DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 94

BLOOMFIELD, IOWA 52537

VOLUME XV NO. 2 1997 APRIL MAY JUNE

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

1997 Officers
President: Patricia Howk
Vice President: D.Sue Spilman
Secretary: Lavon Davis
Treasurer: Alice Huffman
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Goldizen

Dear Members and Friends

This finds our county busy with getting ready for RAGBRAI. Many areas have been cleaned and painted, curtains, and flower boxes hung, flower beds planted and plans made to make our town match its slogan, Bloomfield--Iowa's Best. The theme is--There's No Place Like Bloomfield.

I am in the midst of helping to plan my 35th class reunion for Aug. 2. We have only missed finding 2 people of the 125 needed. Not bad! By using the Internet one of the committee verified or located the needed addresses.

With everything else going on the Davis County Fair is July 9-13 and the Drakesville Old Soldiers and Settlers Reunion is July 24-26. Hope you can attend and enjoy seeing and visiting with friends. There are many changes at the fairgrounds.

Pat Carr and Rowene Clark from the Wapello Co. Society have volunteered to come to Bloomfield to help in the genealogy room at the Library during RAGBRAI July 24th. If any of the local members can help it would be appreciated. The library will be open longer hours so more help will be needed. Call if you can help. Days 664-1863 Nights 675-3490.

It has been brought to our attention that the microfilm reader sometimes gives problems and the patrons using it are less than polite to the Librarians! It is not library property so they are not responsible for it. They are helping you with it as a courtesy. Please be POLITE! One of our members said the machine "likes tender care" as it tends to be touchy. The librarians will get in touch with us if it gives trouble, so tell them nicely. We apologize if you've not been able to use it on your visit.

The IGS is asking that we make a list of "pioneer cemeteries". It is one that has had less than 6 burials in the last 50 years. If you know of a cemetery meeting these requirements, please let us know. It will save many hours of research if you can. May be you'd like to check all cemeteries in your township??

We have ordered a new book, Ex-Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Living in Iowa in 1888, from the Decorah Genealogy Society. It should arrive in the spring of 1998. Our reprint of the 1976 Davis County History has not arrived, but has been promised for this month. Patience is a virtue and those who ordered the book have much. Thanks!!!

We have received several ancestor charts, but are still lacking many. Would you like to see these in a booklet form?

DON'T FORGET MEETING NIGHT 3RD THURSDAY OF MONTH BLOOMFIELD LIBRARY

QUERIES

Seeking information: **Eliza J. Herron**--Dec. 8, 1839 to Jan. 15, 1916. Buried: Blakesburg, IA Victor Fitzgerald RR 3 Box 9 Bloomfield, IA 52537-9502.

Seeking Information: **Thomas & Elizabeth Higdon** 1850-1860-1870 Census, Green Township, Wapello Co. Their address was given as Point Isabel, IA. Victor Fitzgerald RR 3 Box 9 Bloomfield IA. 52537-9502

Seek early church records of South half of Davis County for information on **McClurg and McCullough families.** Mamie R. Way RR 1 Box 57A Fairmount, OK 73736-9726.

Want to correspond with anyone researching **Henderson, Fouts, Archibald, Moyer, Stump, Mendenhall, Macy, Evans, Starr, Whitesell, Powell, Yates, Rawlings, Neil, Enlow, Hockersmith, Byrd, Newell, Lewis, Losey, Pierce, Burgher, Smith Kerby, Hollett, Miner, Petty, Daugherty, & Cottrell families** of Davis County, IA. Mamie R. Way RR 1 Box 57A Fairmount, OK 73736-9726.

Anyone researching: **John & Jane Macy** & daughters, **Anna M. Macy & Nora Macy. Alfred Allen Macy** & wife, **Nancy A. Macy** and their children **Sherman R. Macy and Nora A. Macy. Oliver Macy and wife Agnes Landes.** Mamie R. Way RR1 box 57A Fairmount, OK 73736-9726.

Anyone researching: Family of **John B. & Susan Mendenhall**. Their children were Oscar, Zellaetta, Lucille, John W., & George W. Mamie R Way RR1 Box 57A Fairmount, OK 73736-9726.

