

INFORMATION & DATA ON THE FAMILY OF:

PLINY & MARTHA (EGEMO) SOWERS  
1876-1915                      1877-1900

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Being a collection of information from Public records, biographies, histories and family sources, and arranged to present a coherent view of said family and their individual relationship. This has all been done for the purpose of preserving for future generations a knowledge of their past.

Date 01 Nov. 1990

*Edward E. Bartlett*, Compiler

SOWERS  
Surname  
FAMILY INFORMATION CHART NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's full name <u>Pliny SOWERS</u> born on <u>29 Jan. 1876</u> at <u>Hamilton County, Iowa</u> married <u>1899</u> at _____ died on <u>8 July 1915</u> at <u>Hamilton County, Iowa</u> Interred at <u>Sowers Pioneer Cemetery</u> Groom's <u>1<sup>st</sup></u> marriage	Authority/Source of Data:
Occupation <u>Farmer/Laborer</u> Religion _____ Military Service _____ His father <u>Linsey SOWERS</u> 1833-1911 Mother's maiden name <u>Rebecca Elizabeth WARD</u> 1839-1898	Records, Census & Other:
Wife's maiden name <u>Martha EGEMO</u> born on <u>20 Sept. 1877</u> at _____, Norway died on <u>22 June 1900</u> at <u>Hamilton County, Iowa</u> Interred at <u>Sowers Pioneer Cemetery</u> Bride's <u>1<sup>st</sup></u> marriage Her father _____ Mother's maiden name _____	

Abodes & removals:

Sex	Their Children:	Additional Information:
	(1) Name _____ born on _____ at _____ died on _____ at _____ married _____ at _____ to: _____	
	(2) Name _____ born on _____ at _____ died on _____ at _____ married _____ at _____ to: _____	
	(3) Name _____ born on _____ at _____ died on _____ at _____ married _____ at _____ to: _____	

1880 CENSUS — UNITED STATES

Film Roll No. 342

Page No. 17/234  
 Supervisor's Dist. No. 4  
 Enumeration Dist. No. 106  
 SCHEDULE 1. Inhabitants in Ellsworth (Township), in the County of Hamilton, State of Iowa

enumerated by me on the 16th day of June, 1880

H. L. Henderson Enumerator

Name of Street	Dwelling Number	Family Number	Names	Color	Sex	Age prior to June 1st	Month of birth if born in census yr.	Relationship to head of house	Single	Married	Widowed, Divorced, or	Married in census yr.	Profession, Occupation or trade	No. of months unemployed	Health Inform. Matron Item No.	Attended School	Cannot read	Cannot write	Place of birth	Place of birth of father	Place of birth of mother
	135	148	SOWERS, Linsey	W	M	46				/			Farmer					Indiana	N.C.	N.C.	
			Rebecca	W	F	40		Wife	/				Keeping House	4				Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
			Albert	W	M	15		Son	/				Farming		/			Iowa	Indiana	Ohio	
			Pearly	W	M	12		Son	/				Farming		/			Iowa	Indiana	Ohio	
			Mary	W	F	9		Daughter	/									Iowa	Indiana	Ohio	
			Guy	W	M	6		Son	/									Iowa	Indiana	Ohio	
			Pliny	W	M	4		Son	/									Iowa	Indiana	Ohio	
			Charley	W	M	2		Son	/									Iowa	Indiana	Ohio	
			HANSON, Hannah	W	F	14		Servant	/				Servant				///	Denmark	Denmark	Ohio*	
			SOWERS, Solomon	W	M	76		Father	/				at Home					N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	
			* sic																		

Health Information Item Numbers: 15 - Sick or temporarily disabled; 16 - Blind; 17 - Deaf & dumb; 18 - Idiotic; 19 - Insane; 20 - Maimed or crippled

# 1900 CENSUS — UNITED STATES

Film Roll No. 435 } Page No. 104 B  
 State Iowa } Supervisor's Dist. No. 10 } Sheet No. 10  
 County Hamilton } Enumeration Dist. No. 105 } 10

Township or other division of County Ellsworth (Township) } Name of Institution X  
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above named division, X Ward of City X  
 Enumerated by me on the 20th day of June, 1900, Martin L. Henderson, Enumerator.

