

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Needham,  
John R. - Represented Mahaska County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 18 Dec. 1824 Washington, Greenway, Ohio

2. Marriage (s) date place

Eveline Houtz 29 Sept 1852 Mahaska County, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was appointed Trustee of the Iowa Hospital for the Deaf in  
1864 or 1865; Trustee of Iowa Wesleyan University, Mount Pleasant, Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities Mason

C. Profession Lawyer; Teacher; newspaper publisher

4. Church membership Methodist Episcopal

5. Sessions served 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1852, 1854, 1868

6. Public Offices

A. Local Elected mayor of Oskaloosa July 1860 - 1861; president of Oskaloosa  
schools district; City solicitor 1867; president of the City Bible Society

B. State President of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor 1862-1864

C. National He was a delegate at large from Iowa to the National Republican  
Convention in Philadelphia 1856

7. Death 9 Jul 1868 Oskaloosa, Iowa; buried First Cemetery Oskaloosa, Iowa

8. Children Ellen; Minnie; William H.

9. Names of parents David and Margaret A. (Sheper) Needham

## 10. Education \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 12. Other applicable information \_\_\_\_\_

- Whig*
- He is a native of Spencer born in 1849 in Greene County, Ohio.
  - His father was a sheriff of Greene County, Ohio and John was a deputy sheriff under him.
  - He then entered a law office in Carbondale, Ohio and remained there until he was admitted to law school.
  - He then emigrated to Nebraska County, Iowa in 1849.
  - He taught at the Carrollton, Pennsylvania school after his arrival.
  - He was connected with the publication of the first newspaper ever published in Nebraska County, Iowa - "The Iowa Herald" published on 2 July 1850. Later this is when "The Ashland Weekly Herald" was printed.
  - He formed a law partnership with E. St. Lafferty which lasted until his death.
  - He died of consumption from which he had suffered for 15 years before his death.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-			<u>Obituary - The Astorian Weekly Herald Astoria, Iowa, Thurs. July 16, 1868, p. 1, col. 6</u>
-			<u>Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa 1916, p. 713-714</u>
-			<u>Primer Industrial 1843-1900, p. 320-322</u>
-			<u>ancestry.com (accessed 18 Jun 2011)</u>
-			<u>familysearch.org (accessed 18 Jun 2011)</u>
-			<u>findagrave.com (accessed 18 Jun 2011)</u>

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OBITUARY.

Died at his residence in Oskaloosa, on Thurs- day, the 9th of July, 1868, at 1:35 p. m., after a twelve years illness with pulmonary consumption. Hon. JOHN R. NEEDHAM, aged 43 years, 6 months and 21 days.

The subject of the above notice having occupied a high place in the affections and confidence of the people of Mahaska county, I feel, although one of his most recent acquaintances, that it would not be doing justice to his memory, to fail to give a brief outline of his character; and on entering upon the task, I feel as though I were writing the obituary of a relative, so intimate and confiding was our acquaintance during the past three years. In order that the reader may have a correct statement of the dates at which many of the transactions of his life occurred, I have been careful to collect such statements, alone, as are unquestioned facts.

He was born near Washington, Guernsey county, Ohio, on the 18th day of December, 1824. While he was yet a minor, his father was elected Sheriff of Guernsey county, and during the time of holding this office, his son acted as his deputy. While acting in this capacity, John R. entered the Law Office of Major Nathan Evans, of Cambridge, Ohio, as a student, where he remained until admitted to the practice. He emigrated to Mahaska county, Iowa, sometime during the year 1849, and taught a three months school in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church soon after his arrival. He was connected with the publication of the first newspaper ever published in the county, on the 2d day of July, A. D. 1850, under the firm of Needham & McNeely. The name of this paper was "THE IOWA HERALD," and he retained his connection with the office for a number of years. This was the same office upon which "THE OSKALOOSA WEEKLY HERALD" is now printed. In the establishment of a local paper in a new country, his labors were arduous, and his anxiety of mind very great. After dissolving his connection with Mr. McNeely, he was connected with several other parties in the publication of the HERALD—prominent among whom was Dr. C. Beardsley, now of the Hawk-Eye. On the 1st day of November, A. D. 1850, the name of the paper was changed to the "OSKALOOSA HERALD," and it was much improved in appearance. Mr. Needham was an original Whig, and was the first Whig Senator ever elected from Mahaska county, which occurred on the 2d day of

to an unostentatious disposition, he left a note in his Album, requesting that there be no display made at his funeral, and that his relatives do not wear deep mourning after the funeral. As my sole object was to state facts, I have avoided all attempts at display. The life and death of the deceased are his best eulogy.

I have written this over my own signature, because a brother of the deceased is connected with the HERALD.

W. A. HUNTER.

IN MEMORIAM.

MAHASKA LODGE, No. 16, I. O. O. F., July 11th, 1868.

WHEREAS, It has pleased God in His Providence to remove from our midst by death our beloved brother, JOHN R. NEEDHAM; and

WHEREAS, We recognize in our deceased brother an upright, Christian man, a good citizen, an honor to society, and beloved by all who knew him; therefore,

Resolved, That we extend to his bereaved family and friends our heart-felt sympathy in this their great affliction.