The following 7 queries are submitted by Pam Gill 14 Hickory Ln. Foley MO 63347
I am seeking any information on the following:
Franz Jacob Hem(m)-b.1 May 1808, Germany. Died 1 Feb 1923, Davis Co. IA Marr. **Elizabeth ?Wesley/?Westrich 1835**. She was b. 1808 Germany. Died 17-oct 1880. Married 2nd to **Clara Belk** 30 July 1881. Children from 1st Marr: Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Francis, Jacob, Caroline, Margaret. Child from 2nd Marr: Leo G.

John Edward Lynch B. 1845/7, Iowa (?parents William & Delilah?) Married **Melissa Nupp** (parents Jacob Nupp & Hannah Hottman) She married 2nd Samuel Carter. Known children of 1st Marr: Leona, Lorah, Orpha?, James, Thomas, Children of Melissa's 2nd marr: Fred, (?)Orpha, May.

Thomas Albert Vaughn B. 7-oct-1839, Ohio; Died 28 Sept 1909, Davis Co. IA. Married 23 Nov 1862 **Keziah Payne** B. 12 May 1846, Woodfield, OH. Children: John Henry, Eliza Jane, Meary Belle, Margaret Nettie, Sarah Eva, James Albert, Lutecia Elizabeth, infant son. Brothers of Thomas: Irvin, William H. Parents of Keziah: Leander Payne & Meary. Siblings of Keziah: John, Mary, Leander. Possible 2nd husband of Keziah's mother Meary--Jacob Heidelbaugh.

Peter F. Noel B. 3 Oct 1816, Sciota Co. OH. Died 4 Aug 1898, Davis Co. IA. Married: **Rachel Downing** 15 Jan 1842, Sciota Co. OH Rachel Downing B. 23 Feb 1824, Adams Co. OH. Her parents Mesheck & Rutha Butler Downing. Children of Peter & Rachel: Philip A., Tharmuthus, George Wesley, Isa Dora, Bartholomew, Mesheck, Van Dexter, Bertha M.

Mesheck Downing B. 22 May 1792, Died 22 Nov 1873. Married **Rutha Butler** 17 Feb 1814 Adams Co. OH Children: William, Robert B., Joseph/Josiah, Rachel, John Herdman, Mesheck. Parents of Mesheck--William & Susannah Downing.

Jacob Minus Jackson B. 12 May 1830, Worchester Co. MA Died 9 Oct 1900, Davis Co. IA Married **Rachel W. Bell** 25 Apr 1852, Van Buren Co. IA. I am particularly interested in any information on Rachel W. Bell Jackson.

WEST GROVE TOWNSHIP

Population in 1880, 1093. This township lies partly in four congressional townships, and the reader is referred for a fuller description of its location, to the chapter on township organization. It was named from *Dead Man's Grove*, where the remains of a murdered man were found, in the early settlement of the county. This township contains 23,1871/4 acres of land, and is divided into seven school districts.

One of the first settlers in this township was Jeff Hockersmith, who settled hee in the spring of 1848, and laid out a land warrant on section 25, where he has since resided.

The first marriage in the towship was Roland sout to Jane Beard.

The first birth was Grady Hockersmith, born September 5, 1848.

The first death was John Owens

The first physician was Dr. Selman, of Bloomfield.

The first minister was Rev. Dooly, of the Baptist Church.

The first school was taught in a log cabin, built by donation, by Jack Grady, J. Hockersmith and others.

The first teacher was Dick Rawlins.

West Grove

The town of West Grove was surveyed by Major William H. Cheever, on the sw qr sw qr sectin 35, township 69, range 15, and nw qr nw qr section 2, township 68, range 15 on the 20th day of November, 1853. The land was owned by E. H. Sawyers, known as "Uncle Peek".

This town is located on the Burlington and Southwestern Railroad, about nine miles southwest of Bloomfield. It is now a thriving town and growing steadily, and is surrounded by a splendid country.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Of West Grove, was built in the summer of 1881. It is a good frame building, costing about $1500. It was dedicated by Rev. T. R. Lester, of Cedar County, and the pastor is Rev. H. W. Bryant. This church was organized in October, 1845. The present membership is about 118.

