



P O Box 94 Bloomfield, IA 52537

Davis County Iowa Genealogy

President's Notes

Calendar of Events

Meetings
March 19
April 4, Burlington
April 16
May 21
June 18
July County Fair
July 16
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19
December TBA

This issue begins with a few apologies. As 2008 closed, and the busy-ness of the Holidays, and the new year of 2009 came upon us, I neglected one (1) newsletter. The issues for 2008, only number 3.

As we look at 2008 in review, we did start a large project, scanning microfilms. Not to be completed any time soon, as it takes volunteers and effort.

Perhaps it is to blame on the addition of new grandchildren. The weather, gumption or perseverance.

We hosted a county history Roadshow, and plans are to attend the Burlington Public Library, April 4, for theirs.

We had branches of fun at the

county fair.

We have been discussing upgrading our printer/copier so it can handle 2 sided newsletter printing. Part of our member dues are being set aside for equipment upkeep.

The annual Christmas meeting was postponed 1 week due to nasty weather. Thank you to Ron and Lana Doll for hosting.

We reprinted the 1924 and are in the process of reprinting the 1882. A busy year.

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Library Hours

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 1:00-4:00

Saturdays 9:00-1:00

Pictured— L to R; Lana Doll, Shirley Willcoxson, Deb Barker, Lone Friend, Richard Friend and Pat Howk.



OFFICERS for 2009

- President & Editor-
- Deb Barker
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- Corresponding Secretary–
Dorothy Goldizen
- Librarian Historian— Vicki

GENEALOGY CD'S AND PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE * PRICES INCLUDE S & H

- VOLUME 1– WPA Graves Registration & 1870 Federal Census for Davis County 13.00
 - VOLUME 2– Probate, Marriage & Will Index 13.00
 - VOLUME 3– 1937 Tax List & 1850 Census 15.00
 - VOLUME 4– 1925 Census Index & Births Index 1880-1905 15.00
 - Drakesville Cemetery Transcription 15.00
 - SSDI for Davis County Iowa 1964-2005 15.00
 - 1924 Dillon Payne History Book 70.00
 - 1882 Davis County History Book 70.00
- THE IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HAS Davis County Genealogy items for sale at **www.iowagenealogy.org** Including Cemeteries, Census, and THESE ARE ON REVENUE SHARING. IF YOU SEE something there you want, contact us, and we will get it for you. DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 94, BLOOM-FIELD, IOWA 52537 or DCGS@NETINS.NET

Summary
12/21/07 Through 12/23/08

Page 1

Category Description	12/21/07- 12/23/08
INCOME	
CD's	197.00
Copies	383.75
Donations	129.75
Microfilm reader	4,010.00
TOTAL Donations	4,139.75
History Books	
1882 History book	130.00
1924-27 History book	205.00
TOTAL History Books	335.00
Index for 1925 Census	25.00
Index To Births	12.50
Membership dues	600.00
Dues for Equipment Replacement	187.50
TOTAL Membership dues	787.50
Miscellaneous	20.00
Other Inc	1.58
Research	115.10
Road Show Income	341.00
TOTAL INCOME	6,367.28
EXPENSES	
Uncategorized	0.00
Acquisitions	15.00
Advertising	245.01
Bank Charge	9.00
Davis Co. Fair	173.25
Equipment	4,995.00
Memorials-Flowers	39.15
Newsletter	30.00
Office Supplies	64.48
Postage	
Newsletters	129.04
Other postage	10.28
TOTAL Postage	139.32
Rent	38.00
Road show expense	325.13
Sales Tax	145.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,224.35
OVERALL TOTAL	138.94

*\$ 3638.23
Checkbook bal*

Helen E. Walker, 94, of Bloomfield, Iowa died March 10, 2008 at the Bloomfield Care Center. She was born March 11, 1913 in Bloomfield to Charlie E. and Bonnie Odessa Swinney Walker. After graduating from Bloomfield High School in 1931, she attended Bloomfield Junior College and later went on to AIB in Des Moines, Iowa where she studied bookkeeping. She worked for Hockersmith Insurance in Bloomfield, retiring in 1978. She was a member of the Bloomfield United Methodist Church, the Alpha Delphian Club, and she loved cats. She is survived by nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Verle Miller Arnold, 88, of Bloomfield, Iowa died November 20, 2008 at the Davis County Hospital Long Term Care Facility in Bloomfield. He was born November 23, 1919 in Stockport, Iowa to John B. and Hazel Miller Arnold. He married Peggy Maxwell December 2, 1942 in New York City. She preceded him in death September 9, 2001. He served in the United States Navy during WWII. He worked for the Department of Agriculture and Soil Conservation for 34 years retiring in 1980. He was the manager of the Bloomfield Community Housing from 1980-1990. He was an active member of the Bloomfield United Methodist Church where he held several leadership positions. He was also active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts serving many years as Scoutmaster for Troup 92. He received the Boy Scout Silver Beaver Award in 1982. He was a past member of the Rotary Club and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a member of the Reed Whisler Post #78 of the American Legion, the Davis County Genealogical and Historical Societies, and was a lifetime member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He is survived by 3 sons, John (Judy) Arnold of Centerville, Iowa, Gene Arnold of Waukee, Iowa, Dr. Jeffrey (Jan) Arnold of Flint, Michigan; a daughter, Jacque (Jerry) Pirtle of Moberly, Missouri; 12 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and a brother, Dr. Darrell Arnold.

