

DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY
PO BOX 94
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA 52537

VOLUME XVI NO. 4 1998

OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

**DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY REGULAR MEETINGS THIRD THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH. BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

1998 President: D. Sue Spilman
Vice President: Archie Rupe
Secretary: Lana Doll

Treasurer: Dorothy Goldizen
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Goldizen

Dear Members & Friends

As you can see this newsletter is late. I don't know how time gets away from me but it is happening more and more. Does anyone else have this problem?

1998 has come and gone with good and bad. (really profound) I set some goals for our genealogy society at the beginning of the year and I don't know that we met them but we were able to see the end of the road anyway. The WPA Cemetery list is ready to be sent to IGS for publication and the 1870 Federal Census for Davis Co. IA is almost ready. We still need to work on updating cemetery information. Wycondah Twp is the one we have been working on the last few years. We'll make it a goal for 1999.

Two years ago one of our members donated a copy machine to the society when she was getting a new one. It has been a big success with members and visitors. This fall it needed to be worked on—after to the serviceman (who has to come from Des Moines—2 hours away) we decided it could not be repaired. The copy machine was such an asset that the society decided to purchase a new copy machine. It should be in and ready for use by February 1999. The new copy machine will generate money that can be used to purchase new materials for our collection. Come and try it out!

In October, Dorothy Goldizen and I, went on a trip to Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It was great! Dorothy visited family in northern West Virginia and did genealogy research in libraries, cemeteries and talking to family members. I was in Conway PA visiting a friend. Learned how to use the internet, a little. I was able to find some information but what was really helpful was that I was able to find information about two places we were going to stopping at in Ohio, Lancaster Co. and Scioto Co. I can see how people get addicted to "the net". Armed with this information on we went to find courthouses, libraries, and cemeteries. If any one has family in these counties in Ohio the resources are great and the people very helpful. In Scioto Co. courthouse I found wills and probate records dating back to 1804 on my Noel family. Copies are \$1.00 a page but after looking for years for information the price was right. Spent my Mad Money there. At the library in Scioto Co. they have a large area in the basement with the genealogy collection. Many records on individual families as well as general books about Ohio and Scioto Co. The personnel were very helpful and would find things for you that you might

have missed. Found several good leads and names of others researching the same family name. Could have spent several days there but had to get back to work so I could pay for the vacation.

In both libraries you signed in and put down who your were researching. They use the information for other researchers and for information in grant writing. We also have a sign in book at the library and I hope you all use it every time you use the library, whether you are local or from away form Bloomfield. This information is useful in many ways.

If you had family in Ohio it's a beautiful state of rolling hills and winding roads. Get off the interstate and see the country. Dorothy & I thoroughly enjoyed it. Hope to do it again.

Well I've rambled enough for this time. There are a few corrections in the Surname List & Index that you will find elsewhere in this newsletter. I will publish a revised version in the next newsletter so if any of you haven't sent one in do it ASAP. Hope winter hasn't got you down—Spring is coming

