

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Wheeler, John R. Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Harrison County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 30 Sept 1833 Strensburg, New York

2. Marriage (s) date place

Nancy E. Tyler 1876

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He had lumber business in Iowa and Nebraska

B. Civic responsibilities Knights of Pythias

C. Profession Lumber dealer

4. Church membership \_\_\_\_\_

5. Sessions served 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 1896

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

7. Death 13 Feb 1903 Sunday, Iowa; buried Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Shenandoah, Iowa

8. Children John R. Jr.

9. Names of parents James and Nancy (Rose) Wheeler

10. Education He was educated in the common schools in his boyhood  
vicinity

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

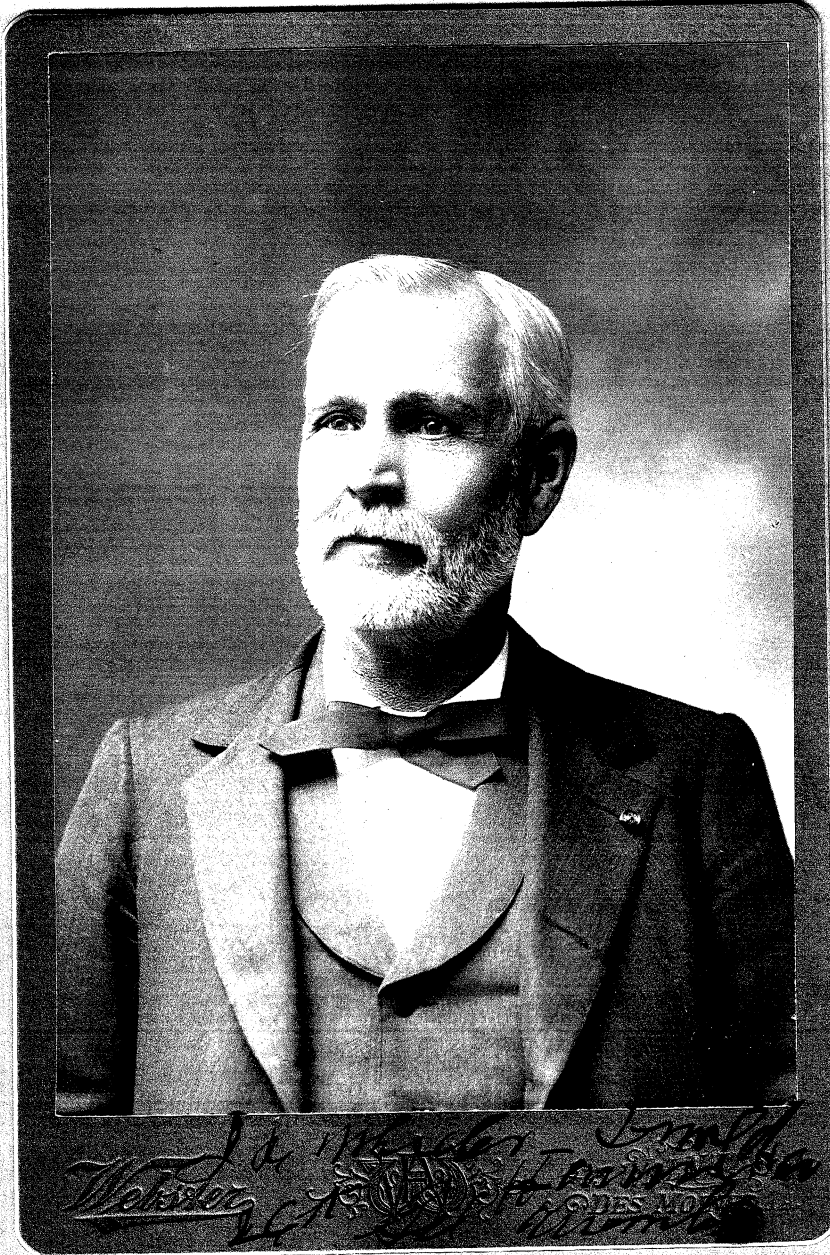
12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He was raised in New York state where he was trained in  
the lumber business.
- In 1856 he went to Eau Claire, Wisconsin where he stayed until Dec. 1861
- Military service - Civil War - Company C G 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment Wisconsin  
Volunteer Infantry where he was badly wounded.
- After the war he again embarked in the lumber business on the  
line of the Chicago Northwestern railroad from Clinton to  
Blair, Nebraska.
- He opened his first lumber yard at Dunlap, Iowa summer 1867
- His wife, Nancy, born 25 Oct 1851, died 18 Jan 1923, also  
buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Dunlap, Iowa

