

Davis County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume XI, No. 1

Winter 1993

Davis County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 94, Bloomfield, IA 52537
REGULAR MEETINGS: Third Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm, Library basement

1992	President: Sue Spilman	Treasurer: Verle Arnold
Officers	Vice-President: Jerry Greene	Corresponding
	Secretary: Alice Huffman	Secretary: Darrell Kerby

Dear Members,

The Holidays are over and a new year has begun. As I'm writing this we are getting sleet on top of four inches of snow. Winter in Iowa is always unpredictable. I wonder how our ancestors dealt with this weather, the same way we do — one day at a time.

As a new year begins and we plan the coming months, let us take a look at what was accomplished in the past year. Peggy and Verle Arnold prepared Grove, Roscoe and Prairie Townships cemetery records to be sent to I.G.S. for profit-share printing. They have worked very hard this year for the group and deserve a big "thank you" from all of us. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and keep us moving forward. All of you that help in any way are to be congratulated and thanked.

One thing that did not work out last year was the grant we applied for from the State Historical Group. Due to an error on the budget page, we failed to make the list. We are planning to apply again this year. The grant was for the purchase of a new microfilm reader/printer and to microfilm about 3000 probate records. At the November and December meetings we discussed the grant for 1993 and what, if any, project we might want to do. We can just apply for funds to help with purchase of the reader/printer. A new reader/printer is around \$6500 to \$7000. We have received some donations from members for this purchase. They are appreciated and will be put to use as soon as possible.

Well, this is all I can think of right now. I hope that 1993 will be a successful year for your family history research.

D. Sue Spilman
President

DEAR ANCESTOR

Today, at our National Archives,
Sanctuary of the past,
I searched for and found you 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, you life, your work.
The 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 pelasure,
As I did today.
In each child's name
And his age, his progress.
As you counted your brood
Together with you wife.
Your eyes met,
And you exchanged a smile.
The children gathered close,
Curious about the stanger;
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 longed for our reunion.

By Mary Vickers Hudspeth

Submitted by Wanda Stefanc, 2525 N. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, IL 60087:

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APPLE -- W01
ARNOLD -- S02
ATWOOD -- M02
BADRICK -- R01
BALES -- C01
BARNES -- B01
BARNETT -- G01, K01
BATEMAN -- S01
BATTIN -- H01
BENNETT -- 001
BERRY -- S002
BIERSCHENK -- R01
BIRCHFIELD -- S02
BISH -- 001
BLACKBURN -- R01
BLACKWELL -- S01
BLANKENBAKER -- K01
BOATMAN -- K01
BOYD -- S01, W01
BREHM -- R01
BROWNING -- K01
BRUCE -- S01
BRUNK -- 001
BUGBEE -- N01
CARROLL -- C01
CHASE -- 001
CHILCOTE -- S01
CLARK -- T01
COMBS -- S01
CONAWAY -- 001
COONS -- M02
CORRICK -- S01
COY -- H01
CRAIGHEAD -- P01
CRESS/CRISS -- C01
CROUCH -- N02
DAVENPORT -- R01
DAVIS -- B01
DAVIS -- C01
DE LONG -- N01
DEMPSEY -- R01
DEN HARTOG -- G01
DILNER -- C01
DOBSON -- P01
DOUGLAS -- K01
DRAKE -- D01
DUCKWORTH -- 001
DUNBAR -- R01

DUNNING -- T01
EASTMAN -- S01
ELLSWORTH -- B02
FIX -- 001
FOLLOWILL -- K01
FORD -- K01
FOSTER -- W01
FREITAG -- P01
FRENCH -- B01, S01
FULLER -- F01
GANDY -- C01
GARNER -- C01
GASTON -- R01
GEE -- N02
GEORGE -- R01
GIBSON -- K01
GINGERICH -- K01
GOOD -- S01
GOSELINK -- G01
GRAY -- 001
GREENE -- G01, R01
HACH -- R01
HALL -- P01
HAMILTON -- C01, G01, S02
HARGESHIEMER -- D01
HARPER -- K01
HARTFIELD -- R01
HASKIN -- C01
HAWKINS -- W01
HAYDEN -- G01
HEER -- P01
HEMMINGWAY -- K01
HENDERSON -- B01
HERMAN -- D01
HINING -- C01
HINKLE -- C01
HINSON -- S01
HOCKERSMITH -- M02
HOPKINS -- D01, S01
HORN -- M01
HOUSLEY -- R01
HUBLER -- T01
HUFF -- B01
HUGGINS -- F01, W01
JONES -- B01, K01
JUSTIS -- N01
KARR -- H01
KLINGBEIL -- P01
KRANZ -- R01
KRATZER -- K01
KROPH -- K01
LAMBERT -- K01

