

DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

BLOOMFIELD IOWA

VOLUME XIV 4                      1996                      OCTOBER                      NOVEMBER                      DECEMBER

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Davis County Genealogical Society, P O Box 94, Bloomfield Iowa  
52537. Regular meetings: Third Thursday of the month , 7:30 PM  
Bloomfield Public Library basement

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1996	President: Pat Howk	Treasurer: Alice Huffman
Officers	V Pres.: D. Sue Spilman	Corresponding Secretary:
	Secretary: Lavon Davis	Dorothy Goldizen

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#4 1996

Dear Members,

Once again the year has flown. It is time for election of officers and possible changes of committees and jobs. Thanks to all who are volunteering for various positions and have fulfilled them this year.

Our meeting will be Dec. 12 this year and with the usual "show and tell" time should be interesting. Sometimes members bring a treasured memento, collection, a research find, finished work, or just a frustrating puzzle they need help with. Souses are encouraged to attend and it is the one meeting all year when we have refreshments. We all enjoy trying each other's specialities.

We do have one specific job that needs a volunteer. Peggy Arnold has clipped the local paper for more than 10 years. She'd like a break. The paper will be available thanks to member Rowena Haselhoff donating her paper each week. If someone would like the position, please contact me.

One thing I dislike about writing this letter each month is knowing there are several school teachers who read it. One being Rowena who was my sophomore English teacher. I try not to think of all the dangling participles (whatever they are!) and concentrate on the clarity. Oh well, I am a good speller so maybe she'll forgive the other errors.

As we move closer to the Christmas season, I trust everyone will remember the true meaning of Christmas and remember all the blessings we share. May we all find that illusive ancestor, or date, or place in the coming year. I would just like to have some uninterrupted time to leisurely tend to what I've collected!!

Merry Christmas

Pat Howk, President

Would Like to buy used copy of Original "Davis County History" book. The one up to 1926. (not sure if she wants the 1882 Davis Co. History book or the one published in 1926 by Dillion Payne) Paula Viera, 1474 Kings Crest, Eagan, MN 55122. Ph 612-456-0152

Need info on FAUNCE GIDEON HUGHES MILLER ELLIOTT AND PARKER families of Salt Creek Twp, Davis Co. IA. Sherri Golightly 10834 Sage Park Houston TX 77089 (This is a correction from last newsletter)

Seeking any info on NOBLE family. Where is MARK W NOBLE buried? B. A. Noble, 8913 Lasley Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73127-2942

Seek info on STUMP, John and Louisa, in Fabius Twp 1860 & 1870 Census. Where did they go? Dr Eric C. Stump, 10 South 445 Glenn Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60521-6859

Seek info on BAIRD HALSTEAD HOLLAND PERRY families of Davis Co. IA. Clara H. Luxford, 2841 Mariposa Dr., Terre Haute, IN 47803-1553

Seek info on BROWN, James & Nancy. Lived in Stilesville area. Pat Martin, 2801 Ames Ave., Ponca City, OK. 74604

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Seeking pictures of George & Sarah QUIGLEY. George C Quigley born 3 Sept 1812 in Washington Co., Ohio. Died 3 March 1891 in Drakesville, IA. Sarah Sawyer Piper Quigley born 24 Oct 1812 in Boothbay, Maine. Died 17 March 1891 in Drakesville, Ia. Jack Ross N 7878 Wilding #16 Spokane, WA 99208 Ph# 509-487-7995

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I have alot of information that I would be glad to share on the following family names: (all related to the Davis Co., IA QUIGLEYS) QUIGLEY NEIDIGH PIPER CORNER OLIVER WALKER. Jack Ross N7878 Wilding #16 Spokane WA 99208 Ph# 509-487-7995

### 1996 Financial Report

Beginning Balance 2-15-1996	\$1467.01
INCOME	
Dues	994.78
Contributions	58.00
Library Sales & Film Rental	59.15
State Cost Sharing	<u>129.20</u>
Total	1241.13
Total to be accounted for	\$2708.14
EXPENSES	
Newsletter	434.63
Misc (supplies, copies, P.O. Box)	462.71
Iowa Sales Tax	.28
Books for Library	32.05
History Book Expenses	<u>119.00</u>
Total	1039.67
Balance on Hand 12-12-96	\$1668.47

(Looks like a good year to me. We are ahead of previous year by \$200. Thanks, Alice)