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- <u>History of Harrison County, Iowa 1915, p. 651</u>			
- <u>G.A.R. Index</u>		✓	
- <u>Obituary - The Dunlap Reporter, Dunlap, Iowa, Mar. 20, 1903, p. 8, col. 5</u>			
- <u>Harrison County Brochure WPA</u>			
- <u>Perspectives Men of Iowa Vol II, 1879, p. 434-435</u>			
- <u>rootsweb.com (accessed 24 Apr 2009)</u>			
- <u>ancestry.com (accessed 24 Apr 2009)</u>			



Portrait

W. H. MILLER, S. R.

W. H. MILLER  
S. R.



Portrait

WHEELER, J. R.

["Harrison County"]

Henry Allen has been unable to reach his school this week on account of sickness.

Mr. Barrett returned yesterday from Chicago and West Baden, Ind., where he had been for over a week.

Mrs. Rose Hogan and two children, and Miss Mae Pflieger are here from Mulva for a week's visit with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pflieger and family.

Dr. Mock Sad Alli's Congress of Novelties, which are giving good entertainments here this week, are meeting with success and are well liked.—Trenton (D.) Weekly News.

J. O. Pugsley (he of county supervisory fame) has sued the county for \$1200 worth of ground at Mondamin on which piled bridge material for Harrison county.

On Wednesday at high noon at the E. parsonage, Rev. D. A. Allen performed the ceremony which united for the Miss Anna Shreeves and Wm. Metzger, Ald. The happy couple reside southeast of town.

Dr. Mock Sad Alli and his Congress Novelties have been at the Sidney Opera house all this week, playing to crowded houses. The company is one of the best and the performance abreast with the times.—Sidney (Neb.) Republican.

The ladies of the Congregational church gave the first of a series of socials in the church parlors last evening. Judging from the initial number the plan will prove quite successful and will do much towards the promotion of sociability among the members and friends of the church. Over 100 persons found their way to the church last evening, where they were served with light refreshments and made heartily welcome. Not even a dime collection was taken up at these gatherings and the doors are open to everybody.

W. L. Kuykendall and family departed Wednesday for Fordland, Mo., their future home. They expect to find a milder and more healthful climate.

### OBITUARY.

After an illness covering a period of fifteen weeks Major John R. Wheeler died at his home in Dunlap on Friday, Feb. 13th, aged 69 years, 4 months and 13 days.

In the passing of Mr. Wheeler this community loses one of its oldest and most valued citizens. He was a pioneer settler of Harrison county and has added materially in its development, holding positions of trust in town, county, and state. He descended from a sturdy line of ancestors who were fired with an intense patriotic zeal and like them he took up arms in defense of his country, seeing active service from the beginning to the close of the civil war. He was seriously wounded in the battle of Pittsburg Landing and again at Atlanta where he lay for ten days on the battle-field with a bullet wound in both limbs.