Verle and Peggy Arnold were passionate with their love of Genealogy. Most of the early collections and data in our library is because of their fruits of labor. I can't even begin to recollect, as I did not have the pleasure of working with them, if you want to call it work. Many of our members did. It is very difficult to not find reference to them, when using our research facilities. May the future years, carry on their endeavors, and may their family and friends know, that they left behind, many memories, histories, and genealogies.

Raymond L. **Senor**, 78, Milton, died at 5:46 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, 2008 at the Bloomfield Care Center.

He was born Oct. 6, 1929, in Mount Pleasant to Roy and Lucy **Adkisson Saner**. He lived in several southeast Iowa communities where his father was superintendent of schools. The family moved to Milton when he was nine-years-old and his father was superintendent of the Milton School. He graduated from Milton High School in 1947 and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He worked for the State of Iowa Bureau of Food and Nutrition in Des Moines for 24 years and retired to Milton. He was an active member of the Milton Christian Church and served as church treasurer for many years. He was also a member of the Russell- Strait Post No. 483, American Legion; Sunnyside Cemetery board; Van Buren County Historical Society and Genealogical Association

<http://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

THE PALIMPSEST

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WALTER A SHEAFFER

Back of every great enterprise looms a personality. A host of men may contribute of their brain and brawn in the creation and development of this enterprise, but invariably there is one guiding spirit whose ingenuity, strength, and energy lay the foundations of the venture and whose devotion, resourcefulness, and courage insure its successful perpetuation. Such a personality founded and gave his name to the W A Sheaffer Pen Company of Fort Madison, the greatest pen manufacturing company in the United States.

Walter A. Schaeffer, the inventor of the first lever self filling fountain pen, was born in Bloomfield Iowa on July 27, 1867. He was one of five children to bless the union of Jacob Royer and Anna (Walton) Schaeffer. Jacob Schaeffer was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, of sturdy Dutch ancestry. As a young man Jacob migrated westward to seek his fortune in the California Gold Rush. Returning from California Gulch in 1854, Jacob Schaeffer tarried for a short time in Ottumwa and then entered the jewelry business in Bloomfield.

Bloomfield was centrally located in Davis County, the land having been entered by James H. Cowles on June 26 1846, and laid out is the town of Bloomfield that summer. The first merchant was John Lucas. A year after Walter A. Schaeffer was born a local historian listed J. R. Schaeffer as one of the most substantial business men in Bloomfield. The business houses were summed up in 1868 as follows:

The town has seven general stores, three drugstores, four family groceries, two hardware stores, two dealers in stoves and tinware, one in agricultural implements, two furniture stores, two merchant Tailor's one gunsmith, one bakery, two wagon shops, three blacksmith shops, three boot and shoe establishments, one jeweler, three hotels, one artist, five milliners, three painters, 18 carpenters, like plasterers, two livery stables, nine lawyers, four physicians, one dentist, four churches, one national Bank.

It was in Jacob Sheaffer's jewelry store that young Walter learned the fundamentals of merchandizing which later were to play an important part in his successful organization and development of the fountain pen industry. He also learned that hard times could strike the most careful interpreter. Thus Jacob Schaeffer had acquired considerable means for investing and local insurance business unfortunately the Bloomfield insurance company was induced to unite with the Great Western insurance company of Chicago. Shortly afterwards, the Chicago Fire of 1871 wiped out the company's resources, making stockholders like Sheaffer doubly liable. Then the Panic of 1873 came, forcing Jacob Schaeffer to dispose of his jewelry store in order to pay his debts. His father's misfortunes left an indelible impression on the mind of Walter A Sheaffer. In later life he related:

The circumstances made it necessary for me to begin work very early in life and I did not completely finish high school. My first job as a devil in a printing office paid me one dollar a week. From there when I was about 12 years of age I entered a grocery store, earning \$7.20 a month for the summer vacation. Out of the \$21.60 earned during the summer I saved \$19 to buy my clothes for the next winter. The next summer I started a peanut stand for myself and made in the neighborhood of \$75 a month from it. Having piled up this considerable amount of money it was my first experience and prosperity. I spent money rather freely the next winter only to find that my money did not last me through the winter. This was a lesson I never forgot. In the future after I had this experience I always manage to save and have something ahead even if it was ever so small.