Resolved, That in honor of our deceased brother, the Lodge-room be draped in mourning and the brethren wear the usual badge for thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased brother, and to each of the city papers for publication, and also be spread upon the minutes of the Lodge.

R. M. LACEY,  
T. P. HELLINGOS, } Committee.  
E. M. BEATTY. }

UNION MILLS, JULY 8th, 1868.

DEAR HERALD:—I embrace this, my first opportunity of informing you of the great success of our celebration on the Fourth inst. The cops circulated the report that it was not a National Celebration that was to take place, but a little affair got up by the M. E. Church, at Union Mills, to be entirely under the control of their abolition preacher. They did all they could to defeat and make it a total failure. They are so well known for having the faculty of always misrepresenting everything that the people did not believe them, as the following facts will show:

At 9 o'clock, A. M. a delegation left the M. E. Church with the Old flag waving gracefully in the breeze. Marched to the McMahan's School House where they were joined by Delegations from New Sharon, Jeffries, Uptons and other points of Proud Mahaska. A procession was formed one mile long. New Sharon and the Jeffrie's Drum and Life Bands playing martial music, we repaired to the grounds in the grove on the North Skunk, where a large group of happy hearts were ready to greet us, after being seated, Mr. L. Hoffmire was called to the chair.

Singing by the New Sharon choir, under the masterly guidance of F. M. Allen, his little Minnie presiding at the Organ, when they sung altogether again; then prayer by Rev. Mr. Jeffrie's; Singing by the choir; Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Miss Libby Chew; Singing by the choir; then came forward Mr. Keaworthy who delivered the Oration in a masterly manner. The Oration will be remembered for years to come. It was a happy short. Music by the band.

DINNER.

In the afternoon the Schools were collected to-

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Whig Senator ever elected from Mahaska county, which occurred on the 2d day of August, A. D. 1852. He served out his term to the great acceptance of the people. Soon after settling in this county, he commenced the practice of the law, and by fidelity and close application to business, soon acquired a good practice, which he retained until the day of his death. In October 1861, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Iowa, took his seat in January 1862, and discharged the duties of his position with credit to himself and honor to the State; as the following resolution passed by the Senate at the close of his term of office clearly shows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate tender to Lieut. Gov. Needham, their thanks for the able, dignified, courteous and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of presiding officer, during this Session.

He was elected Senator a second time, in October 1867, which office he held at the time of his decease. It was thought by his friends, that he could not possibly endure the labors and anxieties of legislation during the past winter, in consequence of failing health; but he disappointed all in performing his duties with an energy and punctuality seldom excelled by the most robust. That his very great prudence lengthened out his life several years is beyond a doubt. He was appointed to the position of Trustee of the Iowa Hospital for Insane, sometime during the years 1864 or 1865, (time not accurately ascertained) to fill a vacancy; and was elected by the State Legislature to the same position in the winter of 1866, which he held during the residue of his life. His councils in this capacity were considered indispensable, and he was urged to attend the meetings as long as health would at all permit.

He was elected Mayor of the city of Oskaloosa in February 1860, and re-elected in 1861.

He was elected President of the School Board of the Independent School District of Oskaloosa, in March 1864, 1865 and 1867, and resigned at the regular Board Meeting in December 1867, in consequence of failing health, and a press of other duties. These several selections show the estimate in which he was held by the people of our city.

He was elected the first President of the County Sunday School Association, in the fall of 1866, which place he honorably filled for one year.

He was elected City Solicitor in March 1867, which position he resigned in June

It was a happy effort. Music by the band.

DINNER.

In the afternoon the Schools were collected together when the exercises consisted of singing by the choir and sabbath schools, short speeches by the following gentlemen: Dr. Steel was first introduced and in glowing words painted the glories of the flag that waves o'er the land of the free and the homes of the brave. Mr. Kenworthy made a fine speech to the children.

The Revs. Jeffries and Nelson, Baptist ministers addressed the schools, also Rev. O. P. Crawford Methodist, then the Rev. J. G. Armistead, pastor at Union Mills of the M. E. Church, made one of his humorous speeches to the children.

A toast was read by Rev. J. S. Chew, and responded to by Mr. Kenworthy. Three cheers for the nations flag were given, the whole was concluded with music by the band.

There were about 2,000 persons present. We think we had the banner celebration. Please give us the flag. GEORGE.

Address to the City Council.

Gentlemen of the City Council:

We, the undersigned committee, on behalf of 601 ladies of the city of Oskaloosa, do hereby respectfully petition your most honorable body to wholly prohibit the sale of beer, wine, and all intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, within the city limits.

In the name of *Justice and Humanity*, we appeal to you to remove from our midst that terrible *curse*—intemperance! We have long noted the rapid strides it has been making upon the borders of *virtue and right*. With brazen front it stalks abroad, tempting the weak and unguarded, and corrupting and debasing all who yield to its fascinating influence. Each month and year it seizes for itself a deeper hold upon our society, infusing its poisonous theory into the hearts of its victims, and uprooting therefrom all that is elevating in its nature: all that is *high and noble*—all that is *pure and good*.

Too long has the voice of the drunken inebriate, the rude oath and vulgar jest, greeted our ears while passing those sinks of pollution where Bacchus holds his midnight carnivals.