Today, at our National Archives,  
Sanctuary of the past,  
I searched for and found your name,  
Through the mist of ages,  
Or of my happy tears,  
You returned so vividly to me;  
I saw you walking slowly in the midday sun  
From the fields,  
For you saw him approach--  
The census taker.  
Your face is tan,  
And your clothing holds the fragrance  
Of soil, your life, your work.  
Then I saw her too,  
Your wife, standing at the open cabin door.  
She smooths her hair and tidies her skirt.  
Together you answered his questions.  
And for a moment you wondered why,  
But you found pleasure,  
As I did today.  
In each child's name  
And his age, his progress.  
As you counted your brood  
Together with your wife.  
Your eyes met,  
And you exchanged a smile.  
The children gathered close,  
Curious about the stranger;  
I saw Bethia's long, golden curls,  
Richard's plump upturned face,  
Joseph's manly stance;  
And suddenly my thoughts were  
Strange to me.  
For I missed you  
And I longed for our reunion.

by Mary Vickers Hedspeth

**Obituary.**

Through the decrees of an allwise Providence, an honored and respected citizen has passed the threshold of the grave to the great beyond.

Grandmother Vorhis, at her old home near Troy, terminated her earthly pilgrimage December 20, 1894, after almost reaching the 88th mile-stone. She, formerly Mary M. Jones, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in the year 1806. She was married to David D. Vorhis May 9, 1833, and came with him to Illinois in 1842, and to Davis county in 1846. With strong hands and courageous hearts they came among the earliest settlers to make by honest toil a home for themselves and children. In their heroic struggle they endured all of the privations and hardships incident to a life in the new West. Losing her husband June 11, 1857 she exhibited a mother's devotion in a fierce single-handed struggle battling for her children. Of that union had been born nine children, two of whom preceded her to the better land. Of the living W. R. Vorhis, his, Hannah E. Earnest, Gloucester Vorhis, Martha M. Vorhis, Sylvester

in the Kouch graveyard and there consigned them to the care of Him who gained the first victory over death and who hath said, "I am the resurrection and the life." In the hour of bereavement and deep sorrow, blessed in the consolation that none of our loved ones will perish from the heart of Him who hath redeemed us and promised us an eternal abiding place in the palace of our God. Mother Vorhis united with the Baptist church at old Stringtown near Troy in the year 1848. She lived the life of a faithful and devoted Christian and in triumph has gone to the reward of the faithful. While she had been somewhat a invalid for the past two or three months during her last hour she seemed to be enjoying almost if not quite her usual health. In a moment through painless death she entered the port of paradise. She was spared to a ripe old age to become a joy and a comfort to those to whom her hands had so often ministered in the solicitude of an unselfish and devoted love. Deliverance from pain and sorrow and toil and earthly care has ushered her into the joys of heaven to receive the crown which the righteous Judge shall give." May the remembrance of her kindness and exemplary character cheer many on to a better life.

\*\*  
Rest sweet darling one,  
Naught shall disturb thy sleep  
Thy Father's holy will be done  
Though we are left to weep.  
Shed not a holy tear;  
Why should thy heart despair?  
The darling hovers near  
And whispers, "Meet me there."

M. V.

—The attempt to rob the safe at the Exchange bank Friday night is the second of the kind that has taken place in the city within the last year. The first was an attempt to rob the post office. It has been suggested that it would be a good scheme to have the city or some individual get some good blood hounds to use upon such occasions. The plan we think would not be a bad one as we believe it would have a great deal to do with breaking up such work as well as to stop the petty thieving which has been going on in the city for sometime. The thoughts of having a pair of savage blood hounds track a man right to his own door might deter thieves from committing their depredations.

Various opinions exist as to who did the work, some thinking that it was purely local talent, others that it was not. Perhaps the most plausible theory is that it was experts from a distance who were aided by local talent as to the details and surroundings. But whoever did it certainly had not figured well as to the kind of a job they were tackling or they should have looked elsewhere. Mr. Steckel having the best safe in the county and the most difficult to blow open, except the county safe in the treasurer's office.

building was gained through a rear door which opens into the bank back next to N. S. Johnson's grocery, where no one would be likely to notice the burglars in going out or in. A hole was broken into the glass large enough for the hand to be inserted when the door was unlocked.

Once upon the inside the bold work was begun. The door to the vault was blown open, the outside doors to the safe were blown off and the upper inside door blown off. It is quite evident that three shots must have been fired, and that nitroglycerine must have been used as there was no drilling done and no signs or smell of powder.