Meanwhile in 1880 Jacob Schaffer had borrowed money and reentered the jewelry business. He took a young nephew who had been orphaned into this door with him and young Walter accordingly saw pointed elsewhere. Clerked in a Centerville store for \$15 per month with board and lodging. His bed was a shelf under the counter in the store. He next worked for his uncle S. B. Walton a jeweler in Unionville, Missouri receiv-

ing \$20 per month plus board and lodging. After learning the retail jewelry business in Centerville and Unionville Walter became a partner with his father in the Bloomfield store a partnership which continued until Jacob Schaeffer's death in 1914. The Bloomfield store was sold in 1928.

When Walter joined his father and Bloomfield the store was in debt. Elgin and Waltham watches, Rogers 1847 silver, Seth Thomas clocks, and wedding rings, a close survey revealed, constituted about 70% of their sales and these were being sold in Sears, Roebuck and in Montgomery Ward mail-order catalogs for the same price the Shaeffers could buy them. According to Walter Schaeffer : As Davis County had only sixteen thousand people in it: as the town of Bloomfield at this time in a population of only 2000 people who are mostly retired farmers ; as there were more catalogs in the homes than Bibles (for every home contained one Bible but had two catalogs) it was a rather dismal picture in our chances of success seemed to be very slim. Fortunate for the Shaeffers, the Hamilton Watch Company had just come out with a splendid line of watches which they did not sell to the mail-order houses. The Shaeffers determined to take the 17 jewel Hamilton line, priced from \$14-\$45 and push these watches at the same time, cutting \$.30 off their Elgin and Waltham watches, and their 1847 Rogers silver to undersell the catalog houses. In this creating a desire any customer to own the best watch. The Schaeffer's laid the foundation for their future success and merchandising the finest fountain pens. Their clerks were carefully trained, and given a commission on each expensive watch they sold. They were , however cautioned against pushing the more expensive watches to the customer until the customer himself asked for information. When a young farmer came in and asked for three dollar and 95 cent Elgin 7 jewel watch, the tray containing this watch as well as the more expensive ones was lifted out of showcase, placed on the counter and the 3 dollar 95 watch laid on the plush pad in front of him. The customer naturally inquired about the finer watches, was informed of their price and merits, and, after some hesitation often succumbed to the argument of higher up probably cheaper in the long run. This argument, coupled with his desire to own a fine watch, would frequently leave the customer to purchase the higher priced watch. With this sales technique the Bloomfield Jewelry store gradually pulled out of the red.

On February 8, 1888 Walter A Schaeffer married Nellie Davis of Pulaski in Davis County. Two children were born to this union: Clementine who married Harry E. Waldron; and Craig Royer Schaeffer who is destined to succeed his father as the president of the W A Schaeffer pen company in 1938. After his marriage Walter found the expense of supporting two families was quite a strain on a small jewelry store, so he took on the piano and organ business. According to Schaeffer: we could do so with the same amount of rent and it was really a benefit to both businesses. For instance people were hesitant about going into a piano store and looking at piano before they were ready to buy because they knew that the piano man was very anxious to sell and he would come out and bother them about buying for they were ready. By putting the pianos in the center of the store and the jewelry and silverware on the sides, when the customer would come in to look at some pretty jewelry or to have his watch repaired, the family would look at piano thinking it wouldn't be noticed; but we had one of the sales people in the store always taking down their names and what type of piano they like best. In those days there were no automobiles no paved roads indeed no gravel roads. In the spring were after heavy rains the mud was often hub deep on the wagons. When such roads frozen cold weather they were very rough. Frequently Schaeffer did not return from a long trip into the country until after midnight. " I could get out of the country before freezing started at night, but if I didn't make a sale I had to haul the piano back to town. In order to keep warm, I would walk by the side of the wagon and be sometimes 15 or 20 miles in the country. . . . but by combining the two businesses, one being run daytime in the other night, we were enabled to make the business succeed. We nearly always found that it was the best psychology to talk to the man his wife together, for most invariably the farmer would want more corn, more land, and more livestock, and didn't care for any musical instruments, while the wife and a daughter were very anxious to have a piano or an organ. So we made it a rule to talk to the man and his family together so that we could answer the arguments so far as we could that the farmer put. But before we talk to a farmer we've apparently tried to put him in the right frame of mind. If we went to a farmer and he was husking corn, we would agree to husk corn for one or two hours if he would agree to talk to us for that length of same time."