As wives and mothers, as sisters and daughters, we appeal to you!

Too long has the wife plead in vain with him, to whom she has consigned all her earthly happiness to resist the temptation of the fiery bowl which transforms his nature into that of the brute. Too long has the prayer of the mother ascended to the throne of grace, begging that her boy, her precious one, may be spared the sin and disgrace of a drunkard's lot. Too long have we, as sisters, warned and besought our brothers, "Touch not the bitter cup." Aye, as daughters, too long have many of us on bended knee implored our fathers not to transmit unto our children a drunkard's portion—*poverty, shame and disgrace*. It is for these reasons, that we to-night, as a committee, representing the expression of almost the *entire* portion of the ladies of our city whose names are here attached, that we address you.

And now we would most earnestly entreat your especial attention to this deeply important subject which so immediately concerns the welfare of our community.

Should you be pleased to grant our urgent requests, grateful hearts will ascend for you on high, to Him who sitteth in majesty and power, and overrules

Wheat per bushel, Spring,	Fall,
Flour " cwt. Fall,	Extra Spring
" " " Superfine,	
Buckwheat, per bu	
Rye " bushel,	
Oats per bu	
Corn per bushel	
Corn Meal	
Beans per "	
Butter per lb	
Potatoes per bushel,	
Candles per lb mould,	
" " " stearine,	
" " " star,	
Crackers " "	
Coffee, fair to prime,	
Eggs per dozen,	
Fruit, apples, green, per bush	
" " " dried, per lb	
" " " peaches, " lb	
Raisens, layer per lb	
Fish, Cod per lb	
" " White, per lb	
" " Mackerel, per lb	
Fowls, chickens, per doz.,	
" " Turkeys, " lb	
Hams, per lb	
Bacon, " lb	
Lard, " "	
Tea, " "	
Molasses, sorghum, per gal,	
" " golden syrup, per "	
Sugar per lb	
Rice, " "	
Tobacco, plug, per lb	
" " smoking, per lb	
Soda, per lb	
Salt, " barrel,	
Wool, per lb	
Wood " cord,	
Beef cattle, gross,	
Hay, prairie, per ton,	
" " timothy, per ton,	
Hides, Green, per lb,	
" " dried, " lb	
Seeds, timothy per bushel,	
" " clover, " "	
" " flax, " "	
Oil, Carbon, per gal,	
Hogs, heavy,	
" " light,	

Chicago Market

Flour in good demand but Wheat dull and nominal: No. 1 78@1 78½. Corn in good demand No. 1 at 90½@90¾c; No. 2 at 65@65¾c. Rye and barley nominal. Provisions steady 28 25@28 50. Lard 17@17½. Lake freights dull; 3c for corn, all steam to Buffalo. Latest—Nothing of consequence the close of the 'change. Wheat nominal. A few lots of No. 1 at 91. In the evening there

Chicago Live Stock

Receipts of cattle 5 cars, unchanged. Hogs, extra, 8 choice 8 00@8 40. Sheep un-

St. Louis Market

Flour steady and quiet. Wheat for choice, but medium and weak; choice white and fair. Corn active and higher for western market slow at 78@79. Provisions firm and higher. Bacon and shoulders 10½@10¾. Clear sides 11 hams 20¼. Lard firm and these sold at 17½ and 18

He was elected City Solicitor in March 1867, which position he resigned in June 1868, because of fast wasting health.

He was the Superintendent of the M. E. Sabbath School of this city, when he left home to meet with the Senate in 1868.

He was elected a Trustee of the Iowa Wesleyan University in 1861, and continued a member of that body for four years.

He formed a co-partnership in the practice of law, with G. W. Lafferty, Esq., which existed at the time of his demise. He was for a number of years President of the County Bible Society; and was a delegate at large from the State to the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in 1856.

I am informed through his father, who is reasonably presumed to know, that he joined the M. E. Church, at Sennecaville, Guernsey county, Ohio, in the year 1833, at the age of about nine years, under the ministrations of Rev. James Taylor, of the M. E. Church. From that time until the day of his death, he maintained a consistent Christian character, and died in the triumphs of faith in the merits and righteousness of Christ. Through his many years of suffering, he never lost sight of his Redeemer; but walked continually in the light of His countenance. During the last weeks of his life, although suffering all the pangs of a painful and desponding disease, he maintained a patient endurance seldom witnessed in frail human nature. He seldom, if ever, complained; but waited God's own time with the patience of a true Christian hope, that he would soon go home to dwell with his Savior. I saw him breathe his last, and it was the gentle spirit leaving the clay to dwell forever with his dearest and best friend. He died without a struggle, the moving of a limb, or the opening of an eye; but quietly ceased breathing, and that was the last of earth.

He was married to Miss EVALINE HOUTS, on Wednesday, the 29th day of September, A. D. 1852, by the Rev. R. N. Fee, of the M. E. Church. He leaves a widow and two children—daughter and son—aged respectively about 14 and 12, to mourn their irreparable loss.

His funeral took place on Friday, the 10th inst., and a very large concourse of neighbors and friends collected at his late residence at 2 o'clock, p. m., where a portion of Scripture was read, singing by the M. E. Choir, and prayer offered by Rev. Dennis, Presiding Elder of this District.

quest, the prayers and blessings of hundreds of grateful hearts will ascend for you on high, to Him who sitteth in majesty and power, and overrules the affairs of men with the law of JUSTICE, LOVE and MERCY.