D. Sue Spilman President

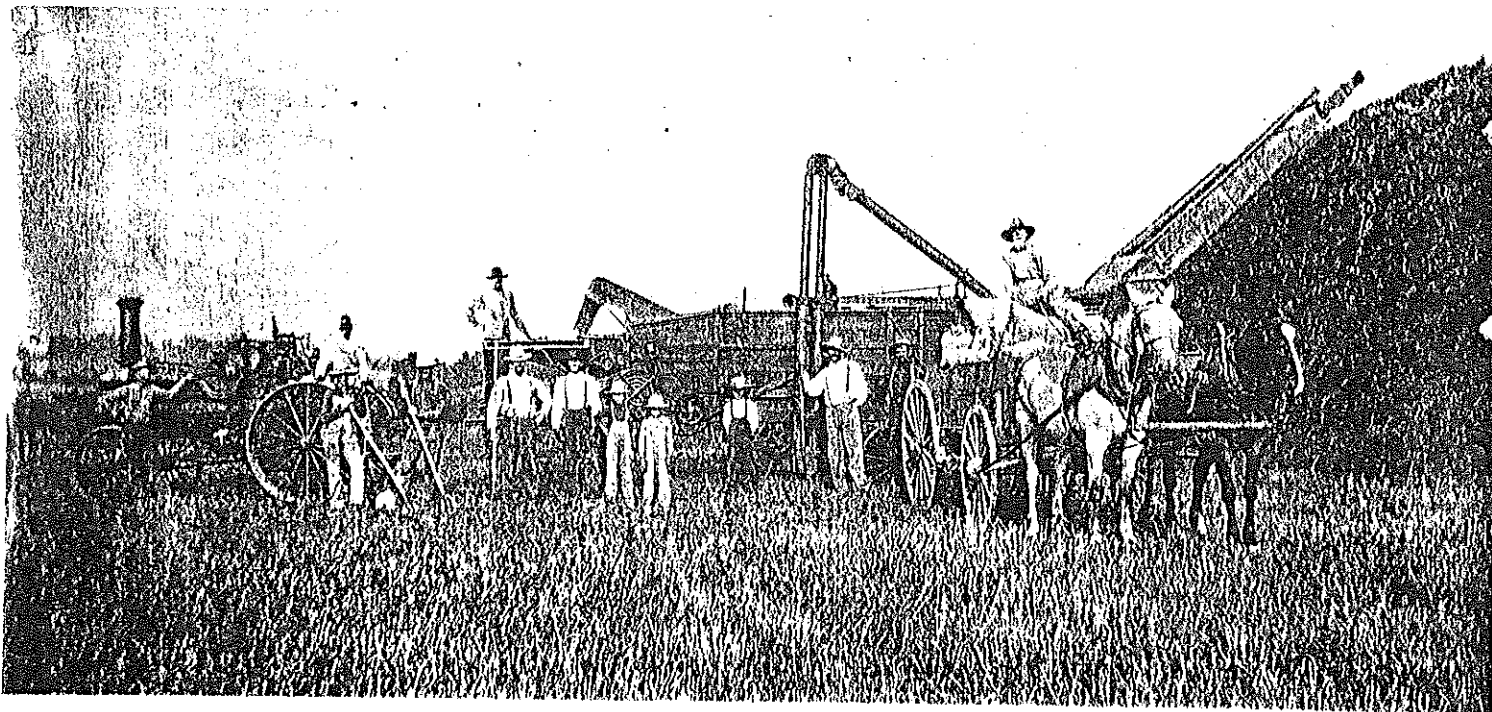
TREASURERS YEAR END REPORT

Balance January 1998		\$2306.83
Deposits for Year		
Dues	\$625.60	
Copy Machine	249.65	
Library Sales	88.79	
Contributions	45.50	
IGS/Cost Share	29.08	
Book Sales	<u>75.00</u>	
	\$1113.62	
		3420.45
Expenses		
Newsletter	\$209.87	
Sales Tax	127.64	
Books for Library	379.96	
IGS Donation	250.00	
Misc Supplies	161.94	
I Care donation	<u>25.00</u>	
	\$1154.41	
Balance on Hand December 31, 1998		\$2266.04

Pages 4-6 are copied from the 1976 Davis County history book—"This is Davis County Iowa" See advertisement for information about purchasing a copy. There are many interesting and informative articles in the book. The reprint that is available for sale is indexed. If you have an original and want an index you can contact the local society or see the last newsletter for information on ordering the index and other materials about Davis County from the Iowa Genealogy Society. Our society gets 40% from every sale.

Davis County Agriculture 1925-1975

by Doyle Schmitter



In 1925 Midwest agriculture was still recovering from the devastating boom-to-bust economy of World War I. In Davis County many farmers had gone through the traumatic experience of losing their land and were once again starting out as tenants on what appeared to be sounder terms. Conditions were slowly stabilizing, and diversified programs allowed farmers to sell enough cream and eggs for living and minor expenses, while cattle, hog, and lamb sales furnished the larger sums for taxes, rent, or mortgage payments.

To supply the needs of World War I, many acres of grazing land had been plowed up, and farmers had neither the money nor the experience to invest in lime and fertilizer to establish seedlings. Consequently many acres of eroded land ended up with little production. The average 160 acre farm had something like this: thirty acres of corn, fifteen acres of oats, thirty acres of timothy and clover, sixty acres of bluegrass pasture, and twenty five acres of timber pasture. The farm could support about six or eight Jersey milk cows, ten to twelve mixed Shorthorn beef cows, thirty head of Delaine-crossed ewes, six or eight crossbred brood sows, and perhaps a hundred Rhode Island Red layers. A gross income of \$2,500 to \$4,000 required every member of the family to be frugal. Because self-subsistence was essential, the farm wife canned five hundred to a thousand quarts of vegetables and fruits and filled the cellar with potatoes, cabbages, and apples. The family might have a battery-operated radio and a Model T Ford for trips to town.

Saturday night in town was a ritual that the family anticipated throughout the week. Work and chores were hurried along so a start could be made before sundown. There was a lineup to wash at the pitcher pump, supper was hurried, then egg cases and cream cans pushed into the Model T. On the way the height of the neighbor's corn, the ripening grain stand, the size of the spring farrowing were all noted and commented on. Parking close to the bandstand presented a problem. Instructions for a fast start home in case of a rain-storm were issued before everyone scattered to go his way. After the cream was tested, the eggs candled, and flour, sugar, and basic commodities purchased, the women folk were ready to go home, but not the men. Each person knew virtually everyone he saw, and the sidewalks were full of friends and acquaintances gossiping, discussing the crops, the weather, family illnesses, or just watching people go by.

Being fully employed on the farm was not the problem that it has since become. Along with the hard labor there seemed no end to the menial tasks. Each farmer grew his own seed corn, and during the drudgery of husking and throwing each ear into the wagon, he tossed the prize ears into a special box on the side. Later these ears were dried on a wire frame, shelled by hand, run through a grader, and stored for spring planting. Plowing with a 14 inch waiking plow behind a team of horses was a slow process, and plowing four or five acres a long, hard day's work. Larger farms needed a 16 inch sulky

riding plow, or, better yet, two 16 inch gang plows with four or six horses strung out for power.

Corn planting was the springtime's most particular job. When "hedge leaves are as large as squirrel ears" it was time to start this meticulous job with a 2 row John Deere wire planter and a span of mules. Planting twenty acres filled the day. Mowing hay with a five foot sicklebar Dain mower and a good team was more relaxed work but after that hay making was pure drudgery. Up in the mow or on top of a stack, the older men with soaking wet shirts carefully distributed one heavy forkful after another.

The first real work for a farm boy (besides riding the hay horse and replanting corn with a hoe) was cultivating corn. A well-broken span of mules steadily pacing the rows was the best at this task, for every hill of corn was important. Even so, there were frequent stops for the boy to reach back with a forked stick and release a plant accidentally covered with dirt.

Horses were so important in the operation of a farm up into the late 1930's that they were almost a part of the family. Many families puzzled over names for their children because the favorite names had been chosen previously for horses. The health of the horses came next to that of family members. Cleaning the collars was a routine daily task, along with inspecting the neck and shoulders. Farmers winced at the thought of putting a collar over a raw shoulder, so the horse was carefully washed and powdered each night to prevent sores. The rapport between man and his horse was deep, and when the time came that an aged or crippled horse must go, not a few tears were shed by the entire family.

