iowa, USA  
Plot: West 5 34 1

Created by: [Kevin & Robin Spence](#)  
Record added: Jul 20, 2010  
Find A Grave Memorial# 55226020



Added by: [Betsy Monson](#)



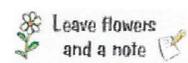
Cemetery Photo

Added by: [Betsy Monson](#)

Add a photo for this person

Request A Photo

Photos may be scaled. Click on image for full size.



[Accuracy and Copyright Disclaimer](#)

FIND A GRAVE



Actions

- [Begin New Search](#)
- [Refine Last Search](#)
- [Cemetery Lookup](#)
- [Add Burial Records](#)
- [Help with Find A Grave](#)

- [Top Contributors](#)
- [Success Stories](#)
- [Discussion Forums](#)
- [Find A Grave Store](#)
- [Support Find A Grave](#)

[Log In](#)

Advertisement

## Mary Jane Rowen

Memorial

Photos

Flowers

Edit

[Learn about sponsoring this memorial...](#)

[\[Add A Photo\]](#)



Image is scaled. Click image to open at full size.  
Added by: [Betsy Monson](#)  
7/24/2010

[Accuracy and Copyright Disclaimer](#)