Notwithstanding his prominence in both local and national affairs Mr. Wheeler was an exceedingly modest and retiring man, claiming no honors for what he had done. Always conservative, he never deviated from the path of rectitude in his dealings with his fellowmen; among them his name is a synonym for sterling integrity and commercial honor. In his quiet, unassuming way Mr. Wheeler extended his benevolencies in many directions; always avoiding display and fulfilling to the letter the injunction, "Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth." Among his most noteworthy qualities was his devotion to his family and his home. Here he showed to a remarkable degree his tenderness of heart and his kindly consideration of others. He leaves to mourn him a wife and son, one child having preceded him to the grave a number of years ago. The funeral was held at the home Sunday afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. J. M. Cummings of Denmark Iowa, and the remains were laid to rest in Pleasant Hill cemetery.

Dr. C. W. Carr, of Dow City, has finally decided to locate in Denison permanently.

For a manicure, face massage, shampoo or scalp treatment, see Miss A. Manchester. She also fills orders for hair goods—wigs, switches or wigs. 41

Joe Wilder of Missouri Valley, was sentenced to thirty days in jail the last term of the district court for assault and battery, has been pardoned by the governor in order that he take care of his four motherless children.

We understand a young gentleman not very far from this office wrote a business letter to his employer, and a letter to his best girl. On putting the letters in the envelopes he got the wrong ones and his employer, it has been fifteen years since he has been called such sweet names. I don't know what the girl said.—Iowa Review.

One Minute Cough Cure gives relief in one minute, because it kills the crobe which tickles the mucous membrane, causing the cough, and at the same time clears the phlegm, and puts out the inflammation and heals and soothes the affected parts. One Minute Cough Cure strengthens the lungs and wards off pneumonia and is a hard and never failing cure in all our cases of Coughs Colds and Croup. Minute Cough Cure is pleasant to take and harmless and good alike for young and old.

Oliver Bainbridge, who visited Dunlap last week is an author, artist, turer and many other things. He has his home in England several years ago, penniless, on a trip around the world for the purpose of writing and illustrating an extensive work describing his experiences and giving striking and unique features of the country. Up to the present time he has traveled the great distance of 60,000 miles, 40,000 of which he has traveled. He pays his own way, by writing for newspapers, magazines

Biographies and Portraits

...OF THE...

# Progressive Men of Iowa

Volume 11

Leaders in Business, Politics and the Professions

TOGETHER WITH THE  
BEGINNINGS OF

## A Western Commonwealth

...BY...

Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Ph. D.

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Des Moines  
Conaway & Shaw, Publishers  
1899



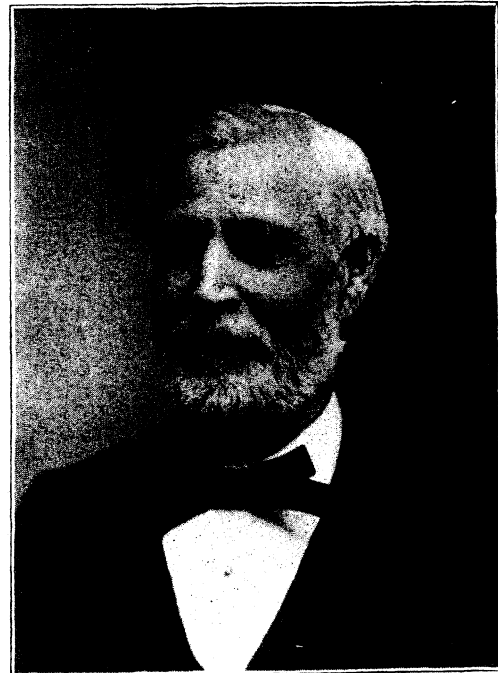
been a republican, coming into his majority in the year the party was organized, but held no public office, always declining any political honors offered him by his party.

Captain Weiser was married February 2, 1864, to Miss Mary Louisa Von Hoff, who was born November 18, 1843, and is the youngest daughter of Dr. Augustus Henry and Jane Martin Von Hoff, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. They have had five children: a son, born April 1, 1865, who died very soon; Emilius James, born January 3, 1867, who is a graduate of the Illinois College of Pharmacy, and who succeeded his father in the drug business in January, 1893, which he sold in September, 1898, and moved to Ortonville, Minnesota, where he is engaged in the banking business; William Walter, born August 24, 1870, who died July 13, 1872; Samuel Von Hoff, born September 19, 1872, who is a graduate of the Illinois Dental College, and opened a dental office at Eagle Grove in April, 1896, and moved to West Union in January, 1899, where he is engaged in the practice of his profession, and Harry Martin, born September 22, 1884.