Davis County produced a large supply of good horses and mules for farm work and a ready market. William C. Baughman, of Pulaski, one of the early breeders, imported purebred Percherons and I. C. Evans, of Troy, specialized in purebred Normans and Percherons. During this time there were many descendants in Davis County of "Legus", the World Champion Percheron Stallion owned by Singmasters of Keota, Iowa. Later horse and mule breeders were William Brown, Frank Hacker, Eph Young, Ed Pearce, George W. Good, Charlie Pitman and Pearl Spurgeon. George Good was a master at matching heavy horse teams. Eph Young and Charlie Pitman were excellent judges of mules and often would mate colts from Missouri and Iowa. Pearl Spurgeon was one of the first to use artificial breeding with his great Missouri jack, "Limestone", whose offspring was known far and near. Davis County had its share of American Saddle horses, primarily through the offspring of Alva Haney's show stallion, a son of the great "Stonewall King." By the 1970's there were very few work horses in the county but many pleasure and saddle horses. Most young farmers today would not know how to harness a team, let alone hitch them to a wagon!

There were a few scattered so-called "Ames Farmers" in the 1920's, a name applied to the men who had studied at the college in

Ames, or to the more progressive farmers who followed the County Agent's recommendations. The County Agent, normally a young Ames graduate, conducted a kind of Johnny Appleseed operation, spreading the word about corn-corn-oats-clover rotation, neutralizing the soil by liming, clean ground for hogs, balanced rations, culling the laying flock and other programs. The Home Demonstration Agent taught new methods for the homemaker, including cold packing, sewing, and home decorating. It was an important event when the County Agent drove up in his Model T to look over the 4-H calf and talk rotations and modern farming to the father. Van Warner served as Davis County's first County Agent; among the first 4-H club members were Edward Whirret, Orlo Brake and Lowell Wagler. Throughout this period the Extension Service continued its efforts to improve agriculture and rural living.

Many Davis County residents old enough to remember the great depression of the early 1930's have measured the half century of this account by the effects of these bitter years. The memory is as a dark cloud among brighter recollections of life on the farm. Only the hardy could survive when hogs reached a low of \$2.50 a hundred and corn was ten cents a bushel. As if the depression were not enough, the drouths of 1934 and 1936 brought hot, Southwest winds, dust storms, parched fields, grasshoppers, chinchbugs and the despair that accompanies such adverse weather conditions, making these heartrending years indeed. Elm trees were cut down to feed the cattle in parched pastures. Other livestock was sold to the government to be slaughtered and canned for people on the relief rolls. Families considered to be wealthy followed their neighbors in losing their farms, homes, and places of business. The entire series of events was a nightmare of no jobs, no money, no prospects, and no hope.

The Federal government, with Iowa's Henry Wallace as Secretary of Agriculture, instituted new programs to offer some hope for hard-pressed farm families. The first was the Corn-Hog program, an effort to bring supply in line with demand. When the depression opened a gap in the balanced economy, the farmers plowed up extra land and kept more brood sows in an effort to develop enough income to pay their mortgages at the same time industry slowed down production and laid off laborers. The more farmers produced, the less they received in a glutted market.

Along with the Corn-Hog program came the Ever Normal Granary, Farm Security Tenant Purchase loans, Soil Conservation Service, Rural Electric Association, Works Projects Administration and other programs to help a sick economy. The road to recovery was not an easy one, and slow, tedious years lay ahead. Starting in 1934, the Corn-Hog program (later to be called Triple A, Production Marketing Association, Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service) played an important role in stabilizing agriculture. The late Earl R. Hem, one of the original workers in the group, served as Davis County Chairman from 1938 to 1953, longer than any other officer in Iowa.*

After 1935 the Davis County office of the old Farm Security (now known as Farmers Home Administration) loaned millions and millions of dollars to develop local agriculture. It grew to be the largest office in the State of Iowa and one of the largest in the nation with a record of low losses—with no losses, actually, for the past twenty five years. The agency has made a total of fifteen types of loans, covering all facets of farm operations and farm homes from purchasing or refinancing real estate and developing or repairing it to financing livestock and machinery purchases, operating expenses, and conservation work. Later, loans were made to towns to develop pure water and sanitary sewer facilities for rural residents. In 1969 the Town of Pulaski received a loan and grant for water facilities; Drakesville has installed a system to pipe water from Bloomfield.* In Pulaski and Bloomfield, loans for Rural Rental Housing have provided low-cost housing for sixteen of the county's senior citizen families. With an original board composed of Sam Randolph, Chris Stevig, C. C. Hockersmith, and Ernest Younkin, this agency has met many financial needs in the county over the years.**

Even as late as the early 1930's only about five percent of Davis County farm families had electricity, usually a Delco plant. Then came the cooperative Rural Electric Association, which farmers could join for \$5.00. Because everyone had to join, enthusiastic farmers solicited their skeptical neighbors house-to-house to make the project a reality. Utility companies, reluctant to undertake the expense of building lines down long country roads, had convinced many farmers that rural electricity was impractical. It was estimated by stretching the imagination that each farm could use an average of seventy five kilowatts each month. In no time at all many farms were using five or ten times this amount. Rural electricity did as much to change the face of rural America as any other single program.

The bust after World War I and the depression of the early 1930's left many tenant operated farms in all of Iowa, including Davis County. Wagon loads of furniture and machinery, with livestock trailing behind, moving down a muddy road on March 1st was a common

sight. Hundreds of acres were owned by insurance companies and nonresident landlords. Little suitable credit was available for land purchases. The Exchange Bank and Davis Co. Savings Bank were the only ones of the banks in the county to stay open through 1932.