Lizzie E. Morris. Sallie Cox. Kate Ninde.  
Mrs. Rice. C. Hawkins. Nettie Hawkins.  
Mrs. Kemper. E. Gruwell. Lizzie Pain.  
M. Hollingsworth. Lou Dumont. Alice Gruwell.  
Lou. J. Hawkins. Mrs. Scott. S. McMichael.

COMMITTEE.

## BUSINESS NOTICES.

20 Cents a Line for each insertion under this Head.

Why not use WHITE PINE COMPOUND, when it is such a sure remedy for Coughs, Lung Complaints and Kidney troubles?

### SALT! SALT!!

500 bbls Salt for sale low.

n44-1f

HOWARD & AYRES.

### HAY FOR SALE.

I am prepared to deliver new Timothy hay in any part of the city.

Leave orders at the Agricultural Warehouse. [1w.] J. H. GREEN.

All who are afflicted with Sore Eyes, call at Wells & Wright's Oskaloosa; A. Naylor, New Sharon, and J. Thomas, Granville, for Benedict's unexcelled Eye Water, if you wished to be cured.

n44-w2

J. BENEDICT.

### FOR THE LADIES.

Just received  
LAWNS, LACE COLLARS, HANDKERCHIEFS,

Double Spring Hoop Skirts, Fans,  
NOTIONS OF ALL KINDS,

Cheap for cash. Quick or gone.

n43-w3

JESSE D. LORING.

### FARM FOR SALE.

The farm of John Narver, about one mile east of Oskaloosa is offered for sale.— It is one of the most desirable farms in this county, and contains 100 acres, 20 acres of which are timber. There are 1000 good bearing apple-trees upon it, the fruit from which will bring each year more than \$500, and it has a good brick house upon it, which would now cost \$5,000, or more.— The land is of the first quality, every foot of which can be tilled. Considering location, &c., it is a very desirable farm, and will be a good investment upon the purchase money, if skillfully managed.

Persons desiring further information

Bacon and shoulders 17 1/2  
16 1/4 @ 16 3/4. Clear sides 17 1/2  
hams 20 1/4. Lard firm and  
stierce sold at 17 3/4, and choice  
inferior and common plenty, at  
to good and choice medium  
gross. Sheep, good to choice.  
Lambs, fair to extra, 1 75 @ 4 00

Flour in better demand; sup  
6 25; extra 7 30; double extra  
firm—common grades dull and  
prime and choice 2 15 @ 2 32 1/2  
ranging at 80 @ 90, and 91 @ 92 1/2  
better at 79 @ 82. Rye declined  
visions firm and quiet. Pork  
shoulders and dry salted 11 1/2.  
ers 13 1/4. Clear sides 17 1/4. P  
16 1/2. Lard, very little do  
17 1/2 @ 18.

### New York Market

Flour closed quiet, slightly  
Wheat dull and declining; No  
Rye quiet at 1.75 at 1.85; Oats  
store, and 87 1/2 @ 87 3/4 afloat. Co  
easy 1.08 a 1.10 for new mixed  
1.12 a 1.12 1/2 for old mixed west  
heavy and lower; sales of 1500  
Beef quiet and steady. Cut n  
demand. Bacon quiet and st  
17 1/2 a 18 1/2 for fair to prime stea

### ORDINANCE NO.

An Ordinance to Pr  
Wine, Beer &c., in the Cit

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by  
City of Oskaloosa, that from  
cation of this Ordinance; it  
any person or persons to keep  
within the City limits for the  
Wine, Beer, Cider, or other

Sec. 2. It shall not be law  
sell by retail any Wine, Beer,  
icating liquors within the cor  
city.

Sec. 3. This Ordinance m  
the sale of Wine, Beer or Cid  
turer in original packages; n  
not drunk on the premises; n  
any person or persons whose  
ed, nor with Druggists or o  
law to sell for medicine &c.

Sec. 4. Any person viola  
shall be punished as provide  
1563 and 1564, revised Code of

Sec. 5. This Ordinance t  
same as the Statutes of Iowa  
pression of intemperance.

J. M. LOU

JAMES RUAN, City Clerk.

"The Pen is  
than the S"

THE GOLD PEN—THE BEST

Morton's Gold  
THE BEST PENS IN

PRICE U  
OF ALL

SIZES AND QU

MORTON'S FIRST

M. E. Church. He leaves a widow and two children—daughter and son—aged respectively about 14 and 12, to mourn their irreparable loss.

His funeral took place on Friday, the 10th inst., and a very large concourse of neighbors and friends collected at his late residence at 2 o'clock, P. M., where a portion of Scripture was read, singing by the M. E. Choir, and prayer offered by Rev. Dennis, Presiding Elder of this District; after which the body was taken to the M. E. Church, followed by a very large number of persons, where the following exercises were had: Singing by the Choir; prayer by Rev. R. A. McAyael, of the U. P. Church; Rev. T. E. Corkhill read a portion of Scripture; singing by the Choir, after which Rev. Corkhill preached a very able and affecting sermon from the 2 Chronicles, 34th chapter, and the first clause of the 28th verse: "Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace." At the close of these services, the metallic coffin was opened, and the friends invited to take their last look at the body, which all in the large audience did. The procession then proceeded to the graveyard, where the body was quietly and decently interred with the usual ceremonies.

