

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Nichols, Jay Ira Senator Nichols, Jay Ira - Represented Linn and Muscatine Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 13 May 1855 near West Liberty, Iowa  
in the South Prairie Community southwest of West Liberty

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Lucy Maria Cribbett 23 Nov 1876

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business first president of Muscatine County Farm Bureau several years; president of the Iowa Condensed Milk Company and the Union District Agricultural Society

B. Civic responsibilities 4-H; Mason;

C. Profession Farmer;

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> General Assemblies 1902 1904 1906 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 32<sup>nd</sup> 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies 1907, 1909 - Senate

A. Local Muscatine County supervisor for several years; president of the West Liberty fair;

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 26 April 1935 West Liberty, Iowa; buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, West Liberty, Iowa

8. Children Jay Ora; Ethel G. (Mrs. William Anderson); Helen B. (Mrs. J. B. Hoag); Royce C.

9. Names of parents Ira and Elizabeth (Lucas) Nichols

Nichols, Jay Ira

10. Education Educated in rural schools near his home in  
South Prairie; attended the academy at Iowa City, Iowa

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

12. Other applicable information Republican

He farmed on a farm in South Prairie near West Liberty, settling  
there at age 21



have still on the market be  
the well known long.

Been rather intriguing to note,  
after the green apple season  
closed, pronounced bulging of  
cokes and shirts of Sam Koster  
by Lager and Phil Aikins. In late  
afternoon wanderings along high-  
way 6 east of town. Peek into the  
back of Aikins garage other after-  
noon revealed the entire whyness:  
bottles! All kinds, sizes and shapes.  
They've got about 400 in all, and  
most that many different styles,  
practically all of them having been  
original containers of licker, and in-  
much as almost all of them were  
knocked up along the highway, the  
roads would tend to indicate that  
the law against drinking on the  
public roads has been disregarded.  
t,  
Bethatasitmay, it's a dandy col-  
lection, and lots of the bottles are  
quite pretty, not to say ornate,  
ranging from the tiny single stiff  
big kind to the heroic type hold-  
er high for the whole party and  
bug left over for the radiator.

## reat!

Douglass McDermott, son of C. H.  
Dermott of this city, and who is  
graduate from Grinnell college  
last month, has accepted a position  
with the General Electric Co., and  
will report for duty at the company  
headquarters in Schenectady, N. Y.  
immediately following his gradu-  
ation.

An official from the company in-  
terviewed the senior group, and the  
young man was one of three to  
be chosen for work in the account-  
ing department.

In accepting this position, Doug-  
lass decided to decline two other  
offers made by Chicago firms.

## oldiers

## oming

the West Liberty Fair; was the first  
president of the county Farm Bur-  
eau and continued in the capacity  
for a number of years; was active  
in behalf of 4-H club work and  
largely responsible for the West Lib-  
erty Fair's recognition of that de-  
partment's importance, and through-  
out his long life contributed in many  
other ways to the advancement and  
betterment of his home community.  
He was a member of the Methodist  
Episcopal church, and of Mt. Cal-  
vary Lodge, A. F. and M. He  
also held 22nd degree membership  
in the Davenport Consistory of the  
Masonic order.

Mr. Nichols is survived by the  
widow and four children: Fay Ora  
Nichols of Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. W.  
C. Anderson and Wayne C. Nichols  
of West Liberty, and Mrs. F. R.  
Hear of Birmingham, Ala. Eight  
grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Sun-  
day afternoon at 2:30 from the M.  
E. church in charge of the pastor,  
Rev. Walter A. Smith. Mt. Cal-  
vary Lodge, with James Birkett  
as Master, conducted its service at  
Oakridge cemetery, where burial  
was made. The lodge quartet, A.  
H. Ditmars, Karl C. Smith, Harry  
Lewis and Roy Tharp, sang the  
hymns, with Mrs. W. A. Smith as  
organist. Pall bearers were Dr. W.  
B. Jayne, Robert Brooke, Wilson  
Kimberly, W. W. Anderson, B. W.  
Barnes and Henry Friedli.

The services were largely attend-  
ed, and included among those gath-  
ered to pay their final respects to  
Mr. Nichols were many friends from  
a distance. Among the relatives  
who came for the funeral, in addi-  
tion to the son and his family, and  
the daughter, were C. B. Nichols of  
Des Moines, and Mr. and Mrs. Moray  
Eby of Cedar Rapids.

### Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank our friends and  
neighbors for their kindness and  
sympathy.