LOCATION		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION										NATIVITY			CITIZEN.			OCCUPATION				EDUCATION				HOME			
Street & No. IN CITIES	Dwelling No.	Family No.	Relation to head of family	Color	Sex	Month of birth	Year of birth	Age at last birthday	Single, married, widowed, divorced	No. of years married	Mother of how many children	Number of these children living	Place of birth	Place of birth of father	Place of birth of mother	Year of immigration to U.S.	Year of naturalization	Occupation, Trade or Profession of each person ten years of age and over.	No. of months not employed	Attended school (months)	Can read	Can write	Can speak English	Home owned or rented	Home owned free or mortgaged	Farm or house	Number of farm schedule		
	184	199	Head	M	Dec	1833	66	66	Wd				Indiana	Indiana	N Carolinan	Carolina		Farmer			Yes	Yes	Yes			M	F	159	
			Son	M	May	1878	22	22	S				Iowa	Indiana	Illinois			Farm Laborer	0		Yes	Yes	Yes						
			Head	M	Jan	1876	24	24	M	1			Iowa	Indiana	Illinois			Farm Laborer	0		Yes	Yes	Yes						
			Wife	F	Sept	1877	22	22	M	1	0	0	Norway	Norway	Norway	1891	9				Yes	Yes	Yes						

# 1910 CENSUS — UNITED STATES

FILE ROLL NO. 404

STATE Iowa  
 COUNTY Hamilton

(SUPERVISOR'S DIST. NO. 10 SHEET NO. 8 A)  
 (ENUMERATION DIST. NO. 115)

TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Ellsworth Twp.

WARD OF CITY X

NAME OF INSTITUTION X

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Thomas Thompson ENUMERATOR

X

X

DAY OF April 1910

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 29

LOCAT'N. House No. in Cities	Dwelling No.	Family No.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910 was in this family	PERSONAL DESCRIPT'N							NATIVITY.			CITIZN.		OCCUPATION.					EDUCAT'N				HOME					
				Sex.	Color or race.	Age last birthday.	Single, married, widowed or divorced.	No. years of present marriage.	No. born.	Mother of how many children	Place of birth.	Place of father.	Place of mother.	Year of immigrat- ion to the U.S.	Naturalized/Allen.	Speaks English or other.	Trade or Profession.	General nature of work.	Employer, employee or works on con.	Out of work Apr. 15.	Weeks out of work '09.	Can read.	Can write.	Attended School.	Home owned/rented.	Free/mortgaged.	Farm/house.	No. of farm enum.	Confed. or Union Veteran.	Blind in both eyes.
	136	140	Sowers, Guy	M	W	36	M1	(n/r)	(n/r)	(n/r)		Iowa	Indiana	Ohio		Eng	Farmer	General farm	Emp				Yes	Yes	Yes	R			145	
			Maggie	F	W	29	M1	(n/r)	(n/r)	(n/r)		Iowa	Nor Norwegian	Nor Norwegian		Eng	None						Yes	Yes	Yes					
			Bessie	F	W	10	S					Iowa	Iowa	Iowa			None						Yes							
			Erma	F	W	7	S					Iowa	Iowa	Iowa			None						Yes							
			Sarah	F	W	15/12	S					Iowa	Iowa	Iowa			None													
			Linsey	M	W	75	WD					Indiana	North Carolina	North Carolina		Eng	Own income						Yes	Yes	Yes					
			Sexy, Henry 1.	M	W	13	S					Iowa	Minnesota	Indiana		Eng	Farm labor	Working out	W				Yes	Yes	Yes					
			Sowers, Pliny	M	W	34	WD					Iowa	Indiana	Ohio		Eng	Farmer	General farm	OA				Yes	Yes	Yes			146		
			Sowers, Charley	M	W	3*	S					Iowa	Indiana	Ohio		Eng	Farmer	General farm	OA				Yes	Yes	Yes			147		

(n/r) = not recorded

Form B-588 1. sic, should be Sexe.

\* age was incomplete.

Transcribed by Edward E. Bartlett

Date 29 October 1990

A  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
OF  
HAMILTON COUNTY  
IOWA

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ILLUSTRATED

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*The people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.—MACAULAY.*

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NEW YORK AND CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1002.

Mary Ella Pringle, of Webster City, a daughter of M. B. Pringle, one of the pioneer settlers of Hamilton county. Two children have been born of this marriage: Katharine A. and Lillian D., both of whom are now attending school. Mrs. Richard is a member of the Baptist church.

Fraternally the Judge is connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is also a Knight Templar Mason, having taken the degrees of the blue lodge, chapter, council and commandery. In politics he has always been a Republican and as such has maintained an active interest in party affairs and policy, assisting therein locally on the stump, as committeeman, as chairman of the county central committee, etc. In 1897 he was a candidate before his party for the nomination of senator of the thirty-seventh senatorial district but withdrew in favor of the candidate of another county after three days of convention balloting. The law, however, claims and receives his best thought and work.

