

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** Eckles, Raymond Bruce, Senator

Represented Butler County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 6 Aug. 1876 Marshall County, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Ena M. Burnham 20 Jan. 1900 Aplington, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Secretary of the Aplington Farmers Elevator; vice-president of the Butler County Farm Bureau

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Farmer, educator

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 41<sup>st</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies 1915, 1927, 1929

6. Public Offices

A. Local Aplington school board - 20 years; Justice of the Peace

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

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

7. Death 8 Jan 1933 Aplington, Iowa; buried

8. Children Lester; Gordon Bruce; Dorothy Allen (Mrs George Hillis)

9. Names of parents Robert and Susan Eckles

10. Education Educated in rural schools

11. Degrees Graduate of Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa in 1896

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He taught school for a short time as a young man. He was a professor of agriculture and dairy at the National School for Boys in Doylestown, Pennsylvania for 2 years.
- He moved to Aplington in 1901 and farmed until his death.
- His wife, Eva, died in 1956





High School. She taught country school at Pleasant Valley #4 and Palermo School in Grundy County before her marriage.

On June 4, 1916, Henry and Anna were married at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Grundy Center. They farmed the family farm and had a dairy operation as well as raising hogs.

They are the parents of four children, all who graduated from Aplington High School. LaDonnis Jean lives in Nashua, Iowa, and teaches at Nashua-Plainfield Community School. LaDonna Jane (Don) Graves lives in Dike, Iowa. They have three children: Lynette (Brian) Petersen, David (Kristal) Graves, and Jason Graves. LaDonna works part-time at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo. LaVern Henry (Cindy Eiklenborg) farms south of Aplington. They have two sons: James and Brian. Gary Allen lives in Walnut Creek, California, and is employed at SBC, formerly Pacific Bell.

Henry and Anna built their retirement home at 544 Howard Street in 1989. Both are members of the Aplington Baptist Church. They have four great-grandchildren: Brandon, Brady, Nathan, and Bryce. Anna passed away March 9, 2002.

### JACOB AND DENA WOLFF

Jacob Wolff was born the son of Gerrelt Saathoff Wolff and Swanjte (Dieken) Wolff in Grundy County on June 26, 1884. His parents had immigrated to America from Germany in March 1883, settling in Grundy County. Dena Frey was born in the Ackley area on October 3, 1891, to Heinrich "Henry" Frey and Alije (Lukes) Frey. Her parents also immigrated to America from Germany.

Jake and Dena were married in the home of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Frey, on February 24, 1916. They started farming south of Aplington next to the Butler/Grundy County line just across the road from where Jake had been living in Grundy County. There they farmed their 160 acres until they retired to Aplington at 1103 Howard Street in June 1946.



Dena and Jacob Wolff, February 1916

They were the parents of four children, Garrelt Jacob Wolff, Henry Jacob Wolff, Swanetta Bertha (Wolff) Hemmen, and Lu-

### R. B. ECKLES, STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Raymond Bruce Eckles of Aplington was elected by the people of Butler County to the Iowa State House of Representatives in 1924. He served in 1925, 1927, and 1929 during the 41st, 42nd, 42nd extra, and 43rd sessions. They were held in January, February, and March. (A special session was held in 1927.) He was usually able to return to Aplington before spring fieldwork started on his farm west of town.

He was chair of the Claims Committee. He also served on the following committees: Motor Vehicle and Transportation; Fish and Game; Dairy and Food; County and Township Organization; Public Utilities; and Public Health and Appropria-

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ella Dena Wolff. Jacob died May 7, 1966, at the age of 82 at his home in Aplington. Dena died February 15, 1983, at the age of 96.

Submitted by Berdena Wolff

### LaVERN AND CINDY WOLFF

The Wolff family was established September 5, 1975, when LaVern Wolff married Cindy Eiklenborg at the First Reformed Church.

LaVern, the son of Henry and Anna (Frieling) Wolff, grew up just south of Aplington on the family farm. He farmed in the Parkersburg and Buck Grove area before returning to the family farm in 1989.

Cindy, the daughter of Norman and Sylvia (Riebkjes) Eiklenborg, lived in Aplington until 1968 when the family moved to an acreage southwest of town. She attended Hawkeye Institute of Technology for nurse training.



Front: LaVern and Cindy Wolff, Back: Brian and James Wolff

LaVern and Cindy have two children. James graduated from Aplington-Parkersburg High School and Northwestern College before moving to Sioux Center, Iowa. He is presently a manager there at the Pella Corporation. Brian graduated from Aplington-Parkersburg High School and attended Hawkeye Community College before starting to farm full time northeast of Aplington.