Mrs. J. I. Nichols and Family.

## Locals Will Play at Nichols

Hard ball talk promises  
some real fruit in West Li-  
year, and undaunted by the  
rain spoiled the game sche-  
last Sunday at Nichols, the  
team is planning on meet-  
ing olds next Sunday afternoon  
Pike township diamond.  
The team will do the tossing, with  
the other end.

The enthusiasts also are  
to condition the fairground  
are making arrangements  
and expect to turn out as  
team within the near future  
does not mean that kitten-  
ing by the boards, but does  
mean that the regular game also  
turn to its own.

### M. E. Church Notes

Looking back over the  
Loyalty Crusade is an in-  
spiring and encouraging experience  
and were certain advances made  
we hope are prophecies of  
actions in which we are going  
church life. The increas-  
tendance from Roll Call Sun-  
day marked throughout the  
came to its climax on Es-  
day with 320 present at  
ing service and 240 present  
Sunday school session.  
before that audience to pro-  
vide an inspiring experience and  
to the heart to realize that such  
tendance is possible for every  
day service. And so we tighten  
our grip on the task and we  
continue the crusade for  
loyalty to the church know  
a higher spiritual tone to  
community life depends upon  
loyalty.

The sermon subject next  
morning will be, The Yellow  
the Blue Chord and the  
Thread. "Put upon the  
each border of the garment  
of blue."

The children who are

HISTORY OF  
MUSCATINE COUNTY  
IOWA

FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENTS  
TO THE PRESENT TIME

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BIOGRAPHICAL

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VOLUME II

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*ILLUSTRATED*

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1911  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.  
CHICAGO

had acquired sufficient property to retire and live in comfort on the fruits of his early toil five years prior to his death.

Mr. Maxwell was twice married. Unto him and his first wife three children were born, who were as follows: Margaret J., the wife of John Swigle, living in Kansas; Absalom, also a resident of Kansas; and John, who died at the age of eighteen years. On the 15th of October, 1868, Mr. Maxwell was united in marriage to Miss Mary Boggs, a native of Coshocton county, Ohio, and a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Bonett) Boggs. Mr. Boggs was a native of Virginia but his wife was born in the Buckeye state, where they were married but very soon thereafter they migrated to Iowa and settled on a farm in Muscatine county, where they continued to reside during the remainder of their lives. The father died at the venerable age of seventy-eight years but the mother survived for seven years after his demise, passing away shortly after the seventieth anniversary of her birth. They were the parents of the following children: John, who lives in Muscatine county; Mrs. Maxwell, the widow of our subject; Sarah, residing in Nebraska; Clara, of this county; and one who died in infancy. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell were born the following children: Thomas, born on the 3d of July, 1870, who received a high-school education and is now a resident of this county; Robert, whose birth occurred on the 15th of October, 1875, now living in Louisa county; William, who was born on the 15th of September, 1878, now living on the old homestead; and Cora, born on the 15th of October, 1880, the wife of James Helverson, of this county. The family always attended the Reformed church, in which they hold membership.

Mr. Maxwell was an ardent supporter of the democratic party. He was a public-spirited man and took an active interest in all municipal political issues, serving as trustee in his township for fifteen years, the term of his office clearly demonstrating his satisfactory discharge of its responsibilities. He also served as a school director for many years. He was a man who always gave his support to every measure the passing of which would benefit the community or improve local conditions, and this in itself is sufficient to have impressed his personality on his district too strongly to have it readily erased. He passed away at his home in Conesville on the 11th of February, 1903, at the age of seventy-one years. Mrs. Maxwell still survives at the age of sixty-six and continues to reside at the homestead.

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#### JAY IRA NICHOLS.

The owner of a valuable farm of three hundred acres of good land in Muscatine county, the Hon. Jay I. Nichols has attained success financially. He has also been honored by his fellow citizens with important public offices, which he has filled with the highest credit. He ranks today as one of the leading men of the county and is recognized throughout the state as a man of marked ability who has assisted in no small degree in advancing the permanent interests of Iowa.

A native of Muscatine county he was born May 13, 1855, and is a son of Ira and Elizabeth (Luse) Nichols, the former a native of New York state and the

latter of Morrow county, Ohio. The parents were married in Ohio and came west in 1853, settling on a farm in Muscatine county. The father was very successful in business affairs and acquired about fourteen hundred acres of good land, being the owner at the time of his death, in 1888, of four hundred acres. The wife and mother passed away in February, 1910. Unto them seven children were born, namely: C. M., of West Liberty; I. A., a banker, also of West Liberty; Jay Ira, the subject of this review and one of twins, the other dying in infancy; Viola, deceased; Pliny Clay, who gave up his life for the cause of the Union in the Civil war; and John Bunker, also deceased.