#### LINSEY SOWERS.

Starting out in life without capital but realizing that success depends upon earnest effort, close application and unfaltering diligence Linsey Sowers has steadily advanced on the road to prosperity and today is the owner of six hundred acres of valuable land in Iowa. He makes his home on section 35, Ellsworth township, and is one of the honored and respected citizens of his community. He was born in Fountain county, Indiana, on Christmas Day of 1833. His father was Solomon Sowers, a native of North Carolina, who became a pioneer farmer of Fountain county, Indiana. He wedded Rachel Pickett, also a

native of North Carolina. Her death occurred in 1856, and the father in the same year removed from Indiana to Story county, Iowa, leaving the former state on the 1st of September. It required fifteen days to make the trip in a covered wagon. In the fall of 1857 he came to Hamilton county, Iowa, and here entered land in the year in which the Spirit Lake massacre occurred. The country was wild and unimproved, and progress was largely the work of the future. The nearest house to his home on the northwest was twelve miles away. His trading posts were Marshall and Nevada and to the latter place he hauled his grain. In the family were six children. Sylvia became the wife of John Newnum, the marriage taking place in Indiana, but her death occurred at the home of her brother, Linsey, in Hamilton county. George W. is living a retired life in Ames, Iowa. Henry resides on section 34, Ellsworth township. Linsey is the fourth in order of birth. Charles died at the home of our subject in 1861 and Alfred died at the home of his brother Linsey in 1866, leaving a wife and one daughter.

Linsey Sowers spent the days of his boyhood and youth at his parents' home and was twenty-three years of age at the time of the emigration to Iowa. When he took up his abode upon the prairie in Hamilton county, the only house near by was the little cabin of the Staley brothers, Henry and George. He first built a house out of native timber and later erected his present place, which has now stood for about a quarter of a century. Upon the place he has cottonwood trees which he planted in an early day. One tree which he set out in 1862 has a diameter of five feet, while others planted earlier measure from two

and one-half to three feet across. One tree in front of the house measures eighty feet across the branches and furnishes excellent shade. In the work of development and improvement Mr. Sowers has taken a very active and helpful part and as the years have passed he has prospered in his business undertakings until to-day he is one of the extensive land owners of this portion of the state. Great changes have occurred since his arrival here. He made an overland trip from Indiana by way of Bloomington and Galesburg, Illinois, and Muscatine, Iowa City and Marshalltown, visiting these places when they were little more than villages. He has seen Story, Ellsworth, Jewell and Randall all spring up, while Marshalltown and other places have been founded and developed during his remembrance.

He worked at home until he was of age and then started out in life for himself, being employed by the month as a farm hand. The first year he earned a hundred dollars, which he sent to his brother George W. in order that the latter might enter for him a claim. Thus he became the owner of eighty acres, consisting of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 35. Since then he has added to his property until he is to-day the owner of six hundred acres of very valuable land. His home farm comprises two hundred and thirty-seven acres of the best improved land of Ellsworth township. His sons are now managing the farm, while he is taking life easy, enjoying a well earned rest from his labors. For a number of years after his arrival he engaged in trapping and hunting, shipping game east in connection with Perry Bracken. In this way he has made on an average of eight and one-half dollars per day.

They caught minks and muskrats, and at times prairie wolves were killed upon his farm.

On the 20th of March, 1861, Mr. Sowers was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Elizabeth Ward, a daughter of Josiah and Mary (Burnes) Ward, who were natives of Licking county, Ohio. Mrs. Sowers was born in that county December 12, 1836, and died February 12, 1888, on the old home in Ellsworth township when fifty-six years of age. She came to Iowa in 1859 with her parents, who located in Story county. In their family were the following children, of whom Mrs. Sowers was the eldest. The others are Elias, of Kansas; Mrs. Sarah Foster, who was the first school teacher in Ellsworth township; Henry, Isaac, Roland, and Orville, all living in Kansas. In the year 1868 the father of this family removed to Madison county and in 1879 went to Kansas, where he died at the age of seventy-four years. His widow still survives him and is now about eighty-three years of age. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sowers were born six children: Albert married Maria Scott and resides on section 30, Ellsworth township. Perley married Annie Templer and also lives on section 34. Mary is the wife of Arthur Hughes of Lincoln, Nebraska. Guy wedded Margaret Henderson, a daughter of Lars Henderson, a deceased pioneer of Hamilton county, and they also reside on the old homestead. Plenny married Martha Eckimo, who died six months later. He is living upon the old homestead. Charlie, who completes the family, is with his father. There are now eleven grandchildren. At the last reunion of the family, which was held on the old home farm in Ellsworth township in 1886, there were present sixty relatives.