WHEELER, JOHN R., of Dunlap, comes of revolutionary ancestry. His great grandfather, Francis Wheeler, of Concord, Mass., was one of the immortal patriotic "minute men," who left their farms, stores and shops at the beginning of the struggle for liberty, and at Concord met the British soldiers in mortal combat, covering themselves with glory for all time. His grandfather, Josiah H. Wheeler, then fourteen years of age, was ill with typhoid fever, and was removed to the woods in an ox-cart, for safety, when the news came that the British troops were marching upon Lexington. The father of the subject of our sketch, was James Wheeler, who was a farmer and lumber man, and his mother was Nancy Rose Wheeler, who was reared in England. They settled in Frewsburg, Chautauqua County, New York, in 1815, where John R. was born, September 30, 1833. His boyhood was spent on a farm, and his only opportunity for acquiring

an education was in the common schools of that period.

In 1856 he went to Eau Claire, Wis., and in 1860 was elected sheriff of Eau Claire county. In the fall of 1861 he raised and organized Company G of the Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry, and was elected captain of the company. His period of service extended through the entire war. He was in the battles of Shiloh and Corinth in 1862, at Vicksburg in 1863, at the siege of Atlanta in 1864, where he was shot through both thighs on July 21, 1864, and was in the closing fight of the great struggle, at



Kingston, North Carolina, in March, 1865. He was promoted to the rank of major of his regiment, and was in active service until the final surrender of the last confederate.

After the war, Major Wheeler settled at Clinton, Iowa, and engaged in the lumber business. As the North Western Railway was extended through the state, Mr. Wheeler established lumber yards at Boone, Jefferson, Denison, Woodbine and Dunlap, Iowa, and at Blair, Nebraska. In 1867 he settled at Dunlap in Harrison county, where he established the first lumber yard in that town.



In 1876 he married Miss Nancy E. Tyler, of Hamburg, Iowa. Their only child, John R. Wheeler, Jr., was born November 10, 1879.

Major Wheeler is a member of the democratic party, and in 1895 was nominated by his party for representative in the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, and was elected, notwithstanding the fact that Drake, the republican candidate for governor, had over 700 majority in the county. He was an intelligent and useful member of the house, serving on several important committees.

WRIGHT, SAMUEL SHERMAN, of the well known firm of Wright & Wright, attorneys at Tipton, Iowa, is a man well known in political circles of the Fourth and Fifth congressional districts and throughout the state. From youth he has taken an active part in politics and for several years has been generally considered one of the most brilliant and logical of the younger democratic speakers. One of the most noted of his speeches was the one which he as temporary chairman delivered before the democratic state convention held in Dubuque, May 20, 1896. In it he denounced in emphatic and comprehensive terms the doctrine of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and warned the convention against a system of finance that would "drive the recognized standard into the vaults or out of the country." He said that to make a piece of money out of fifty-one or fifty-two cents worth of silver and say that it shall be received in payment of all debts as one dollar, is to confiscate one-half the wages and savings of labor and to double the price of everything labor has to buy. This brilliant and convincing speech was not only received with extravagant demonstrations of delight by his own party, but the eloquent earnestness of the young orator commanded the most respectful attention of those who politically were bitterly opposed to his ideas.

Mr. Wright is a native Iowan, born at Nashua, March 6, 1865. His father, Robert Wright, was born in England, but came to Chickasaw county, Iowa, when he was nine years old. He was a farmer near

Nashua until 1892. The mother, Sarah Lydia Gilliland Wright, of German-Irish descent, was born in Indiana, and came to Chickasaw County, Iowa, at about the same time as her husband. They were married at Nashua in 1862 and lived on a farm there until 1892, when they moved to Tipton, where Mrs. Wright died September 22, 1896. To them had been born two children, the older one of them being the subject of this sketch, and the younger his law partner, J. Willard Wright.

