

# Davis County Iowa Genealogy

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## From the President

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Do you as a member have anything you would like contributed to the newsletter?  
Contact Sue Spilman.

2005 Meetings  
Jan, Feb, March  
3rd Saturday 1PM  
April 14  
May 19  
June 16  
July 21  
August 18  
Sept 15  
Oct 20  
Nov 17  
December  
Meeting will be announced

The Davis Co. Genealogical Society was organized in January 1974 with six charter members. Membership has held steady in the past 30 years. In April we started with plans for the County Fair exhibits. For the second year, we had a good number of entries and they were of excellent quality according to our judge, Jay DeYoung of New Sharon. We were asked to help with organizing the County Cemetery Preservation Commission. We helped set up, supplied handout materials and furnished refreshments. Three of our members are now township commissioners of that group. We continue to help promote the preservation of the cemeteries as well as the burial information. We have 2 CD's for sale CD1 1870 Census and WPA Cemetery Records, CD2 Probates, Wills, and Marriage

Records, & The Drakesville Cemetery Inscriptions are ready now. Also the reprinted indexed 1882 Davis Co. History books are for sale. We are preparing to reprint the 1924 Pioneer History of Davis County by Dillon Payne with an index and hope to have it ready in the Spring of 2005. These items are listed on the website below, call or write for ordering information. We purchased the War of The Rebellion collection from the Public Library, with money from the Victor Fitzgerald memorial. A plaque was purchased and then mounted by member Wayne Richardson. In August we cleaned the dust from the genealogy room. Materials are rearranged and easier to use. In September a small group went to the Iowa Genealogical Society Library in Des Moines for a day of research. We

## New Collections

A shoebox holds the organized Eulogy cards donated by Rev Quinton Johnson. Many Surnames, and some obits attached. These are a new treasure for researchers. Indexing is continuing on the newspaper clippings, and the Library has given ownership of the bound newspaper books to our society.

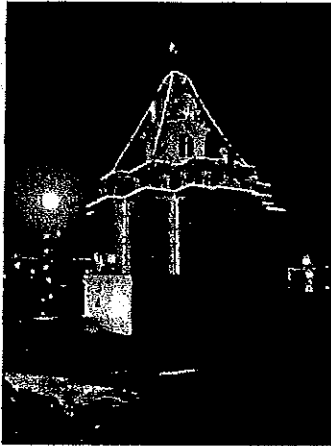
## Annual Meeting



## A Year in Review

stayed for their evening program with a professional storyteller.

There have been many changes in the way research is done, but the biggest is the computer and the Internet. Pencil and paper still have a place in the process as the information on the Internet has to be verified. Again, the information received needs to be verified. Old records still need to be read individually and they are sometimes in very poor shape. We do research for others that have connections to Davis County as well as watch out for information for our



Davis County Courthouse

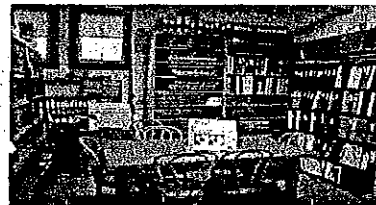
members.

Our last meeting of 2004 was December 16 at Auntie Granny's on the square. A beautiful night as the courthouse and square were lit with Christmas lights. The evening meeting included election of officers and sharing of precious mementos. Our first unofficial meeting in 2005 will be Jan 15, 1 PM, this time is to further update our collections. Please send dues to P.O.Box 94 Bloomfield, IA 52537 - \$7.50 includes the newsletter sent quarterly. Regretfully, as of December 1 we will be keeping the Genealogy room in the Library closed except for the hours it

## A New Year Begins

will be manned by our members. We will be doing a physical inventory soon. The collection is owned by the Society and needs protection from those less caring. The new hours will be 1-4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and 10-2 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We will be able to help those who visit with their research, the copier and microfilm reader-printer. Members please call or e-mail to volunteer to fill the empty time slots avail-

able. Our website is <http://iagenweb.org/davis> or a message can be sent to [iadavis@netins.net](mailto:iadavis@netins.net) or [bhowk@netins.net](mailto:bhowk@netins.net)



A Big Thank You to all the active members for a great year! And looking forward to 2005.