As will be seen elsewhere in this paper, Mr. Needham was a member of the I. O. O. F., in good standing; but owing

county, and some 100 acres, 20 acres of which are timber. There are 1000 good bearing apple-trees upon it, the fruit from which will bring each year more than \$500, and it has a good brick house upon it, which would now cost \$5,000, or more.—The land is of the first quality, every foot of which can be tilled. Considering location, &c., it is a very desirable farm, and will pay a good interest upon the purchase money, if skillfully managed.

Persons desiring further information, can gain it by addressing "HERALD OFFICE."

COE'S DYSPEPSIA CURE, is pronounced by Dyspeptics, to be the only known remedy that will surely cure that aggravating and fatal malady. Any druggist will point you to instances where the most wonderful cures have been effected and a single trial will convince the most skeptical of its merit. n38 m7

COE'S COUGH BALSAM is the cheapest and best. It is a safe and speedy cure for Coughs, Colds, Croup, Whooping Cough and all deceases of the throat and lungs. In addition to the ordinary 4 oz size so long and favorably known, Mammoth Family Bottles are now offered to the public, giving a much larger quantity of Cough Medicine than has ever been offered for \$1.00. n38 m7

**GREAT BARGAIN.**

Any person wishing to purchase a small Farm, at a great bargain, near Oskaloosa, would do well to call on me soon. n32

S. G. CASTER.

THE GOLD PEN—THE BEST  
Morton's Gold  
THE BEST PENS  
PRICE LIST  
OF ALL  
SIZES AND QUANTITIES

**MORTON'S FIRST**  
(WARRANTED)

No. 1 Pen.	\$1 25;	w/
" 2 "	1 50	"
" 3 "	2 00	"
" 4 "	2 25	"
" 5 "	2 75	"
" 6 "	3 50	"

Prices of Pens; and Mounted Desks

No. 4 Pen.	\$2 25;	w/
" 5 "	2 75	"
" 6 "	3 50	"
" 7 "	4 50	"
" 8 "	6 75	"
" 9 "	6 50	"
" 10 "	7 50	"

Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Nore

**MORTON'S THIRD**  
(Warranted)

No. 3 Pen.	\$1 25;	w/
" 4 "	1 50	"
" 5 "	2 00	"
" 6 "	2 25	"

**MORTON'S CHEAP**

Magic Pen.....	\$0 50;	w/
Lucky ".....	75	"
Always Ready Pen	1 00	"
Elegant Pen.....	1 25	"
Excelsior Pen.....	1 50	"

WELLS & WELLS  
Sole Agt's

# PROUD MAHASKA.

1843-1900.

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED UNDER DIFFICULTIES—TIPPECANOE AND TYLER, TOO—THE NATIONAL ROAD—PAW-PAWS—AMERICA'S BLACK FOREST—APPLE BUTTER BOILING—ST. MARY'S IN THE WOODS—SCOTT'S TAVERN—A GENTLEMAN IN THE ROUGH—FIRST GLIMPSE OF IOWA—PATON WILSON—COLONELS AND ESQUIRES—NOT DANGEROUS—NEW PURCHASE—FIRST VIEW OF OSKALOOSA—MAHASKA'S FIRST SCHOOL—FIRST ORGANIZATION OF METHODIST CHURCH—KILLING A BEAR—QUAKERS—A BLAZED PATH—GOING TO MEETING IN OX WAGON—THE FIRST FIRE IN OSKALOOSA—FIRST EDITORS OF OSKALOOSA HERALD—THE BEAR DANCE—COAL HARRISON TOWNSHIP—THE WAR—SORGHUM—SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY—OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR OWN PRECIOUS DEAD—MANY AND VARIED REMINISCENCES.

By Semira A. Phillips.

HERALD PRINT, OSKALOOSA, IOWA, 1900.

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Historical Society  
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**WITHDRAWN**



Thus did Iowa bury one of her representative men, and Iowa journalism lost one of its brightest ornaments.

#### BENJAMIN ROOP.

Every early settler of Mahaska will recognize this name as one of the county's earliest and most enterprising citizens. Mr. Roop came to Oskaloosa from Ohio in 1845, a poor man, but was in the prime of life. He was one of those individuals who seem to have been made business men. He was in various enterprises until about 1850, when he engaged in building the Steam Flouring Mill now occupied in West Oskaloosa by Messrs. Seibel & Co. This establishment, however, was owned by the firm Roop, Harbour & Co., and was completed in 1852, at a cost of about \$20,000. To the mill was attached a distillery, and to this source of revenue Mr. Roop was indebted for much of the money so generously spent for the benefit of those around him. About 1856 he built the building now used as the National House, for his residence, and occupied it about ten years. Shortly after the building of his mill, the problem of fuel to furnish its power engaged his attention. He employed a man named Dascom to prospect for coal in the vicinity of the present town of Beacon, and there was first discovered by this agency a suitable vein for mining purposes. In 1861 he established a large grocery and liquor house in Colorado, and inaugurated the business of freighting produce across the Rocky Mountains. Once or twice per year trains of twelve to fifteen large wagons were started from Oskaloosa across the Plains. Every enterprise undertaken by Mr. Roop seemed to succeed by magic, until he engaged in building the Eureka Mills at Beacon. Built in 1865, when everything was at a high figure, furnished with the most splendid machinery, its distillery attachment interfered with by the government, the genius of Mr. Roop failed to save his business from financial disaster. With broken fortunes he removed in 1871 to Springfield, Missouri, and engaged in milling operations there, and with a reasonable degree of success. Death, however, soon overtook him, and January 25, 1872, he fell a sudden victim to apoplexy, at the age of seventy-two years.