Sam S. Wright received his early education in the country schools of Chickasaw



county. From the district school he was sent to Bradford Academy, after which he taught two terms in the district school, and in 1883 entered Upper Iowa University at Fayette, graduating at the head of his class in nine terms thereafter. He was an active member of the Zetegathean Literary Society, in the meetings of which society he spoke at least weekly during the entire time that he was in college. When a mere child he decided upon the practice of law for his life work and through his college days spared no effort to fit himself for his chosen work. In the spring of 1886 he won the famous Foster debate, which was open to

HISTORY  
OF  
**Harrison County**  
IOWA

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

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By  
HON. CHARLES W. HUNT, Logan

Assisted by  
WILL L. CLARK, Woodbine

---

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

---

ILLUSTRATED

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1915  
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## MAJ. JOHN R. WHEELER.

This distinguished soldier in the Civil War was a noted lumber dealer in Iowa and Nebraska in the sixties, seventies and eighties of the last century. He was a brave soldier and an energetic, successful business factor at Dunlap, this county, being the pioneer in the lumber business at that as well as other points within Harrison county.

Major Wheeler was born in New York state in 1833, a son of James Wheeler, the grandson of Josiah H. Wheeler and a great-grandson of Francis Wheeler, one of the minute men at Concord, Massachusetts, who served through the Revolution that finally gave this country its national independence. Josiah H. Wheeler also served his country as a brave soldier. Maj. John R. Wheeler was reared in the Empire state, and was trained in the lumber industry, which his father generally followed, and in 1856 went to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he remained until December, 1861, when he enlisted in Company G, Sixteenth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, going to the front as captain of his company. He was promoted in 1864 to the position of major of his regiment. He received two bad wounds, the first a bullet hole through the upper lip at the famous battle of Pittsburg Landing, which was his first engagement. His company lost six men, with thirty-three wounded, in that engagement. On July 21, 1864, at Atlanta, he was wounded with a bullet through both of his thighs and was kept under fire ten days thereafter before he could be removed from the field. The surgeons advised amputation of one limb, but he would not submit to it. He took part in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth and others of the great engagements of that awful conflict. In the list of battles where he proved himself a soldier true may be named Vicksburg, the siege of Atlanta and Wise's Forks, where he met Bragg and Hook.

After his return to peaceful occupations, Major Wheeler again embarked in the lumber trade along the line of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad in Iowa, dealing at Clinton, Boone, Denison, Dunlap, Woodbine and Blair, Nebraska. He opened the first lumber yard at Dunlap, this county, in the summer of 1867, from three car loads which he had sidetracked at that point, there being no station-house or postoffice, or other object to mark the spot of a townsite. Later he built an office and engaged an ox team to draw his first invoice of lumber to his "yard." The words "Lumber Office" painted on his little office building in 1867 were still plainly seen as late as 1895. For a number of years the lumber business flourished in these parts, and one hundred and fifty car loads was an average annual

distribution over the wild, bleak prairies of Crawford and Harrison counties. Major Wheeler's trade extended forty miles in all directions. The first year he operated a yard in Woodbine, having located there in December, 1866, when there was only one completed building in the place. He was obliged to send to Boone for a heating stove with which to heat his office. Lumber was very high, the freight on a car load from Clinton to Woodbine being one hundred dollars, and dimension stuff sold at forty dollars a thousand feet. Medium-grade flooring was sixty dollars, while shingles sold at eight dollars. Grain brought a high price, and farmers needed lumber, even at these high figures. Major Wheeler continued in the lumber business from 1865 for more than a quarter of a century. Major Wheeler was a Democrat, belonged to the Knights of Pythias at Dunlap and was an energetic, well-behaved pioneer lumberman. In 1876 Major Wheeler married Nancy Tyler, daughter of William and Jane (Brown) Tyler, of Wisconsin, the former of whom was a native of Ohio and the latter a native of New York state, and to this union was born one son, John R., who was born November 10, 1879, and who lives in Mesita, Colorado, where he is engaged in the lumber business.

