

CASS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter June 2021

Hello,

The weather cooperated and Carolyn DeLay did an excellent job of preparing for our visit to Lowman Cemetery on May 27.

The Cemetery is well kept. Someone had visited before us to put flags on veterans' graves so we added a second flag. Sharp eyed CCGS members found a few additional ones.

Lowman Cemetery is located five miles south and two and one-half miles east of Griswold almost to the Montgomery County line.

The land was given by J. A. Lowman in 1870 and contains five acres. It is maintained by taxes. The first burial was a two-year old girl, Ida Guess in January, 1871. In the 1880's a church was built here. It was destroyed by a cyclone in September 1928. A new church was built but was sold and removed in the 1950's.



Members Carolyn Key, Cindy Sievers, Linda Marek, Carolyn DeLay, Mary Hoegh and I enjoyed our visit to Lowman Cemetery. We had lunch together at Dusty's in Griswold.
LaVon

QUESTION

Mary asks do you know the difference between a cemetery and a graveyard? She also has the answer. A graveyard is associated with a church. A cemetery is not and may be privately owned.

SOUTHLAWN MEMORY GARDENS

Southlawn Memory Gardens is a cemetery which was established in 1970 by a privately-owned company. It is located at 3103 Olive Street.

The owners let it fall into disrepair and essentially abandoned it. Iowa state law took over so no one technically owns Southlawn. There is a conservatorship held by Cass County and the City of Atlantic. A small amount of funds for care are provided by the City, Cass County Board of Supervisors and Grove Township. This covers a mowing contract and road maintenance. All other care is done by volunteers.

The cemetery was ignored until one of the persons who purchased a plot was to be buried. Many people did not even know of its existence. The family of Kevin Marshall took on the challenge to make a difference.

Family members met with the Board of Supervisors and the City Council. A committee was formed to take a look at what needed to be done. Finally, in 2012 the group toured Southlawn to identify needs. Action followed to replace a front entrance sign, remove dead trees and bushes and other basic maintenance.

Take a drive south on Olive Street or look at Facebook: Southlawn Memory Gardens. You will find a beautiful spot. All of the work beyond mowing is done by volunteers giving both money and much time. Kevin's family leads the way but future care depends on continued work by volunteers

Note from Mary



Checking through **STAGECOACH TRAILS IN IOWA** by **Inez E. Kirkpatrick** Published by **J-B Publishing Company Crete Nebraska 1975**. Chapter 20 titled **Pottawattamie County**, page 223 **“LAND AND MEN NOW AND THEN” History of Griswold, Iowa 1954**. **Old Whipple and Stagecoach Lines**.

“The Great Westward movement of Oregon Land Seekers, the Mormons on their way to Salt Lake, the 49ers on their way to California in search of gold, wore a groove across Old Macedonia Township that was soon to be followed by the Pony Express, the Stagecoaches and the Prairie Schooners of the Pioneer Settlers. In 1847 a post office was established at Cold Springs for the convenience of the few families living in the community. The most of these families were of the Mormon faith, and only remained for a year or two and moved on West. The mail was carried to Cold Springs from Kanesville on horseback once a week. In 1852 the Government extended the line to Des Moines. The first station East of Kanesville was located at Silver Creek, the second at Wheeler’s Grove, kept by Noah D. Wheeler, the third station was located at Indian Town, kept by Jeremiah Bradshaw. From Indian Town, the route followed the trail to Hamlin’s Grove, thence to Moorisburg on the Coon River, which was thirty-five miles from Hamlin’s Grove, and there was not a house in all that distance. From there the trail led to Red Field and Des Moines. At that time there were three houses in

Morrisburg, about a dozen in Adel and not more than one hundred in Des Moines.

Chapter 15 CASS COUNTY page 165 Lewis was on the main line of travel across Cass County before the construction of the railroads and was considered important in its day as it was the first county seat. Indian Town located in the center of section 9, Cass Township was settled by Mormons in 1846. Iranistan, located in the central part of section 8, Cass Township was laid out in 1853, being the first platted town of the county. Post office, 1855-1857. Its post office for a while was called Cold Spring. Grove City situated in southwestern part of section 11, Grove Township, was platted in 1856. Post office located there 1865-69. The first post office was called Turkey Grove.

The Fourth General Assembly approved additional mail facilities and a road from Des Moines via Lewis, to Council Bluffs was opened. Another road was authorized at the same time, from Delhi, Delaware County to Fort Des Moines; thence to Lewis, thence to Glenwood.

The Fifth General Assembly opened a mail route from Fort Des Moines to Council Bluffs “twice a week, in two –horse coaches”. This route ran through Cass County and on to Council Bluffs.

The Sixth General Assembly, on January 28, 1857, authorized a road “Commencing at a certain hickory pole” at a point where the State Road leading from Ft. Des Moines to Plattsmouth, Adair County, “to a stake near George B. Wilson’s, called Wahtawah, thence west in Cass County” to the intersection of the State road from Fort Des Moines to Council Bluffs.

The Mail Contractors through Cass County were S. Swaengen 1849, John Frink 1850, John Donahey 1851, J. Frink-R. Stewart 1851, William Vernon 1854, Western Stage Co. 1854-57 and C. B. Lothrop 1865.