The Christian Church

of West Grove, was organized about the year 1870, whith the following original members: I.N. Short and wife, E. L. Field and wife, E. L. Baldridge and wife, Joshua Eastburn and wife, and Mrs. Benjamin Morris. They occupy a fince frame church, built in 1873, costing $1000. Rev. J.T. Black was the first regular pastor. The succeeding pastors are S. B. Downing, Moses Downing, M.M. Boyer, J. Northcut, Elder Carr, Elder Norton and Elder Samuel Josdan. The present membership is about 40.

This information is copied from 1882 History of Davis County, Iowa.

TOWN OF WEST GROVE LONG AGO

West Grove got its name from an old horse thief who was hanged a short ways north of the town, his name was Grove.

Now come along with me we'll go across the road, (we are at the school house now). Now all of Egberts barn lot was a huge pond. There was a brick kiln where they made brick and a big grain mill over where people took their grain to have it ground as everybody raised their own grain for their bread. There was a big waterwheel that ran the mill and about one fourth of the pond was fenced off so we couldn't get in this big wheel, but the rest of it we could skate on and everybody ice skated in those days.

I have gone with my wonderful old Grandfather to this mill, he'd back up his wagon to a platform and unload his grain and when it was ground they'd reload it for him.

Then to my understanding the long part of the house setting here west of the school house was the first lumber school house. More has been added on.

Oh! It wasn't the first school house West Grove had, the first one before my time was a log one. There was another house south of it, then on down the railroad track west, where Debbie keeps her ponies was a different house and oh such a beautiful place, all flowers and children. This old house had a fireplace to cook in. Then come along west of that house was a new house where a young fellow had prepared for his new bride, a neighbor girl, finally the old house was town down and the new house worked into the house that stands there today.

We are still going west to where the house stands out there on the south side of the railroad. There was a lovely old white house and so many pretty flowers and fruit. Now here we go across the railroad. Are you all following? There's lots to see if you could only see it with my eyes.

Right west of where the crossing goes over to this house sit a wonderful nice Wabash depot. An Oh, such a busy place as there were 8 passenger trains daily. Hauling passengers, mail and express that was besides all the freight trains as the Wabash used C.B. & Q. track from Moulton to Ottumwa and the C.B. & Q. came on at Bloomfield. Then wondered off to Missouri from Moulton. You see there wee no automobiles and no way to go anyplace of any distance only by train. This depot was landscaped and was a very pretty sight when the flowers were out.

Now beginning with Mrs. James there was a house on that corner then, an old house were Mrs. James lives. Then a big sawmill across the road from Rick Harper's south where the farmers for miles around brought their logs to have their own lumbers sawed to use for their buildings. Now back up and across the road north from Mrs. James house there in that corner sat a nice little white Christian Church. Now on down to rick Harper's house, that was a little house and the old fellow who lived there kept a horse and buggy, and would drive the salesmen to Drakesville, Mark, Monterey or Bunch as I have mentioned no cars and no way of getting from one train to another.

Now we'll go across the road and go over to Ralph Harris. That was the Wabash depot and do you know one room upstairs has murals on it, but papered over now, one of the boarders years and years ago painted them on his room while he boarded there. Then in the corner east of Ralph's was our own C.B. & Q. depot. The house that sits south of the tracks was moved from north of the depot over here.

Now here we all go back to the highway and Flossie Robinson's. There was an old veteran living there. Of course a different house. Then a small house when Rev. Tan lives east and across a bridge and barns and so forth and on the corner north of Pam West's was another nice old home. Destroyed by fire this was an old soldier and was a prisoner in Andersonville Prison. Now its belongs to Bob Barnett and Mable Barnett. There I had some little friends, across the road east and where Arnold's live my Grandfather lived, then east was another house and on that corner West of the lumber yard was big poultry packing (plant) the days work in barrels with ice, and shipping to Ottumwa. We had ice houses in West Grove as you know there wasn't electricity and no other way of keeping anything. Then across the road where the lumber yards are, that whole square was stock yard pens, scales and feed bins. On Sundays and Tuesdays the stock was driven in on foot and loaded out on great big freight trains, everybody helping and such a noise. There was a nice home where the park is on the

south side between the road and railroad. There never was any buildings where the township hall now stands but across the road west of a nice house in the corner there, then a different one where Morrison's live. Mrs. Arnett's in that southwest corner, a very nice insurance office, then across west and to Botts' that was the Presbyterian parsonage on up to Goldizen's.