LANTZ - K01
LARISON - K01
LASLEY - C01
LEACH - N01
LEE - P01
LIMBERG - S01
LOCKHART - N01
LONGFELLOW - B02
LUNSFORD - M01
LYNCH - T01
MAIZE - M01
MARTENY - S01
MATHEWS - C01
MC CLURE - T01
MC CLURG - B01
MC CULLOUGH - S01
MC MAINS - H01
MC MICHAEL - R01
MC REYNOLDS - G01
MEDARIS - F01
MINNICK - B01, T01
MONICAL - G01
MOORE - S01
MORGAN - S01
MORROW - T01
MULKINS - F01
MURPHY - B01
NAIR - S01
NASH - N01
NESBITT - P01
NOBLE - N02
ONEAL - O01
OSBORNE - S01
OWENS - G01
PATTON - K01
PEARSON - F01
PERRY - P01
PHELPS - C01
PICKENS - B01
PIERCE - T01
PIERSON - S02
READ - R01
REDDING - W01
RHOADES - R01
RHOADS - R01
RILEY - R01
ROBERTS - S02, T01
ROTH - R01
ROUCH - C01
ROWLAND - T01
RUNKLE - M02
SAMPLE - P01

SAMUEL - S01
SCARBOROUGH - S01
SCHMINKE - R01
SCHROEDER - P01
SCOVILLE - P01
SEDORE - T01
SHADLE - C01
SHELTON - S01
SKILLMAN - S01
SLEETH - F01
SMALL - S02
SPANGLER - S02
SPURGEON - B01
ST. CLAIR - C01
STRENGER - S01
THARP - G01
THOMAS - T01
TROUT - W01
VAN HORN - S01
VAN SCOY - R01
VEATCH - F01
WALKER - B01
WANDEL - O01
WARRINGTON - C01
WATERHOUSE - K01
WERNING - R01
WHITE - S01
WILEY - S01
WISEMAN - B01, G01
WRIGHT - W01
WYNN - W01
YATES - S01
YOST - W01
YOUNG - B01
ZENAHLIK - R01

HOW WAS DAVIS COUNTY NAMED?

The answer is found in the 1882 History of Davis County, Iowa, pp.325-26

Davis County was named in honor of Garret Davis, at the time a representative in Congress from the Lexington, Kentucky district; and later a United States senator from that State, who became somewhat distinguished in National affairs. The evidence of this fact is contained in an extract from a letter addressed by Dr. John G. Elbert, of Van Buren County, to Capt. Hosea B. Horn, then an old and prominent citizen of Davis County; who, by the way, had given much attention to the traditional history of its early settlements, which he contributed, in 1866, to the Annals of Iowa, The publication of the State Historical Society. The following is the extract referred to and explains itself:

"Mr. James Jenkins and myself were members of the Territorial Council at the time Davis county was organized. The name was adopted at the suggestion of some of us Kentuckians, who wanted to honor a distinguished politician and Congressman, by the name of GARRET DAVIS, of the Lexington, Kentucky, district, who had endeared himself to the West, and was thought worthy of the Honor."

In addition to this fact it appears from the testimony of Capt. J.H. Bonney, who, at the time, was a citizen of Van Buren county, and at the Territorial capital when the act was passed giving to the county the name of Davis, and defining its boundaries; and from David Ferguson, James M. Wray, and other pioneer citizens of this county, that soon after the termination of the conflict between the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa over the strip of territory lying along our southern border, which the former sought to steal from the latter; that those citizens of Iowa who were called on by the Governor of the Territory, and the United States Marshal as militia, to serve in maintaining the rights of Iowa, and in defense of their homes against the unwarranted attempt of Missouri to seize territory which it well knew did not belong to her; thought the Gnereal Government should compensate them for the time spent aned expenses incurred; and therefore forwarded an application to their delegate in Congress, which as presented in the House, and referred to the Committee on Claims, of which Garret Davis was chairman, who reported it favorably to the House, accompanied with a bill providing for allowance of the claims. During the pendency of this bill in Congress, the Iowa Territorial Legislature was in session, and passed the act of February 17, 1843, defining the boundaries of the new county to which it gave the name of Davis, in honor of the distinguished Kentuckian, not more for his statesmanship than for his kindly regard for the pioneer militia who rallied to the service of the General Government whan a portion of its territory was imperiled by a sovereign State. Whether the name of Davis was given to this county upon the suggestion of Dr. John D. Elbert and James Jenkins, members of the Territorial Council at the time it was given, or, because of Mr. Davis' kindly offices as chairman of the Committee on Claims in the National House of Representatives, in championing the claims of the pioneer militia who were called into service, does not clearly appear. Whichever may have been the prevailing reason, on thing appears quite certain, taht Mr. Davis' bill never passed into a law. Neither did the

Territorial militiamen ever receive any pay for their services and expenses from either the General or Territorial governments, however just this may appear to have been.