The Tenant Purchase program (through Farm Security Administration) was started in 1939. At first, limited loans at three per cent interest for forty years were made available for young tenants to purchase and develop farms. During the first year's program in Davis County, the farms purchased averaged 165 acres in size at a cost of \$29 per acre or a total cost of \$4,102 per farm. Over the years, hundreds of such loans were made in the county, resulting in the lowest percentage of tenant-operated farms in the state. Perhaps this article, which appeared in the BLOOMFIELD DEMOCRAT in 1940, best tells the story of the new hope given to farmers:

Another important program added a short time after the Tenant Purchase program was the Rural Housing loan. Any town under 10,000 population is considered rural so these loans are now made in Bloomfield. With farm electricity making it possible, many farm homes have been modernized with a new water system. The Government report in 1970 showed Davis County with more new and modernized homes per capita than any county in Iowa.

The Davis County Conservation District was certified in 1944 with Leland McCord as Conservationist, and the first commissioners Pearl W. Spilman, Fred Melvin and Dale Blackwell.* Since 1944, hundreds of farm plans have been developed to conserve the land. The district sponsored the first contour plowing contest in 1947 with Verle Wilkinson, the winner, also competing in the State Contest. Later, the district promoted and developed several watersheds to control flooding and soil erosion. The Soil Conservation Service has been responsible for many miles of terraces, acres of improved pasture, watersheds and over 2,500 ponds, all contributing to guarding the soil and, consequently, increasing production of grain and livestock. Most of the ponds are well stocked with fish, producing recreation and food for local fisherman. Clay Barnett, a native of Davis County known as "Mr. Conservation" in Iowa, served as District Conservationist until he was succeeded on 1958 by Verle Arnold. Other personnel in the office at this writing are Technicians Eugene Francis and Roger Fry with Christine Bolts as District Clerk.

Although dairying has always been an important source of income in Davis County, it took on new proportions in 1959 with the development of the St. Louis Grade A milk market. Two other Grade A markets, Des Moines and Southern Illinois, later started buying milk locally. The rolling land of the county lends itself to the meadow and pastures needed for dairy herds. Many silos have been built in the last ten years to store haylage and corn silage for dairy cattle. Among the dairy operations large enough to require the attention of two families are those of Robert Evans and son, Alva White and sons, Gerald Forsythe and son, Carl Johnson and son, Grant Blackwell and son, Richardson Brothers, Earl Trachsel and son, Frances Dewes and son, Dale Hendricks and son, Ronald Shively and son, Marquis Hougland and son, and Richard Teubel and sons.

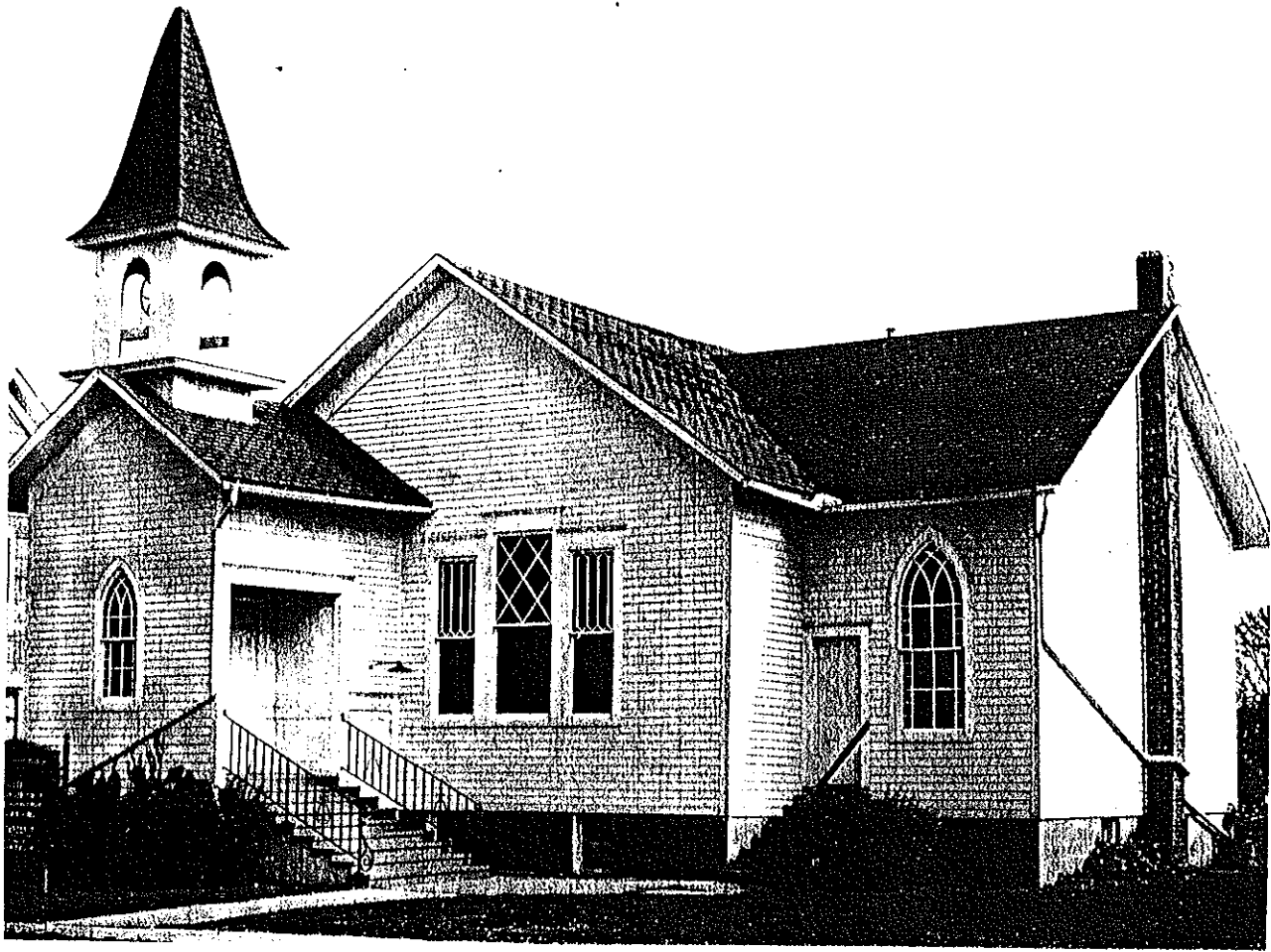
Dairy marketing has changed for the better since 1959 with the development of cooperative marketing associations. The producers not only have a voice in determining distribution, but some strength in bargaining on the prices paid. Dale Hendricks, local dairyman, has been very active in this organization and serves as representative from this area.