Nothing was known about the work until Mr. T. P. Bence one of the employees of the bank came up in the morning to open up for business. It was then learned what had occurred during the night. On examining it was found that the vault was badly damaged and the wall of the building next to Mr. Johnson's store was blown out perhaps an inch. The safe is almost entirely ruined although the robbers did not succeed in forcing an entrance to the money box. It will be remembered that a year or two ago Mr. Steckel bought a new safe with a screw and combination lock to the money drawer and it was this part of the safe that the burglars could not get through although they made a desperate effort. The entire contents of the safe aside from the money box, was badly damaged, many papers being blown into bits like a mouse had made nest of them.

The tools which the burglars used were taken from the Wabash tool house and consisted of bars and hammers, which were left in the building. These were obtained by picking the lock to the tool house, by means of the use of a small piece of steel.

Nothing is known as to the time that the robbery occurred except that indicated by the clock which hung on the wall, the hands indicating 1:20 a. m. at which time no doubt the first explosion occurred causing the clock to stop. Allen Berry who lives just east of the bank heard the noise but had no suspicion as to what was going on.

The amount secured by the burglars was quite small being only just what silver was left in the tray at the close of the day's work and perhaps did not exceed \$25 or \$30.

In our Genealogy Library we have several books of newspaper clippings. Some are indexed!!

thing of the weather of the past year, as people often forget to such an extent, that you can often hear one person say that last winter was a very cold winter, while another will remember it as a very mild one. I have taken observations of the weather for the past year twice each day and sometimes oftener.

I will commence as far back as Thanksgiving day 1893. The winter opened that day, November 30th, 1893, with northwest wind, snow and very cold for the season, and continued cold for several days, and then became very changeable, thawing, freezing and rough weather with bad roads until after the middle of December. A rain with thunder and lightning occurred at that time, after which it cleared off, and remarkably fine weather followed. The mercury went down to 4 and 6 degrees below zero several mornings the first of December 1893. After the middle of December, the wind was much of the time from the south, weather clear, good roads and thermometer indicating much of the time from 30 to 50 above, and never below 28 above, until January 22nd, 1894, when it dropped to 6 above. The evening of January 23rd it was 6 below, January 24th and 25th both mornings it was 20 below, then it gradually went up and did not go below zero again during the winter. On the morning of February 24th, 1894, it registered zero, the 23th it was 5 above and on the 25th, 4 above, after which it again went up and a high temperature was prevalent, running as high as 69 one day in March, and several times 60 and above. The summer of 1894 I believe is conceded to have been the warmest we have ever had in this country, and we all know was very dry. The mercury several times during July and August indicated 102 in the shade in the heat of the day, and from 75 to 80 above as late as 10 o'clock at night.

This fall and winter has again been remarkably fine. The mercury has not gone so low as zero yet. We had a little flurry on November 19. Seven above was indicated. Fine weather followed with high temperature until December 27, in the morning. The thermometer registered 6 above, and in the evening 2 above zero; December 28, 3 above, and this morning 5 above; and now, at 7:30 p. m., it is 28 above, and this has been as fine a winter day as any one could wish—weather dry, road as hard as a brick and smooth as a pavement, and hardly a breeze astir. It will be seen by the above that only

Marion township, and Mina Clarkson, of this township. They are nice young people. May peace and prosperity attend them is the wish of "ye scribe."

### Obituary

Lucretia Downing was born in Roscoe township, Davis county, Iowa, September 20, A. D. 1839, and is believed to be the first white girl baby ever born in this county. She was married to Mr. John N. Brumley, July 13, A. D. 1856, at the home of her brother, S. B. Downing. Mr. and Mrs. Brumley settled on a farm about three miles southwest of Milton, Iowa, where they have lived until the day of their death. Her husband died April 12, A. D. 1888. Since then she has lived a widow on the same farm where they at first settled until January 2, 1895, at which time she fell asleep in Jesus. To them were born 9 children, 6 are living, 3 are dead. Five of the children were at the funeral of their mother. The funeral services were conducted by Elder Renfro, of Milton. A large congregation of mourners and friends attended the funeral services. After the funeral her body was buried within one fourth of a mile of where she was born.

John N. Brumley and his wife, Lucretia, joined the church of Christ, July 10, 1859, and were baptized by her brother S. B. Downing, on that day. She was a good wife, a devoted mother and a Christian sister.

Her children, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law are all entitled to great praise for their devotion to their tender hearted loving mother. We mourn but have the bright hope of a better day. S. B. DOWNING.

Mr. Hezzie Van Horn and Miss Eva George were married last Tuesday evening, Rev. J. E. Wilkins officiating.

—Grandmother Townsend, mother to Alex and Millard, died near Drakeville Sunday.

in 3 days in 1894 the mercury went below zero, one day to zero, and the lowest this winter 2 above. Most of this winter it has been so high that a person could be out during the day very comfortably without a coat, especially if exercising or at work. My thermometer hangs on a south open porch, not exposed to the sun nor to the northwest wind.