DELAYED BIRTH RECORD, NO A PAGE B

Legitimacy	Date of Birth	Fathers Full Name	Residence	Occupation	Mothers Maiden Name	Residence	Color	Age Last Birthday	Birthplace	Occupation	Name of Physician Midwife	Address
	Month	Day	Year									
Yes	June	5	1929	G V Bogle	Devils County	Devils County	W	27	Kansas	Housewife	E L Cox	Moulton, IA Bloomfield, IA
Yes	June	29	1888	James Brunik	Devils County	Devils Co	W	28	Iowa	Housewife	Dr Kretzer	
Yes	Dec	6	1908	Arthur G Blackwell	Devils County				Missouri			
	Jan	15	1907	Arthur G Blackwell					Missouri			
	Nov	23	1883	Levi Barton					Iowa			
Yes	May	31	1910	Thomas J Bryant					Iowa			
	Apr	17	1882	Salem Brunik					Iowa			
	Oct	27	1907	Charles H Blanchard					Iowa			
	Apr	18	1903	John Wesley Brundage					Michigan			
	July	28	1896	Heenan Secrett					Iowa			
	April	13	1948	Fried Barnes					Iowa			
	July	4	1906	Abie Burns					Iowa			
	March	21	1903	Abie Burns					Iowa			
	Sept	8	1904	O B Burns					Iowa			
	Nov	8	1874	William Bell					Virginia			
	Feb	19	1913	Clark Goss Barton					Iowa			
	Jan	22	1883	Christian Bachman	Devils County				Switzerland			
	Oct	13	1899	Harry Barber					Iowa			
	Aug	1	1895	Geo W Bollman					Iowa			
	July	31	1893	John Barber					Iowa			
	June	4	1889	David Franklin Bridges	Devils County	Devils Co			Iowa			
	Nov	18	1891	David Franklin Bridges					Iowa			
	March	22	1917	Arvil Goldman Bond					Devils Co			
	June	28	1905	George C Brunk					Iowa			
	Sept	20	1900	Henry Theodore Baghead					Iowa			
	April	8	1892	Andrew Bolwer					Iowa	Records; School, marriage		
	June	17	1890	Andrew J Bolwer					Iowa			
	Nov	17	1905	John L Bridges					Illinois			
	Nov	13	1883	John Burgher					Iowa			
	Oct	17	1888	James Bland					Iowa			
	June	28	1935	Charles Walter Blasi					Ridgeway, MO			
	Jan	7	1900	William Baggs					Iowa			
	Feb	11	1891	Delmore D Boal	Devils County	Devils Co	W		Missouri			
	July	7	1893	Thos Lafayette Beags	Devils County				Iowa	Childs birth record		
	Dec	19	1891	E G Barnett					Iowa			
	Nov	4	1890	Frank L Brown					Iowa			
	April	16	1882	Robert Bryant					Indiana			
	Aug	26	1904	Edward Battin					Iowa			
	March	26	1890	Philip Blizer					Iowa	Insurance Policy		
	March	31	1870	Lewis A Bowling	Devils County		W		Indiana			

**LAST CHANCE TO RECEIVE THE APRIL MAY JUNE NEWSLETTER
NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009
REMEMBER THE MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE 10.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR**

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED: _____

I WOULD / WOULD NOT LIKE MY EMAIL SHARED WITH OTHER SOCIETY MEMBERS.
I WOULD / WOULD NOT LIKE MY NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY.

1924 DILLON PAYNE HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE
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Compiled and Published by the Federated Women's Clubs of the County 1924-1927, Printed and Published by the Bloomfield Democrat. Order yours now.

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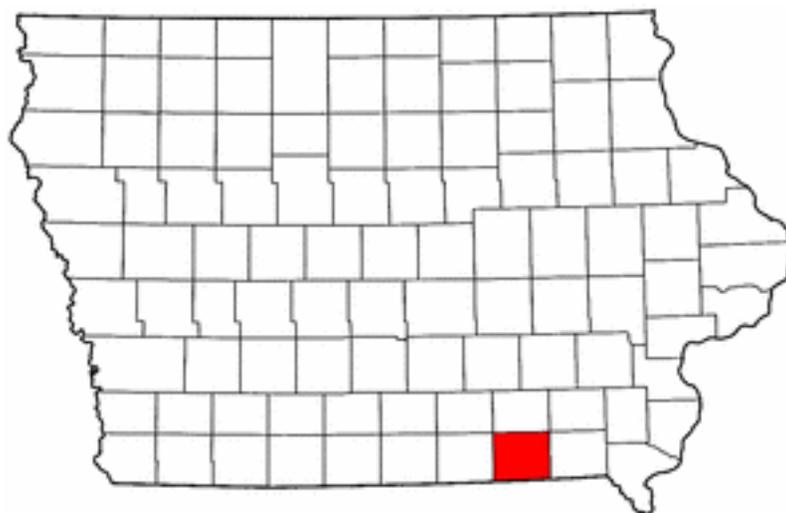
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