There was a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where we all went for years and years to Sunday School. Now here we go down a hill across a bridge and to the house across for Flossie's which wasn't the same house. He we are coming back down the highway directly north of Mrs. Harpers house sat a big old stage coach Inn. Where the coaches could unload and feed and water horses and stay the night if need be. Here I must tell you about the Inn. It was 6 rooms downstairs and 3 up. Three on the north and three on the south side, the middle room on the north had a window and door and there's where the people registered. Then on the east of that a great big dining room and a fireplace. On the west was what you call now the lounge and it was big and spacious and held another big fireplace. Then the kitchen on the southeast, bedroom and the southwest and an open room in the middle on the south where the blankets and saddle bags and luggage was kept. Do you know Debbie lives in the Stagecoach Inn. Oh, it has been made over for the original so many times that few knew how it originally was, but I lived there 70 years ago.

Here we are down to the blacksmith shop and Sowells, where there was an axe handle factory. On across the street in the corner across from the blacksmith shop was a nice little office belonging to the doctor. His home was where Haskell's lived. Then on east the doctor's barn, as there was no way to make his calls only by horse back or buggy. Then a big ice house. Where McMillin's live was all maple trees and the people tapped them and made maple syrup in the spring time. There was lovely home facing east on that road that fire destroyed.

Across the road east the post office, Weeping Willow was established June 21, 1852 and closed down after 107 years in 1959.

Then east two nice big stores, first there were grocery stores but years later a new store was put up where McMillins burned and one of these handled hardware. Over the east one was the Old Fellow and Rebecca's lodge. Over the other, the ladies of the Methodist Church used it as their place to serve meals and they had no basement then. All this laid on the north side of your own new park. There was a lovely home in the corner, northeast and across the road east was a big creamery where the farmers brought their whole milk and it was separated and shipped out that evening to Ottumwa, so no spoilage. Then the haulers returned the separated milk to the farmers on their way home. All these were destroyed all by fire. Sawyer's is still as it was when I was growing up and as I told you Wally's (Henderson?) home is made from the Inn as they bought it, tore it down and rebuilt it.

Where the church is was the old Presbyterian Church, the first one in town as I understand it.

Our cemetery was started by a brother-in-law of Andrew Sawyer's coming to visit him and passed away. The buried him in the cow pasture and that's the start of our lovely cemetery, where so many old pioneers now lay sleeping. In later years there was a nice bank, and new stores and then the south side perked up. A big new store, grocery and dry goods, Robinson Brothers. Then the new hardware store and post office, Barnett's garage and a big long Livery stable by the Harris Brothers, then came the lumber yard, Howard & Harper.

Now today where has it all gone. There has been some wonderful people in my time down there in the old town and when I visit the cemetery so many of them are there.

Given by Bonnie Harris to the 7th & 8th
grade students at the West Grove School
May 5, 1966

I will tell you about the first auto I ever saw. In my childhood everybody had big families and the bigger children cared for the smaller ones and it was nothing unusual for the older girls to go along the rail fences and get out supply of wild berries, blackberries, gooseberries, elderberries or what ever was in season. So the neighbor girls and my older sister and our little sister were picking gooseberries north of West Grove and coming from the east we heard this terrible racket. We, of course, though it was horses running away as that was an every day occurrence in those days. You should have seen us getting ourselves over the fence and to safety. But when it came in sight and started up the hill toward the cemetery it was a high wheeled buggy, no horses. Two men got out and pushed and one drove it up the cowpath of a road. My first auto and Oh! So scared! How times have changed.