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#### HON. L. R. BOLTER.

This gentleman distinguished himself for being one of the ablest lawyers and statesmen of his part of the state. He was the leader in Democratic politics and a man of much native, as well as acquired ability. He was purely an American and was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1834 and died at his home in Logan, Iowa, April 29, 1901. L. R. Bolter had taught school in young manhood and also had kept books for the Wells Fargo Express Company in the Rocky Mountain district long before the building of railroads west of the Missouri. He earned sufficient money in the west at clerking and mining to come to Harrison county, Iowa, and purchase a good tract of land which he steadily added to, as the years rolled by, so that when he died he was accounted a wealthy man. His extensive legal practice, however, made him independent of the world's needs without the large returns from his broad acres.

Mr. Bolter was more times state senator than any other man in Iowa. He also enjoyed the peculiar distinction of having delivered more than twenty-five consecutive Fourth of July orations within the borders of Iowa. He

John

Inf.

in

Wheeler, John R

Capt G 16 Infantry  
Wisconsin

b. S. 30, 1833

d. F. 13, 1903 Dunlap, Ia  
bur. Pleasant Hill Cem."

Ch.: John

Ex-Soldiers shows: Major  
res. Dunlap

In Dec 2, 1861 res. Eau  
Claire

Index only

Wheeler, John

Co H 84  
Indiana

#343 Toledo





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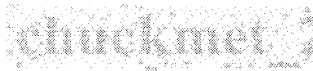
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## Chuck's Growing Tree

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- **ID:** I355
- **Name:** John R. WHEELER
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** 30 SEP 1833 in Frewsburg, Chautauqua, New York, USA
- **\_RIN:** 148
- **\_APPLIES\_TO:** DATE\_AND\_PLACE <sup>1</sup>
- **\_RIN:** 149
- **\_APPLIES\_TO:** DATE\_AND\_PLACE <sup>2</sup>
- **\_RIN:** 148 <sup>1</sup>
- **\_RIN:** 149 <sup>2</sup>
- **Change Date:** 22 JAN 2006 at 11:23:12

**Father:** [James WHEELER](#)

**Mother:** [Nancy ROSE](#) b: in England

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### Sources:

1. Title: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iaharris/bio/geneal16.htm>  
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 John R. was reared in the Empire State, and was brought up in the lumber business, which his father followed, i WI, where he remained until December, 1861 when he enlisted in Company G, Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry, wl with as Captain, but was promoted to Major, and was as such mustered out in April, 1865. ..."  
 Date: 22 JAN 2006  
 Quality: 2



2. Title: cited at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iaharris/bio1915/1915bio25.htm#wheeler>

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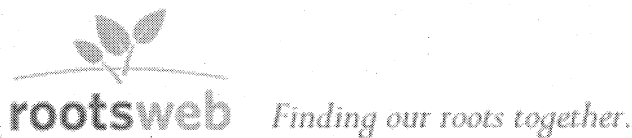


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## Chuck's Continuing Work in Progress

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**Contact:** Chuck Metcalfe

*chuckmet\_2000@yahoo.com*

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- **ID:** I621747575
- **Name:** John R. WHEELER
- **Given Name:** John R.
- **Surname:** Wheeler
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** 30 Sep 1833 in Frewsburg, Chautauqua, New York, USA <sup>1 2</sup>
- **Change Date:** 22 Jan 2006 <sup>1 2</sup>

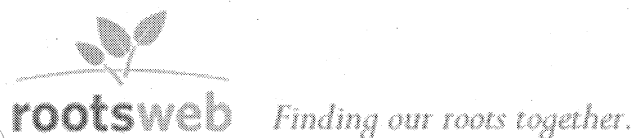
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**Mother:** Nancy ROSE b: in England