Artificial breeding has been a big factor in improving livestock, particularly dairy cattle. Dairy herds are primarily Holstein, and the county contains high producing herds as evidenced by the Dairy

Pearl Spurgeon and his mule colts at Davis County Fair. This picture appeared in National Geographic Magazine in late 1930s.



Pulaski United Methodist Church



The Methodists were the first to build a church in Pulaski. The first sermon preached in Prairie Township was by Rev. Thomas Kirkpatrick in the cabin of William Hardesty in 1839. The first preachers were circuit riders, covering as many as eleven points, and could serve one place only once every two to four weeks, so class leaders were selected and many groups met regularly in homes, in the school house, or in Plank's saw-mill. The school house was the favorite spot for revival meetings because of its size, and it was often full by early candle-lighting time.

By 1870, the Methodists had increased to the extent that a church building was deemed necessary, and on May 13, 1871, J. J. Plank and wife Fannie sold, for the consideration of one dollar, to the trustees of the Methodist Church of Pulaski, a tract of land, one block north of highway No. 2 on main street, where the present church now stands. A frame building 30 feet north and south and 44 feet east and west was erected on a stone foundation. The stone was hauled from Pittsburg, Iowa, by team, and the timbers were native oak. The structure faced the west and had two front doors that were entrances to two aisles that led to the pulpit in the east of the building. The pulpit and seats were solid walnut. The long rows of seats were in the area between the two aisles, with shorter rows on either side. The lights were kerosene lamps, both bracket and hanging. Heat was furnished by two large pot-bellied cast iron stoves, one on each side with stove pipes entering a brick chimney that was built on cross beams in the center of the attic. There were four windows on each side. The choir and reed organ occupied the southeast corner of the room, and the Sunday School primary department the northeast corner. Other classes met in the side rows of seats, leaving the center seats for the congregation coming for church.

On November 3, 1874, when the church had its first resident minister, a tract of land adjoining the church property on the north was purchased by the trustees. A parsonage was built here, which in 1900 was moved east and four rooms added. This served as the ministers' residence until 1947, when the present parsonage was purchased, one half block west of the church.

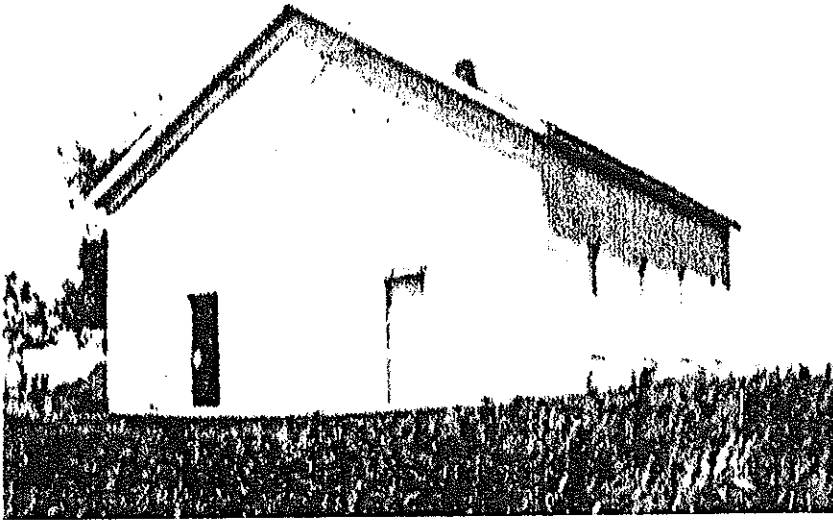
In 1907, the church building was remodeled, adding a pulpit and choir loft on the south, a vestibule on the west, new pews for the auditorium and a new piano. A full basement was put under the building and a furnace installed. A young peoples meeting room was provided in the east part of the church.

Later improvements have been added: an L. P. gas furnace, a well equipped kitchen in the basement, an electronic organ, the open altar, and new lighting in the sanctuary, to name a few.

Numerous name changes have come about in the course of time. The church organization which once was Methodist Episcopal dropped the Episcopal. Then the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren church merged in 1968 and became the United Methodist Church. The youth of the church once known as Epworth League are now United Methodist Youth Fellowship. The women have always been a vital part of the church and their organization's name has gone from Ladies Aid, Golden Links, and Womens Society of Christian Service, to the present United Methodist Women which today has about 60 members in four circles.