Submitted by Cindy Wolff

tions.

Mr. Eckles ran on the Republican Party ticket. While the Legislature was in session, he lived in Des Moines near the Capitol building and was able to have his wife Ena and daughter Dotha with him occasionally.

Submitted by Janelle Willis



Raymond Bruce Eckles, 1925

graduated from Aplington High School in 1973. Janet has been employed at GMAC Mortgage since 1989. Ron and Janet were married August 31, 1973. Ron and Janet bought their present home at 405 13th Street in October of 1984. They are the parents of three children. Chad Jeremy (Teresa Coy), born March 23, 1975, is a manager at ECA Marketing, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. He lives in Savage, Minnesota. He has two sons, Caleb and Coy, and a daughter, Elizabeth. Camie Joy (Courtney Nederhoff) was born August 22, 1978. She is an investment accountant at Principal Financial in Des Moines. She lives in Gilbert, Iowa. She has a son, Gabe. Billie Jo (Jim Swenson) was born November 18, 1981. She is a registered nurse at Covenant Hospital in Waterloo. She resides on an acreage by Parkersburg, Iowa.

### HENRY AND DOROTHY DUHN

Henry Duhn and Dorothy DeVries were united in marriage on July 19, 1946, in Austinville, Iowa. Dorothy received her education from Aplington and Austinville schools. Henry attended school in Aplington and Steamboat Rock. They established their first home in Austinville, where Henry worked at the Iowa Falls Elevator as a hired hand. Dorothy worked in the hatchery, canning factory, and also as a hired girl. In 1947 they moved to a tenant home one mile north of Austinville, built for them by Albert Penning. Ten years later they moved to Albert's mother's farm two miles north of Austinville, where Henry and Dorothy started farming on their own.



Dorothy and Henry Duhn, July 17, 1996

In 1967 they acquired their own 240-acre farm two miles north of Aplington. Their present home in Aplington was built in 1990. Henry and Dorothy enjoyed playing cards, fishing, going on vacations, and their family. They attended West Friesland Presbyterian Church in rural Ackley all their married lives. Henry passed away on August 24, 2002.

Born to them were four daughters: Patricia (Douglas) Roelfs of Aplington; Janice (David) Miller of Aplington; Vicki (Ronald) Fiacco of Waterloo; and Sandy (Steve) Ubben who lives on the home place in rural Aplington. They have been blessed with 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

### RAYMOND BRUCE AND ENA ECKLES

Raymond Bruce Eckles was born August 6, 1876, in Marshall County. He was the son of Robert and Susan Eckles. Raymond was an 1896 graduate of Iowa State College. He was a professor of agriculture and dairy at the National Farm School for Boys in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, for two years.

Ena (Burnham) Eckles was born April 20, 1878, in rural Aplington. She was the daughter of Julius J. and Mary Burnham. She was one of the first women to graduate from Iowa State College in 1898. On June 20, 1900, she married Raymond Eckles at her parents' farm one mile west of Aplington.



Raymond and Ena Eckles, 1901

Raymond and Ena had three children. Lester was born in 1902 and married Dora Shaw in 1924. He was a graduate of Iowa State College in electrical engineering. Gordon Bruce was born in 1907 and married Dorothy Allen in 1931. He was a graduate of Iowa State University in animal husbandry. Dotha

was born in 1911 and married George Willis in 1935. She was a graduate of Iowa State College in home economics.

Raymond Eckles moved to Aplington in 1901 and farmed until his death in 1933. He was a member of the Aplington School Board for over 20 years, serving as board president at the time of his death. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1924 by the people of Butler County, he served during the 41st, 42nd, 42nd extra and 43rd sessions. At the time of his death, he was secretary of the Farmers Elevator, vice president of the Butler County Farm Bureau, superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School, and a member of the Church Session. He also served as a justice of the peace.

Ena Eckles was a descendant of early pioneer families in Aplington. She was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church that her grandparents (G. B. and Eliza Smith) had been instrumental in organizing in 1869. Mrs. Eckles was a longtime Sunday School teacher. She died in 1956.

Mary (Mrs. Leland) Meyer, Jim Willis and Paul Willis are three of their grandchildren who still live in rural Aplington.

Submitted by Janelle Willis

### MIKE AND SIERRI EIKLENBORG

Michael Eiklenborg, son of Norman and Sylvia Eiklenborg, was born on February 3, 1958. He grew up in Aplington and graduated from Aplington High School in 1976.



Front: Megan, Shanna and Scott. Back: Mike and Shierri.