If this is of sufficient importance for space use it; if not, consign it to the flames. J. M. DUFFIELD.

presence of a large number of friends, after which all that was mortal was borne to the Odd Fellows cemetery in Bloomfield. At the grave the exercises were conducted by the Masonic order, of which the deceased was a member.

Mr. Jennings has had a life of varied experiences. Although born in Morgan county, Ohio, he has been a resident of the state of Iowa for many years. On October 19, 1879 he was married to his now bereaved wife; four children blessed their union, one of whom has gone before to the silent land. For several years he has been a victim of the drink evil, but about three months ago took a course of treatment at Oskaloosa, which removed the appetite. His last sickness continued about two months and a half. During his illness he found Christ as a forgiving Saviour, and was enabled to tell others that he was resigned to the will of God. Although his life had been clouded, it had a bright sunset. May God comfort the widow and orphans and assist us all to make a timely preparation for the day when we shall stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

When our journey is ended may we pass through the gates into the city where the curse of sin shall never come. \* \*

John B. Hamilton was born August 10, 1863, died at Drakeville, January 6, 1895, aged 31 years, 4 months and 26 days. His marriage took place September 9, 1885. His father, one brother and sister, his wife and one daughter survive him. He experienced conversion about forty-eight hours before his death, and spent his latest breath in telling others of the goodness of God.

One peculiar feature of his life, that happens very seldom to the sons of men, was that he was born, married and died in the same room of his father's house in Drakeville.

The funeral was held at the M. E. church on Monday afternoon, conducted by Rev. S. Thero, assisted by Rev. McWilliams of the Free Methodist church, after which he was laid to rest in the Drakeville cemetery. Thus again we are reminded that young manhood is not proof against death.

"Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die and not live." \* \*

—Marriage license have been issued since our last report to Wm. Rudd and Rhoda Corenth, F. G. Pittman and Susan Owens, James Dowis and Mrs. E. C. Wilson.

## Jerry Greene

BLOOMFIELD — Jerry Sanford Greene, 62, of Bloomfield died Dec. 15, 1996, at his home.

He was born Nov. 13, 1934, in West Grove to George Phillip and Ruth Elizabeth Barnett Greene.

He was a resident of Davis County most of his life and a graduate of Kirksville State Teachers College. He was a teacher and taught math in junior and senior high schools in Iowa and Missouri. He was the librarian at the Bloomfield Public Library, retiring Nov. 13, 1996. He served in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the West Grove United Methodist Church, Davis County Genealogy Society, Davis County Fine Arts Council and Alpha Kappa Lambda Fraternity.

He is survived by two sisters, Susan McMillin of Ottumwa and Beth Sullivan of Bloomfield.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The service will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Wagler Funeral Home, the Rev. Leila Disburg officiating. Burial will be in the West Grove Cemetery in West Grove.

Visitation will begin after 9 a.m. today at the funeral home with the family present from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Pallbearers will be Phil McMillin, Frank and Sam Sullivan, Roy Galindo, Steve Gruwell and Kory Klabunde.

Honorary pallbearers will be Deanna Sample, Darrell Kerby, Clinton Hutchings, Archie Rupe, Julian Campbell and Doran Pence.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to the Friends of the Bloomfield Public Library.

## JERRY SANFORD GREENE

BORN

November 13, 1934

West Grove, Iowa

ENTERED INTO REST

December 15, 1996

Bloomfield, Iowa

SERVICES

Wednesday, December 18, 1996

11:00 A.M.

Wagler Funeral Home

Bloomfield, Iowa

WORDS OF COMFORT

Rev. Leila Disburg

MUSIC

"In The Garden"

CASKET BEARERS

Roy Galindo

Steve Gruwell

Sam Sullivan

Kory Klabunde

Phil McMillin

Frank Sullivan

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Julian Campbell

Clinton Hutchings

Darrell Kerby

Doran Pence

Archie Rupe

Deanna Sample

FINAL RESTING PLACE

West Grove Cemetery

West Grove, Iowa

(Well Jerry, I never planned on having to write this article but you've made it impossible for me to get out of it!)

Members and fellow genealogists--we lost a very special person in December. Jerry Greene, one of our societies supportive members passed away in mid December, 1996 and I can't count the ways and times his going is going to be felt. Jerry, was one of our volunteers in the society. He was always willing to help answer questions or help a fellow researcher find just the right place to look for information. His knowledge of research techniques and resources was an ever growing support tool. I was always amassed at how much he could tell you off the top of his head.