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Odds and ends about Davis County, Iowa (from 1882 History of Davis County, Iowa)

DRAKESVILLE TOWNSHIP—(pp. 586-7)

First death was a son of Silas Kirk, who died in Section Two in 1843, and is buried in the Breeding Cemetery.

Dr. East was the first physician in the township. He came here from Muscatine, and died in Taylor county, Iowa in 1867.

The first minister was Levi Fleming of the Christian church, and the first services were held in a log school house in Drakesville.

The first school was a subscription school taught by Benjamin Cyler, in Drakesville. He had fifteen pupils. First school house was built of logs in 1845 with donations.

The first weaving of cloth was done by Mrs. Trobridge, who died in Putnam Co. Missouri in 1879 at the age of 69.

The nearest mill in those early days, was at Bentonsport, forty miles away, and all the supplies were hauled from Alexandria, Missouri.

FABIUS TOWNSHIP—(pp. 589-90)

The first birth was John F. Wisdom, was born in September 1843 and deceased at the age of 21. The first female child born was Elizabeth Newton born in 1845.

The first death was Mrs. Lorena F. Kelly, died in November 1843.

First physician was Dr. Warner of Missouri.

First minister was Rev. Dooley, a Baptist preacher.

First School was taught by Emily Cartiss in 1848 or 49.

First election polls were kept open in the same place for Iowa and Missouri.

FOX RIVER TOWNSHIP—(p. 590)

First female birth in the county was Lucretia Downing, September 22, 1840 and a sister of Hon. Sam Downing.

First marriage in the county took place in this township. It was between Thomas King and Harriet Downing, which was solemnized by Israel Kister, March 27, 1847.

First birth in the township was Alexander Downing, a son of A. and Elizabeth Downing, born in October 1843.

The first death occurred in June 1843, Daniel Bane, who is buried in the Harvard graveyard.

The first regular physician was Dr. Selman of Bloomfield.

The first school was a subscription school taught by Thomas King in a cabin owned by T. Junk, in the winter of 1844 and 1845. Tuition was \$1.50 per scholar.

The first school-house was built at Elm Grove, in 1846 by volunteer labor.

The first weaving was done in the winter of 1843 by Mrs. Margaret Gleason.

GROVE TOWNSHIP

Nothing listed

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IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY HOURS—6000 Douglas, Des Moines

Monday through Friday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY—Iowa City

Tuesday through Saturday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Last Tuesday of the month - 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING LIBRARY—Des Moines

Tuesday through Saturday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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In order to better coordinate work among researchers, we are asking you to detach (or photocopy) this section and return it to the Society. These will be kept on file in the library and published once a year in the Newsletter. If you need more room, please feel free to use an additional sheet of paper.

SURNAMES BEING SEARCHED

Name _____

Address _____

TRIVIA

QUESTION:

Before Iowa became a territory in its own name in 1838, it had been a part of what territories?

ANSWER:

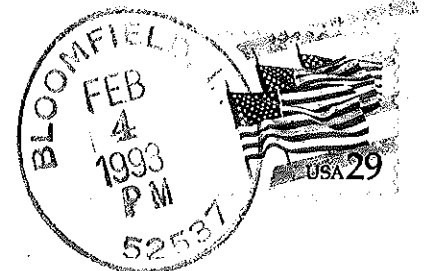
1805-1812, Louisiana Territory; 1812-1821, Missouri Territory; 1821-1834, Unorganized; 1834-1836, Michigan Territory; 1836-1838, Wisconsin Territory; in 1838 the Wisconsin Territory was divided and the western section named Iowa. Out of this, the state with its present boundaries was carved in 1846.

Five years previous to becoming a territory, Iowa had an influx of white settlers, after a treaty with some of the numerous Indian tribes inhabiting the country made it possible for settlements to be established.

—From "News and Notes", Union County Genealogical Society, Union County, Iowa

(Editors note: Please accept my apology for the lines on each page that start out of place. This a new computer and printer(to me) and I can't seem to make it behave at all times.)

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