Mr. Sowers cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, but later changed his political views and now votes the Democratic ticket. He has served as road supervisor and was trustee of Ellsworth township for several years, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. He has served as school director, was one of the organizers of his district and has done much to advance the cause of education. In 1900 Mr. Sowers made a trip to his old home in Indiana but could scarcely recognize the homestead farm in Fountain county so greatly had it been changed. He is one of the honored and valued pioneers of Hamilton county and all the experiences and hardships of frontier life are familiar to him from the time he used the shovel-plow in breaking the prairie to the present era of advanced civilization. Mr. Sowers has ever been a public-spirited and progressive man, contributing his share to the work of development and as a man and citizen he is widely and favorably known by reason of his genuine worth.

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#### CHARLES DANIEL HELLEN.

One of the most prominent business men of Hamilton county is C. D. Hellen, of Webster City, and moreover he has justly won that oft misused term, a self-made man. A country boy, without any advantages in his youth beyond those enjoyed by most farmer boys of that pioneer period who worked in the fields through the summer and attended the district schools in the winter, he is now a leading representative of many important commercial and industrial interests of this portion of the state, and his sound business judgment and keen

foresight have been important factors in the successful control of a number of these. He is well known in journalistic circles, but his efforts have by no means been confined to this line.

Mr. Hellen was born on the 28th of August, 1860, on a farm northwest of Webster City, and is the third son of Norval H. and Malinda (George) Hellen. He attended the country school, and when fourteen years of age accompanied his parents on their removal to Webster City. Here he entered the office of the Hamilton Freeman, then published by T. E. McCracken, at first occupying the position of "printer's devil." He gradually mastered the business, and on the first of August, 1880, he entered into partnership with W. L. Clark and leased the office of the Webster City Argus. They published the paper for one year, after which Mr. Hellen had charge of the job department and published the paper in connection with the Hons. D. C. Chase, G. B. Pray and later G. M. Blair, until July 1, 1885, when in partnership with his younger brother, W. H. Hellen, he established the Webster City Tribune. His brother retired after a year, and the weekly was successfully published until 1894, when Mr. Hellen established a daily and continued the publication of both the weekly and daily paper for five years. In 1898, after being appointed to the position of postmaster of Webster City, he entered into partnership with J. D. Hunter, and they consolidated their respective papers, the Tribune and Freeman, under the name of the Freeman-Tribune. The company was incorporated with a capital of thirty thousand dollars, erected a fine brick block, and Mr. Hellen is the heaviest stockholder and fills the position of vice-presi-

SOWERS PIONEER CEMETERY

MARTHA  
Wife of  
P. SOWERS  
DIED  
JUNE 22, 1900  
Aged  
22Y. 9M. 2D.

PLINY  
SOWERS  
JAN. 29, 1876  
JULY 8, 1915

SOLOMON  
SOWERS  
BORN  
JUNE 14, 1802  
DIED  
JUNE 15, 1884  
Erected by his son  
LINSY

ALFRED  
Son of  
S. & R. SOWERS  
DIED  
OCT. 8, 1867  
Aged  
29Y. 2M. 16D.

ALFRED SOWERS  
Co.C  
63 Ind. Inf.  
~~X~~ F V  
VETERAN  
61-65  
C L

(At the north end of the Row)

(Military Stone)

REBECCA  
ELIZABETH  
Wife of  
L. SOWERS  
BORN  
DEC. 12, 1839  
DIED  
FEB. 12, 1898  
SOWERS

(N. side)

(S. side)

ALMA M.  
DIED  
MAR. 22, 1893  
Aged  
4yrs, 13ds

(N. side)

(W. side)

Children of  
A. & M. E.  
SOWERS  
RALPH  
DIED  
MAR. 24, 1891  
Aged  
16ds

(S. side)

Visited Cemetery  
14 June 1988  
Edward F. Bartlett

A.M.S.

R.S.

HENRY  
Son of  
L. & R.E. SOWERS  
DIED  
MAY 26, 1867  
Aged 6Ms, 27Ds

LAURA  
Dau of  
L. & R.E. SOWERS  
DIED  
MAR. 26, 1865  
Aged  
1y, 11m, 22d.

MALINDA  
Wife of  
G. W. SOWERS  
DIED  
MAY 21, 1856  
AGED  
30Ys, 5Ms, 18Ds.

SYLVINA  
Wife of  
J. NEWNUM  
DIED  
OCT. 3, 1860  
AGED  
37Y, 11M, 21D.

CHARLES M.  
Son of  
S. & R. SOWERS  
DIED  
AUG. 21, 1861  
AGED  
26Ys, 3Ms, 6Ds.

All of the above are in one row along the west side of the cemetery.