Mr. Roop was one of the most public spirited men Mahaska county ever had, and to his liberality and business capacities many laborers have been indebted for good living and comfortable homes. The poor man never applied to Mr. Roop in vain, and he enjoyed one of the surest evidences of nobility of disposition, the esteem and affection of his employes.

#### JOHN R. NEEDHAM.

This gentleman was a representative Mahaska citizen. Not brilliant and scintillating, seldom or never surprising his friends by any pyrotechnic display, he was one of those men who, like the silent forces of nature, did his life work without sound of trumpets, holding ever the calm and even tenor of his way, continually bringing to mind the truthful saying, "still waters flow deep." Mr. Needham lived a life among the early generation of Mahaska county, such as only *true men* can live, that of an unshaken friend, an uncompromising enemy of evil, an enterprising citizen and a christian gentleman.

He was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, December 18, 1824. He entered public service quite young. His father being sheriff of the county while

he was yet a minor, his son John was appointed deputy. While serving in this capacity, he entered a law office as student, in Cambridge, Ohio, where he was admitted to practice.

Emigrating to Mahaska county in 1849, soon after his arrival he taught a three month's school in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. July 2d of the following summer he commenced the publication of the *Herald*, under the firm of Needham & McNeely. He continued his interest in the paper until 1865, with such change of partners as we have noticed in the history of the *Herald*.

Mr. Needham was an original Whig, and was the first Whig senator ever elected from Mahaska county. His election occurred in August, 1852. Soon after his settlement in the county he engaged in the practice of law, and when he devoted his time to his profession enjoyed a good practice. In October, 1861, he was elected Lieutenant-Governor of the state of Iowa, and took his seat in January, 1862, discharging the duties of his office with credit to himself, and honor to the state. At the close of the legislative session was passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Senate hereby tender to Lieut. Governor Needham, their thanks for the able, dignified, courteous and impartial manner in which he discharged the duties of presiding officer during this session.

He was elected senator a second time, October, 1867, which office he held at the time of his decease. He was universally respected and lamented by his fellow senators, and the eulogies pronounced upon the occasion of his death are testimonials which few men earn. We will allow one of his fellow legislators who knew him well, speak through these pages of his virtue of mind and heart.

Senator Dixon said: "After an acquaintance of twelve years, I can truly say it has been my fortune to know few such men. Affable and easy in his address, mild and unassuming in his manners, conscientious in everything he did and said, with a heart as tender as that of a child, to know him was but to love and respect. Honesty was his policy; but policy was not his honesty. To those of you who knew him, there is nothing strange about it, that he occupied so high a place in the affections and confidence of the people of his county and state. His constituents never had any fears about their interests while entrusted to his care.

"Senator Needham was a moral hero. He overcame evil with good. The pathway of his life he strewed with those jewels that do most adorn the human heart; he was God's noblest work—an honest man. Nothing I could say would add to the luster of his fame, or the endearment of his memory. His monuments are planted deeply in the hearts of those who knew him."

As an illustration of his ability and fairness as a parliamentarian, it might be stated that he was the only president of the Iowa Senate whose decision was never reversed.

As president of the Oskaloosa school board during several years, as mayor of the city in 1860 and 1861, as trustee during three years of the Iowa Insane Asylum, he discharged lesser public duties with a care, a kindness, and enterprise in keeping with his character and good name.

But, not alone in political life did Gov. Needham receive the suffrages of his fellow citizens, and the encomiums of his friends. To him belonged the two rarely united qualities, of good statesmanship and a practical Chris-

tianity. He was an earnest worker in the M. E. Church, of which he was both officer and member, and in the Sunday school. As president for a time of the County S. S. Association, and as superintendent of the Sabbath school of his own church he was recognized as among the foremost of those engaged in the christian education of the youth.

Mr. Needham was an invalid for some fifteen years previous to his death, a fact which made his public services the more praiseworthy and remarkable. His disease was pulmonary consumption, from which his death occurred July 9, 1868.

His widow, Evaline Houtz Needham, who had been the partner of his life since September 29, 1852, still survives him and lives in Oskaloosa, esteemed not alone on account of her own graces, but also in memory of him whose death she has not mourned alone.

#### BRIGADIER-GENERAL SAMUEL A. RICE.

From the work on "Iowa Colonels and Regiments," by Captian A. A. Stuart, we draw the following sketch:

"Samuel A. Rice, who received his death wound at the battle of Jenkins Ferry is the most distinguished officer our gallant state has lost in the war of the rebellion. Sprung from the great middle class, without name or wealth, he had, at the age of thirty-five, attained such distinction as to make his death a national calamity.