The Pulaski church at this time in January, 1975, is a member in good standing of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church with James Thomas as Bishop. There are 155 members and a young minister, Rev. Charles W. Smith, serving this church in the Pulaski community.

The Chequest Union or Dunnville Baptist Church



West view of the first Dunnville Church - ground deeded in 1861 - church built soon after.

According to records obtainable in the Recorders Office of Davis County, the town of Pleasant View was platted on land acquired by Jeremiah Stark from United States Government 1847.

In February 1851 Andrew Dunn became sole proprietor of town Pleasant View, located on the North (1/2) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Northeast (1/4) of Section Thirty Two (32) Township Seventy (70) Range Thirteen (13).

When the first church, presumably a log church, was erected and worship services started isn't known. The church was officially organized in the home of George Aldridge in 1848. Other charter members were: Delaney Swinney, I. B. Stark, Thos. Richeson, Isaac Swinney, Wm. Baker and their wives.

The church was first named Chequest Union Baptist Church and affiliated with Fox River Baptist Association and American Baptist Convention. We can but assume that prior to this, services were conducted by circuit riders. One of whom; Felix Dickerson became the first minister of the organized church. August 30, 1851, 1st Articles of Incorporation, filed by George Aldridge, Elijah Putnam and Andrew Dunn. Trustees of Chequest Union Baptist Church.

The records show on February 5, 1861 Andrew and Sarah Dunn, deeded to George Aldridge, Elijah Putnam, Andrew Dunn, Trustees of the Chequest Baptist Church, lots 5,6,7,8, Block 4 of town Pleasant View, to have and to hold the same for purpose of erecting a house of worship, for use of members of above named church. A two story frame building was constructed with two doors to the east, facing Washington Street. The sanctuary was divided by a railing in the center pews with men using north side, women the south. An outside stairway led to the rooms above the sanctuary. This room was used by a fraternal organization for a number of years.

We are told, due to a fire in the hall above the church the room was closed and stairs removed. When the Wabash Railroad was built the town of Belknap along it came into being and Pleasant View started to die. Some years later the doors were taken off the east of the church and placed in the west end facing the present road.

January 31, 1896, the 2nd Articles of Incorporation were recorded by Boon Swinney, A. D. Rayburn and J. S. Stark, Trustees. The present church was constructed in 1922. On December 4, 1945, the church was reincorporated - signed by J. N. Ware, Paul McMillin and John C. Lough. In 1951 the church was reorganized and a new constitution was adopted with the name, "Dunnville Baptist and/or Chequest Union Baptist Church." Reverend Jack Anderson was pastor at that time.

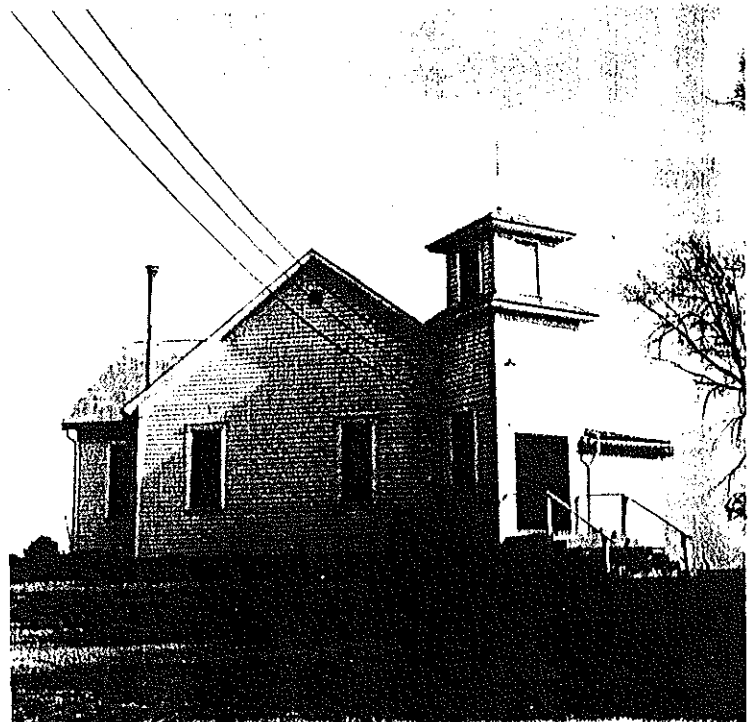
On 28th day of March 1954 New Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Iowa. In 1957 a basement was added and modernization completed. The physical improvements were financed by a "Lords Acre Project", beginning in 1954, on the Vessie Hinkle Farm. The entire community incorporated in the 120 acre project. This project continued to 1966.

In October 1974, Dunnville, although remaining separate entity, allied with five area churches in a greater parish and with Finley Avenue Baptist Church, Ottumwa, in a lesser parish (Adelpha). These steps were taken to provide spiritual leadership, laymen training and youth leadership.

The organized church is now 127 years old. During the last twenty three years the church has received many memorial gifts that were recorded in a Memorial Book kept in the sanctuary. Undoubtedly we have omitted many interesting facts of the church history due to our inability to verify stories told to us.

One interesting sidelight the Town of Pleasant View was for many years known as "Noseville". This nickname was acquired because one of the early residents had an unusually large proboscis.

Dunnville Baptist Church constructed in 1922.