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Abbrev: Source: 1915 Harrison County Iowa History, pp. 651, 652

Abbrev:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iaharris/bio1915/1915bio25.htm#wheeler>

Text: Maj. John R. WHEELER - This distinguished soldier in the Civil War was a noted lumber dealer in Iowa and Nebraska in the sixties, seventies and eighties of the last century. He was a brave soldier and an energetic, successful business factor at Dunlap, this county, being the pioneer in the lumber business at that as well as other points within Harrison county.

Major Wheeler was born in New York state in 1833, a son of James Wheeler, the grandson of Josiah H. Wheeler and a great-grandson of Francis Wheeler, one of the minute men at Concord, Massachusetts, who served through the Revolution that finally gave this country its national independence. Josiah H. Wheeler also served his country as a brave soldier. Maj. John R. Wheeler was reared in the Empire state, and was trained in the lumber industry, which his father generally followed, and in 1856 went to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he remained until December, 1861, when he enlisted in Company G, Sixteenth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, going to the front as captain of his company. He was promoted in 1864 to the position of major of his regiment. He received two bad wounds, the first a bullet hole through the upper lip at the famous battle of Pittsburg Landing, which was his first engagement. His company lost six men, with thirty-three wounded, in that engagement. On July 21, 1864, at Atlanta, he was wounded with a bullet through both of his thighs and was kept under fire ten days thereafter before he could be removed from the field. The surgeons advised amputation of one limb, but he would not submit to it. He took part in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth and others of the great engagements of that awful conflict. In the list of battles where he proved himself a soldier true may be named Vicksburg, the siege of Atlanta and Wise's Forks, where he met Bragg and Hook.

After his return to peaceful occupations, Major Wheeler again embarked in the lumber trade along the line of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad in Iowa, dealing at Clinton, Boone, Denison, Dunlap, Woodbine and Blair, Nebraska. He opened the first lumber yard at Dunlap, this county, in the summer of 1867, from three car loads which he had side-tracked at that point, there being no station-house or postoffice, or other object to mark the spot of a townsite. Later he built an office and engaged an ox team to draw his first invoice of lumber to his "yard." The words "Lumber Office" painted

on his little office building in 1867 were still plainly seen as late as 1895. For a number of years the lumber business flourished in these parts, and one hundred and fifty car loads was an average annual distribution over the wild, bleak prairies of Crawford and Harrison counties. Major Wheeler's trade extended forty miles in all directions. The first year he operated a yard in Woodbine, having located there in December, 1866, when there was only one completed building in the place. He was obliged to send to Boone for a heating stove with which to heat his office. Lumber was very high, the freight on a car load from Clinton to Woodbine being one hundred dollars, and dimension stuff sold at forty dollars a thousand feet. Medium-grade flooring was sixty dollars, while shingles sold at eight dollars. Grain brought a high price, and farmers needed lumber, even at these high figures. Major Wheeler continued in the lumber business from 1865 for more than a quarter of a century. Major Wheeler was a Democrat, belonged to the Knights of Pythias at Dunlap and was an energetic, well-behaved pioneer lumberman. In 1876 Major Wheeler married Nancy Tyler, daughter of William and Jane (Brown) Tyler, of Wisconsin, the former of whom was a native of Ohio and the latter a native of New York state, and to this union was born one son, John R., who was born November 10, 1879, and who lives in Mesita, Colorado, where he is engaged in the lumber business.

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## IOWA CLOSE-UP

### Dunlap in Harrison County

**Population:** 1,251

**Founded:**  
1871

**How it was  
named:**

According to  
"From Ackley

to Zwingle, *The Origins of Iowa  
Place Names*," it was named  
for George Dunlap, a railroad  
manager.

**Top employers:** Top Grade Inc.

**Claims to fame:** July 4  
celebration.



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