Jay I. Nichols was educated in the common schools and also attended the high school. Starting in life on his own account at twenty-one years of age, he settled upon the place where he now lives and has made it one of the most productive farms in Wapsinonoc township. He has applied up-to-date methods and made use of the latest machinery, devoting himself not only to agriculture but also to stock-raising with most gratifying results. He is now retired from active labor, having rented his farm to others. He has taken a deep interest in all subjects pertaining to agriculture and has served as president of the Iowa Condensed Milk Company, the Union District Agricultural Society, and for five years was a member of the Muscatine county board of supervisors and was instrumental in instituting a number of improvements which have been of practical value to the county. Politically a republican, he has wielded a strong influence in the councils of the party and served as representative of the forty-second district in the twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first general assemblies and also as state senator for a term of four years, from 1906 to 1910. In all his duties, both public and private, he has displayed a judgment and discrimination that have reflected credit upon himself and those with whom he has been associated.

On the 23d of November, 1876, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Miss Lucy M. Birkett, who was born in Muscatine county, November 24, 1856, a daughter of Thomas and Lucy (Hargreaves) Birkett. Her father was born in England and her mother in New Jersey. They were married in the east and early in the '50s came to Muscatine county, where Mr. Birkett gained a high standing as a farmer. His wife passed away in 1859 and Mr. Birkett was married two years later to Susannah Hargreaves, a sister of his first wife. Mrs. Susannah Birkett died in 1896 but he is still living at the age of eighty-one years in West Liberty. By his first union two children were born: Lucy M., now Mrs. Jay I. Nichols; and Charles, deceased. By his second union Mr. Birkett became the father of the following children: Lilla, now the wife of Ed. Fitzgerald, of West Liberty; Edith, the wife of Charles Mosher, of West Liberty; Bertha, the wife of Walter Mosher, also of West Liberty; Leslie, who died in infancy; Vincent, now living on the old homestead; Lindley, also on the old homestead; and Frederick, of Kansas City.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Nichols has been brightened by the birth of four children: Fay, born September 14, 1877, who married Miss Lena Schilling, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and has one child, Howard; Ethel G., who was born March 17, 1880, and is now the wife of William Anderson, living near West Liberty; Wilma B., who was born May 17, 1887, and will graduate in June, 1911, from the State University at Iowa City; and Wayne, who was born June 28,

1896, and is now a student in the junior class of the high school at West Liberty. Fay Nichols graduated from the civil engineering department of the Iowa State College at Ames and served for two years in the Philippine islands as a civil engineer for the United States government. On his return he came around the world and now makes his home in Pittsburg. Ethel G. (Nichols) Anderson is a graduate of the State University at Iowa City, and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa society and also of the Phi Delta sorority. She has a first grade certificate and has taught school for ten years, during five of which she was engaged as a teacher in the high school at Washington, Iowa. Mrs. Nichols was educated in the common schools and also attended an academy at Iowa City for nine months.

Mr. Nichols and his family are active members of the Methodist Protestant church, and are prominently identified with the social life of the community. He early learned that conscientious application is at the foundation of success and he applied himself with such diligence that he readily attained a competence. By his public spirit, his genial manner and cordial disposition he made many friends and years ago he attained recognition as one of the leading citizens of Muscatine county. Few men have been more closely identified with the development and prosperity of this part of the state. In all his intercourse with his fellowmen, Mr. Nichols has so demeaned himself as to gain their highest esteem and confidence.

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#### A. THOMAS NELSON.

A. Thomas Nelson, who has been engaged in the hardware business for fifteen years past, is a native of Cedar county, Iowa, and was born on a farm two miles north of Durant, November 1, 1867. The father, Thomas Boyd Nelson, was of Scotch and English descent and was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania. He died at Durant, January 3, 1910. The progenitors of the family upon both paternal and maternal sides were in America before the Revolutionary war. Our subject's Grandfather Nelson assisted the patriots in the great struggle for freedom. The mother of our subject, whose maiden name was Eleanor J. Brown, was born at Bethel, New York, and is now living at Durant, Iowa. She is of Irish and Holland-Dutch lineage and represents the third generation of the family in America.