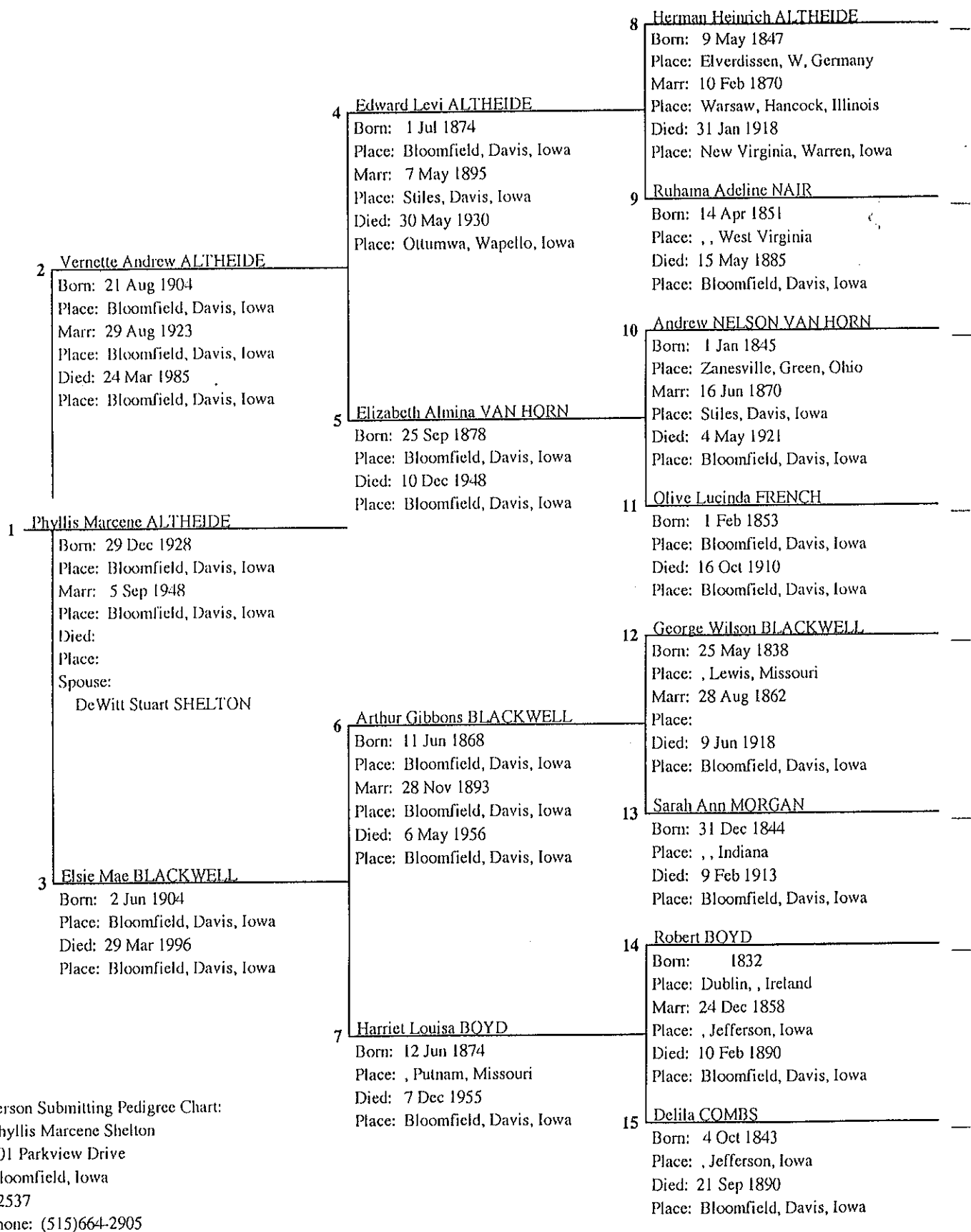


PEDIGREE CHART

Sun, Apr 20, 1997

Chart No
1

Person Number 1 on this chart is the same as no. ___ on chart no. ___



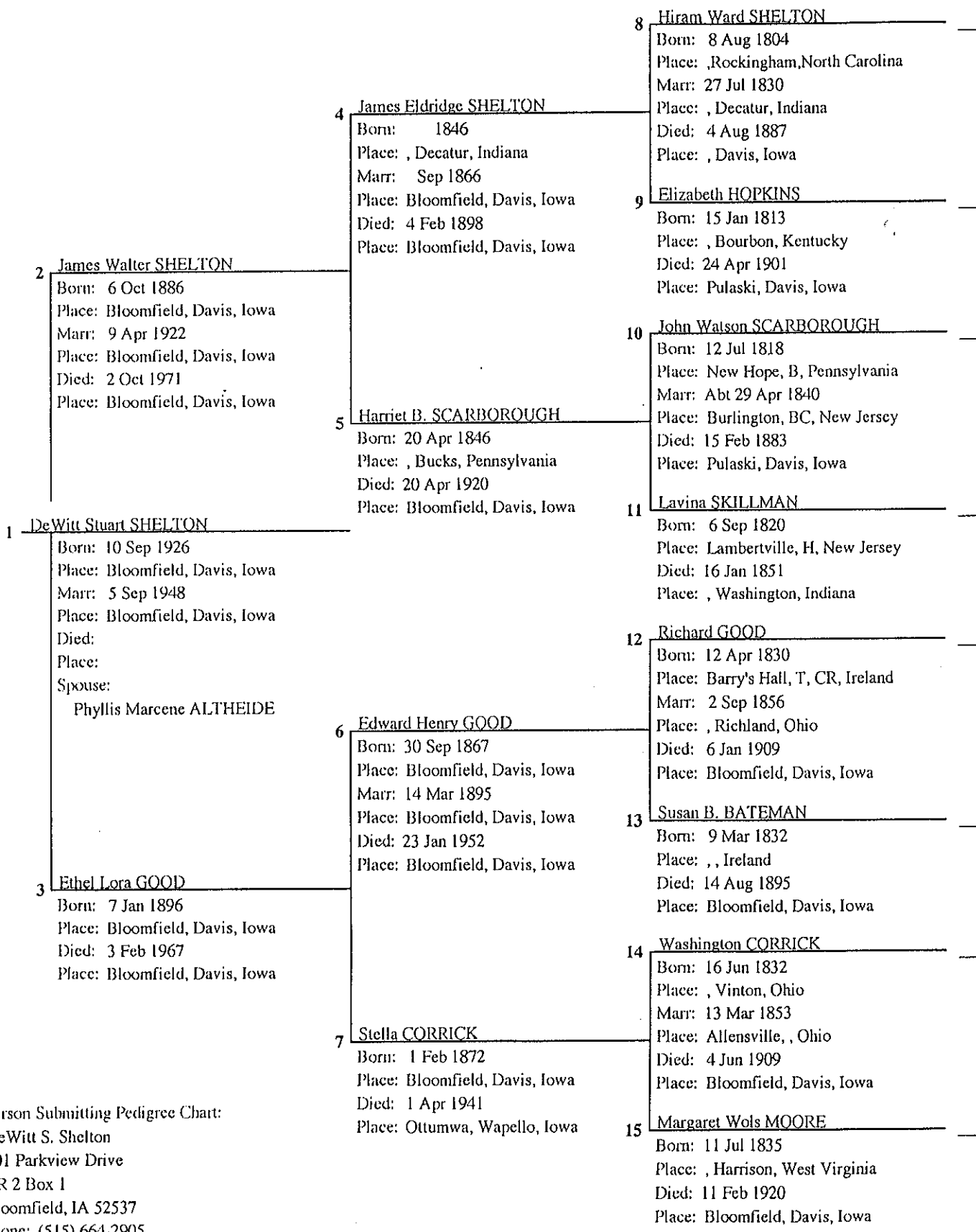
Person Submitting Pedigree Chart:
Phyllis Marcene Shelton
201 Parkview Drive
Bloomfield, Iowa
52537
Phone: (515)664-2905

PEDIGREE CHART

Sun, Apr 20, 1997

Chart No. 1

Person Number 1 on this chart is the same as no. ___ on chart no. ___



Person Submitting Pedigree Chart:
 DeWitt S. Shelton
 201 Parkview Drive
 RR 2 Box 1
 Bloomfield, IA 52537
 Phone: (515) 664-2905

FOR SALE
REPRINTS OF 'THIS IS DAVIS COUNTY IOWA'
1976 HISTORY OF DAVIS CO.

LESS THAN 15 LEFT
\$75.00 INCLUDES SHIPPING & TAX
SEND ORDERS TO D. SUE SPILMAN
401 ARKANSAS AVE BLOOMFIELD IA 52537

CORRECTIONS TO SURNAME INDEX & LIST

There were two G03. The correct one is Sandra Glantz 1337 A St Napa CA 94559-1651. Her names are: Bruce, Corrick, Drake, Helms, Hickman, Keeling, King, Morrow, Smith, Songer, Turner. The other G03 was Pam Gill 14 Hickory LN Foley MO 63347. She is now G04.

The next error was S06, two of these also. Now S06 is D. Sue Spilman 401 Arkansas Ave Bloomfield IA 52537. S07 is Gwen Strong 1823 High Des Moines IA 50309. Names for S07 (Gwen Strong) are: Jarvis, Nash, McGee, and Noggle.

Sorry for the errors, hope when a print them this year you can correct old copies or throw them away and just use the new listing. I will be publishing the Surname Index and List in March 1999 so if you have not sent your surnames in do so if you want them in this list.

QUERIES

I would like to exchange information with theses researching the **LOSEY, YOUNG, and FOUTS** families. Mamie R Way RR 1 Box 57A Fairmont OK 73736.