"General Rice was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, January 27, 1828, but passed his boyhood in Belmont county, Ohio, where his parents removed when he was quite young. The death of his father when he was a lad, deprived him of the privileges of more than a common school education in his youth, and placed upon his shoulders, at an early age, the partial support of a family. Accordingly he engaged in boating on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, as the most remunerative employment, and as flat boatman he made one or more trips to New Orleans."

Subsequently the enterprise of young Rice secured for him a college education. Defraying his own expenses he graduated at Union College, New York, in the literary department of the institution, and attended law school one year in the University.

Immediately removing to Iowa he first settled at Fairfield, where he practiced law and occasionally assisted in the editorial room of the Whig paper, at that point. In the fall of 1851 he removed to Oskaloosa.

His first public office in Mahaska county was that of prosecuting attorney, which office he filled with such ability as to pave the way to higher civil attainments. He was accordingly nominated and elected attorney-general of the State in 1856 when but twenty-eight years of age. Re-elected in 1858, the beginning of the war found him in just possession of the term, "one of the best lawyers of the state." He assisted in the organization of the Republican party in Mahaska county, and was foremost in advocating the Republican principles.

Gen. Rice was commissioned Colonel of the 33d Regiment of Iowa Infantry, on the 10th day of August, 1862, and late in November left with his regiment for St. Louis. Of the work of that regiment, and the command of Col. Rice, we have occasion to speak more fully in the History of the 33d. He was commissioned brigadier-general August, 1863, a distinction which he earned by his gallant conduct in the battle of Helena.

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# Recollections and Sketches of Notable Lawyers and Public Men of Early Iowa

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Belonging to the First and Second  
Generations, with Anecdotes and  
Incidents Illustrative of the Times

By

EDWARD H. STILES

For many years a member of the Iowa Bar; member of its House of Representatives, 1863-1864; member of its Senate, 1865-1866; Reporter of its Supreme Court, 1867-1875; author of Complete Digest of its Decisions from the earliest Territorial period to the 56th Iowa Reports.



"In old age alone we are masters of a treasure of which we cannot be deprived, the only treasure we can call our own. The pleasures of memory and the retrospect of the varied images which in an active life have floated before the mind, compensate, and more than compensate, for the alternate pleasures and cares of active life."—SIR ARCHIBALD ALLISON.

"Personal anecdotes, when characteristic, greatly enliven the pages of a biography."—SAMUEL SMILES.

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As a law maker in the Senate, he exhibited the greatest industry, and his services were invaluable to the people of the State. He particularly distinguished himself in providing for and in securing the adoption of the constitutional amendment striking out the word "white" from the franchise provision, and thus conferring upon the colored people the right to vote. He exercised great influence in every measure tending to ameliorate the condition of the people. Despite his eccentricities, he was respected and beloved by every member of the Senate. His instincts were humane, and his sympathies just.

Autobiographical scraps are always of interest in a work like this. On the 17th of November, 1883, being in Oskaloosa, I went to the office of Judge Crookham to pay my old friend a little visit and obtain from him some information concerning himself and other early members of the Oskaloosa Bar. We had plenty of time to spare, and I entered in my memorandum book, which I always carried with me after entering upon this work, as he gave it to me at the time, the information I desired, and from which I have drawn in making this sketch. Among other things he said:

When I came to Oskaloosa and commenced practice in 1847, the bar was then composed of Silas Sawyer; James Baker, who afterwards went to Chariton, and after that to Springfield, Missouri; Henry Temple, who afterwards went to Atlantic, in Cass County; Micajah Williams, then Clerk of Courts; William H. Seevers; E. W. Eastman, who afterwards went to Eldora. Cyrus Olney was Judge. The Supreme Court was held in Ottumwa. The old courthouse at Oskaloosa stood on the northwest corner of the square where now stands the Oskaloosa National Bank. After then came John R. Needham, I think in 1849; and William Loughridge not very long after. After that came M. E. Cutts; John F. Lacey; Lucien Blanchard; George Lafferty; J. Kelley Johnson; Horace Gleason; James Bolton; Ben McCoy and others.

The last time I saw him was after my removal to Kansas City. I had been up to Ottumwa, and on my return he happened to be on the same car, and we traveled together to an intermediate point, where he got off, and I bade him what proved to be a last farewell. I shall always remember him with affection.

*John R. Needham* was another of the early lawyers of Mahaska County. He came to Oskaloosa the second year after Eastman and Crookham in 1849. He was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, in 1824. His father was sheriff of that County, and John was for a while a deputy under him. He then entered a law office as a student, in Cambridge, Ohio, and remained there until he had concluded his studies and been admitted to the bar. For a short time after coming to Oskaloosa, he taught school and then entered actively upon the practice of his profession and continued it, with some interruptions, for many years.