Ancestors of Franklin Dean Jarvis

Franklin Dean Jarvis
b: April 04, 1945 in Bunch, Iowa
m: May 08, 1966 in Lancaster, Missouri

James Isaac Jarvis
b: March 28, 1904
m: August 06, 1921
d: September 06, 1959

William Franklin Jarvis
b: October 22, 1869 in Near Stiles, Davis County, Iowa
m: April 29, 1899 in Davis County, Iowa
d: August 06, 1955 in Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa

Peter Thomas Jarvis
b: March 08, 1846 in Putnam County, Indiana
m: December 08, 1867 in Stiles, Davis County, Iowa
d: February 1919 in Oswatomie, Miami, Kansas

Elizabeth A. Lyons
b: January 20, 1849 in Indiana
d: February 03, 1872 in Davis County, Iowa

Mary Catherine Foster
b: October 27, 1872 in Davis County, Iowa
d: March 28, 1943 in Davis County, Iowa

Alonzo Tinsley Foster
b: August 27, 1842 in Randolph County Missouri
m: September 27, 1868 in Davis County Iowa
d: November 21, 1901 in Paris Twp. Davis County, Iowa

Lucy Ann Noggle
b: April 16, 1852 in Wapello County, Iowa
d: May 19, 1925 in Davis County, Iowa

Irene LaRue Arnold
b: April 28, 1904 in Davis County Iowa
d: January 22, 1978 in Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa

Thomas Jefferson Arnold
b: July 27, 1878 in Near Monterey, Davis County, Iowa
m: March 09, 1904 in Davis County Iowa
d: April 23, 1929 in St. Joseph Hospital in Ottumwa, Wapello Co. Iowa

William Thomas Arnold
b: October 02, 1840 in Illinois
m: April 03, 1870 in Davis County Iowa
d: June 16, 1904 in Wyacondah Township, Davis County, Iowa

Margaret Ellen Kirkpatrick
b: October 25, 1846 in Pennsylvania
d: July 28, 1878 in Iowa

Suzanne Virginia Johnson
b: February 26, 1886 in Monteray, Davis County, Iowa
d: October 31, 1952 in Troy, Davis County, Iowa

John Henry Johnson
b: January 25, 1864 in Monteray, Davis County, Iowa
m: November 19, 1885 in Davis County Iowa
d: December 01, 1931 in Monteray, Davis County, Iowa

Martha Ann Barnes
b: December 04, 1864 in Monteray, Davis County, Iowa
d: August 01, 1918 in Monteray, Davis County, Iowa

Prepared By:
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Fairfield, Iowa 52556-8840

Phone(s): 515-472-5706

THE REGISTRATION FORM . . . . . .

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES: Please indicate which session(s) you will attend:

	IGS Member	Non-member	Total
Full registration (includes all lectures, 2 continental breakfasts, 2 lunches, and banquet)	_____ $72	_____ $87	$ _____
Friday activities (includes continental breakfast and lunch), without banquet	_____ $33	_____ $43	$ _____
Saturday activities (includes continental breakfast and lunch)	_____ $33	_____ $43	$ _____
Friday banquet only	_____ $14	_____ $17	$ _____
Late fee (if postmarked after September 30, 1997)	_____ $10	_____ $10	$ _____

1998 IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP:

Membership payments are due by December 31, 1997

___ New ___ Renewal ___ $25 Single ___ $29 Family $ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _____

Total refunds will be honored for cancellations postmarked by Thursday, September 30, 1997. After September 30, a 50% refund will be allowed.

- Please circle the letter(s) below for the workshop(s) you will attend:

  Friday: A B C D **Saturday: E F G H I J K L M N**

- ☐ If special assistance is needed (i.e. accessibility, dietary, etc.), please check box. We will contact you to discuss arrangements.
- Please send this registration form and conference fees to:

  "Family Ties" Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322-7735
- Questions? Contact Judy Killion Weber, IGS 1st Vice-President, 306 SW 4th Street, Greenfield, IA 50849-1311, (515) 743-2448
- ☐ CEU's are available at the conference for a small fee. Check box if you are interested.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1997. 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 Soc.
P.O. Box 94
Bloomfield, Ia. 52537