Seeking final resting place and death record of my grandfather **Lewis Milton Russell**, son of W. M. and Sarah Jane Russell of West Grove, Davis Co. IA. Lewis (Louis) Milton was b ca 1861 near West Grove, IA, married **Nora Mahala Whitacre** 26 July 1901 by M. Downing, Minister at West Grove. Last known residence of Lewis Milton Russell in 1925 was south east of Russell, Lucas Co., Washington Twp IA. According to this son-in-law Bruce B. Watts, Lewis Milton Russell died in 1932. Robert E Spear, 2407 25th St. Everett WA 98201-3114

Who was Sarah Francis? What happened to her? Could she have been wife number one of Lewis Milton **Russell** of West Grove IA, between 1880 and 1895. Accordingly a genealogist have given me a list of births for Davis Co. IA before 1900. Included was these children births all with same parents names: Female b 1 Nov 1882 to Sarah F. & L.M. Russell; Boy b 23 March 1886 to Sarah Frances & L.M. Russell; Harry Russell b 19 Aug 1888 to S. F. & L.M. Russell; Girl b 28 Feb 1892 to S. F. & L.M. Russell. Then there is a newspaper obit that states that Edmond Carlisle Russell died ca Dec 20th 1906 at the parent home, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Russell at the age of 20 yrs. Services conducted by elder M. Downing, buried at Bloomfield South Cemetery. Edmond Russell could have been child #2 b 23 March 1886. Does anybody have any information about the above person? Robert E. Spear 2407 25th St. Everett WA 98201-3114.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR ¹⁹⁹⁹~~1998~~. REMEMBER THE MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$7.50 FOR THE YEAR.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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: _____

Davis County Genealogy Society
P O Box 94
Bloomfield IA 52537

Need new
911 Address
if you have
ONE