A. Thomas Nelson is one of a family of six boys and one girl, and his early opportunities for education were limited, as his assistance was necessary in providing support for the younger members of the household. His tastes pointed to mechanical engineering, but he worked on the home farm until seventeen years of age and then entered the postoffice at Durant, where he continued for three years. He then learned the tinner's trade under H. J. Brauch, of Durant, and in the spring of 1890 came to Wilton Junction, where he worked at his trade under K. Blanchard. In 1894 he began traveling for the Gilt Edge Furnace Foundry, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, representing this firm in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. Later he determined to

# Family Group Record

FamilySearch™ Ancestral File v4.19

## Husband's Name

[Ira J. NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-77H)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 13 Feb 1820      **Place:** , Seneca, Ny  
**Died:** 22 Mar 1888      **Place:** Wilton, Muscatine, Ia  
**Buried:** 1888              **Place:** Oakridge Cem, West Liberty, Ia  
**Married:** 16 Nov 1843      **Place:** Pulaskville, Knox, Oh

**Father:** [Jonas NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-GQS)

[Family](#)

**Mother:** [Durinda PURVIS](#) (AFN:149M-D7C)

## Wife's Name

[Elizabeth LUSE](#) (AFN:149M-92S)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 3 Mar 1821      **Place:** , Washington, Pa  
**Died:** 10 Feb 1910      **Place:** West Liberty, Muscatine, Ia  
**Buried:** 1910              **Place:** Oakridge Cem, West Liberty, Ia  
**Married:** 16 Nov 1843      **Place:** Pulaskville, Knox, Oh

**Father:** [Reuben LUSE](#) (AFN:149M-9NJ)

[Family](#)

**Mother:** [Mary "Polly" LACOCK](#) (AFN:149M-FVG)

## Children

### 1. Sex Name

F [Mildred NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-7H5)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** Abt. 1861      **Place:** <West Liberty, Muscatine, Ia>

### 2. Sex Name

M [Alvah NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-7JC)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** Abt. 1863      **Place:** <West Liberty, Muscatine, Ia>

### 3. Sex Name

M [Charles M. NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-7B4)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 14 Oct 1846      **Place:** , , Oh  
**Died:** 1924              **Place:**  
**Buried:** 1924              **Place:** Oakridge Cem, West Liberty, Ia

### 4. Sex Name

F [Viola L. NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-7GX)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 6 Apr 1859      **Place:** West Liberty, Muscatine, Ia  
**Died:** 27 Apr 1860      **Place:** West Liberty, Muscatine, Ia  
**Buried:**                      **Place:** Oakridge Cem, West Liberty, Ia

### 5. Sex Name

M [Jay Ira NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-7FQ)

[Pedigree](#)

**Born:** 13 May 1855      **Place:** S Prairie, Muscatine, Ia  
**Died:** 26 Apr 1935      **Place:** West Liberty, Muscatine, Ia  
**Buried:** 1935              **Place:** Oakridge Cem, West Liberty, Ia

### 6. Sex Name

M [John B. NICHOLS](#) (AFN:149M-7CB)

[Pedigree](#)



You searched for **Jay I. Nichols** in **Iowa**

1900 United States Federal Census

**Name:** **J I Nichols**  
[\[Jay Ira Nichols\]](#)

**Home in 1900:** **Wapsinonoc, Muscatine, Iowa**  
**[West Liberty, Muscatine, Iowa]**

**Age:** **45**

**Birth Date:** **Mar 1855**

**Birthplace:** **Iowa**

**Race:** **White**

**Gender:** **Male**

**Relationship to head-of-house:** **Head**

**Father's Birthplace:** **New York**

**Mother's Birthplace:** **Ohio**

**Spouse's Name:** **Lucy Nichols**

**Marriage Year:** **1877**

**Marital Status:** **Married**

**Years Married:** **23**

**Occupation:** [View on Image](#)

**Neighbors:** [View others on page](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">J I Nichols</a>	45
	<a href="#">Lucy Nichols</a>	43
	<a href="#">Fuy Nichols</a>	21
	<a href="#">Wilma Nichols</a>	4
	<a href="#">Robert Klotz</a>	23
	<a href="#">Robert Taylor</a>	19

**Source Citation:** Year: 1900; Census Place: Wapsinonoc, Muscatine, Iowa; Roll: T623\_450; Page: 74; Enumeration District: 113.

**Source Information:**  
 Ancestry.com, 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc. 2004.

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

**Description:**  
 This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)