These interruptions or divergences, rather, were because of his entering the newspaper, and somewhat, the political field. He established in 1850, the first newspaper published in the county, under the name of the Iowa Herald, which was afterward changed and is continued to this day under the title of the Oskaloosa

Herald. His connection with the Herald continued until 1865. In 1852, and before the organization of the Republican Party, he was elected the first Whig State Senator from Mahaska County. He became the third Lieutenant Governor of the State after the creation of that office by the Constitution of 1857, being elected thereto in the fall of 1861, and serving with the old War Governor, Samuel J. Kirkwood, from 1862 to 1864. By virtue of this office he became the President of the Senate, and at the close of his service in that capacity, the Senate passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate hereby tenders to Lieutenant Governor Needham its thanks for the able, dignified, courteous, and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of presiding officer of this body.

In 1867 he was for a second time elected State Senator from Mahaska County. He died during the term, in the prime of life, at the age of fifty-two, in July, 1868. His death was universally lamented, for he had become one of the most illustrious and best beloved men in the State. He possessed various gifts and profound learning. He ranked high as an editorial writer. He was also an able lawyer, and when he gave his attention to the profession, enjoyed a good practice.

I need hardly say that he took great interest in all affairs affecting the public good. For a number of years he was President of the Oskaloosa School Board; for three years a trustee of the Iowa Insane Asylum, and for two years, Mayor of the City of Oskaloosa.

I became acquainted with him in early life. In appearance he was tall and comely, always well dressed, polite and amiable in manner, but on his cheeks he carried the hectic glow of that dread disease, consumption, to which he finally fell a victim.

*Samuel A. Rice, Elliott W. Rice.*

With *Samuel A. Rice* and his brother, *Elliott W. Rice*, I became acquainted early in their, as well as my professional career, as both came to Oskaloosa and were engaged in the practice before I came to Ottumwa. *Samuel A. Rice*, it was said, was the most distinguished officer at the time of his death, that Iowa lost in the Civil War. He was born in Cattaraugus County, New York, in 1828. While yet a boy, the family removed to Belmont County, Ohio, where the father died soon after, leaving the family in limited circumstances, and the son, Samuel, their chief support. As the easiest means of caring for them, he engaged in steamboating, and in his youth became a skilful pilot on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. With a portion of the earnings received from this employment, stimulated by that activity which characterized his comparatively short life, for he died at the age of thirty-six, in 1864, from the result of a mortal wound received at the Battle of Jenkins Ferry, he fitted himself for Union College, Schnectady, New York, from which he was

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## Family Group Record

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### Husband

[John K. Needham](#)[Pedigree](#)**Birth:** 1824 , , Iowa**Christening:****Marriage:** About 1855 Oskaloosa, Mahaska, Iowa**Death:** 1868**Burial:**

---

### Wife

[Evalina Houtz](#)[Pedigree](#)**Birth:** 1835 Fredericksburg, Lebanon, Pennsylvania**Christening:****Marriage:** About 1855 Oskaloosa, Mahaska, Iowa**Death:****Burial:**

---

### Children

1. [Minnie Needham](#)[Pedigree](#)

Female

**Birth:** About 1856 , , Iowa**Christening:****Death:****Burial:**

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You searched for **John R. Needham** in **Iowa**

**1860 United States Federal Census**

Name: **John R Needham**

Age in 1860: **35**

Birth Year: **abt 1825**

Birthplace: **Ohio**

Home in 1860: **Oskaloosa, Mahaska, Iowa**

Gender: **Male**


Post Office: **Oskaloosa**

Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">John R Needham</a>	35
	<a href="#">Eva H Needham</a>	25
	<a href="#">Minnie Needham</a>	6
	<a href="#">Willie Needham</a>	3
	<a href="#">Eva Needham</a>	4/12

**Source Citation:** Year: 1860; Census Place: Oskaloosa, Mahaska, Iowa; Roll: M653\_334; Page: 95; Image: 215; Family History Library Film: 803334.

**Source Information:**



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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.

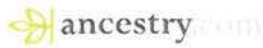
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## John R. Needham

Birth **16 Dec 1824** in [Ohio, United States](#),

Death **8 Jul 1868** in [Oskaloosa, Mahaska, Iowa, USA](#)

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**1824**  
16 Dec

[Birth](#)  
[Ohio, United States](#)

**1852**  
29 Sep  
Age: 27

[Marriage to Eveline H. Houtz](#)  
[Mahaska, Iowa, United States](#)

**1865**  
Age: 41

[Residence](#)  
[Iowa](#)

[1 source citation](#)

**1868**  
8 Jul  
Age: 43

[Death](#)  
[Oskaloosa, Mahaska, Iowa, USA](#)

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#### Family Members

##### Parents



[David Needham](#)  
1798 – 1880



[Margaret A. Shafer](#)  
1802 – 1860

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##### Spouse & Children



[Eveline H. Houtz](#)  
1835 – 1913



[Flora Minnie Needham](#)  
1854 – 1923



[William H. NEEDHAM](#)  
1856 – 1884



[Eva Needham](#)  
1860 –

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**John R Needham**

**Born:** 1825  
Ohio, USA

**Died:** 8 Jul 1868  
Mahaska, Iowa, USA

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Spouse

[Elveline H Houtz](#)  
**Born:** 1834 in Ohio, USA  
**Died:** 1913 in Mahaska, Iowa, USA

Marriage:

Children

Children	Sex	Birth
<a href="#">William H Needham</a>	M	30 Sep 1856 in Mahaska, Iowa, USA

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