*Your president -  
Deb Barker*

## AUGSPURGER FAMILY HISTORY

Written by Anna Augspurgen Swartzendruber for her daughter, Malinda Swartzendruber Baughman "Aunt Lindy" who passed it on in person to LaRue Augspurgen Sloan

The name originates in Bavarian Germany; several hundred years ago, of whom Grandfather Christian Augspurgen was a descendent. Who was born in Strassburg (then a province of France: 1782. He was married to Catherina Houter in 1805, came to America with his family in 1817, settled in Pennsylvania, and a little later, in company with others, went farther west, as far as Miami Valley Ohio. There they lived awhile, but Grandfather was a Friend of Society, and in a new and strange country became discouraged, and in 1818, he with his family returned to France again. Upon his return he found the farm he had lived on, now owned by a spy under Napoleon, the first was leased to another man for a number of years, he then decided to go back to America again. The same place where he was before, to make his permanent home and fortune there.

In the Spring of 1819, he left France for the second time (never to return again) with a colony of 36 families and his own family of 5 children, (the 6<sup>th</sup> was a son born on the Ohio River, near Stuebenville Ohio. Just a few days before they reached their destination near Trenton Butler County Ohio. It was no small matter to undertake a voyage of 10 weeks or more, in these circumstances, but Grandmother was a strong and resolute woman who could adapt herself to most anything if had to. (or need be.)

Here the Grandparents settled down in the highest spot of that country near the Miami River. Here the family lived and prospered to never to move again. Although farmers (as they all had been) could do most anything else that was needed on a farm. They had their own blacksmith, carpenter, and cooper shops. They even packed and made their everyday shoes. In this way they saved much in such a large family. That Grandfather accumulated enough to buy a 160 acre farm for each of his 12 children one. He at one time owned nineteen hundred and seventy-five acres of land. The amount of land owned by the Augspurgers and their descendent in Butler and Warren Counties at one time was 3663 acres, with substantial buildings there on.

Grandfather Christian Augspurgen was called the pioneer of the Butler Co. Mennonite Settlement. Christian Augspurgen Jr, (son of the above mentioned was my father). Who was born in France January 19, 1813. When the 4 oldest children, one brother and 3 sisters were married, father and younger brother, Jacob, began to think it was time for them to make a change. (Look out for themselves) So they started out by team to see more of more of Ohio, especial Northeastern part. Their aim was Wooster, Wayne Co. Ohio around there was a Mennonite settlement. They landed at Christian Schantz's home, a farmer near Smithville. There they found a very welcome reception. Since traveling was not the only object for starting out, but the sometime they were looking for some suitable girls. Which perchance would be willing to start out with them on a \_\_\_\_\_ voyage, through sunshine, and storm. They were willing to take a chance. And right here in Schantz's home was the youngest daughter at home yet, a lively good looking girl. Since everything seemed so favorable, to them especial to Uncle. He then made his missect that this maiden was his joyce and she, I guess, did think the same of him, at least they were engaged before he turned back, again. But father could not satisfy himself in Wayne County, and was about ready to go home. The next morning in his room, he picked up a song book, opened it and the first words his eyes fell on was, go on further, go on further, there you will find your Treasure; that gave him new courg. For he

believed in the guiding of the Lord. He then started toward Canton, Stark County Ohio, arriving there (or near there) he came to a farmer by name Joseph Roes (Rees) who also came from Elsass France, not very far from Strassburg, after an aquantens, it did not take him long to beleve that Providence had led him aright. There too, was the youngest daughter at home yet, namely Magdalena Rees. Who was just the maiden he was looking for and since Grandfather Rees had heard about the Butler Co. people, he began to get intrest in this young man who was their guest. And in due time circumstance seemed very favorable so that father took courage to make his purpose for being there known, by asking for the daughters hand and heart for a lifetime companion. This question took consideration, as well on the parent side, a on the maiden side. But finaly, they consent to study about the matter, and then let him know, then the two brothers returnt to Butler County again for a season, to give plenty of time for development. After sometine they went back and took their young brides home with them. That was sometime in 1839.

Father was born January 19, 1813 near Strassburg in France. Mother was born June 21, 1819, in Ostheim Elsass near Colmes France. After being married, and lived in Butler Co. 5 years, father took her home to see her folks for the first time, ( with two of us children). In about a year afterward, Father took Typhoid fever and died, which left mother in a sad condition with 3 children, Brother Christian 5 years, myself 2 years old and Henry 3 weeks old, and she never got to see any of her folks during all these sad time. She stayed on the farm with hired help, which was a great undertaking those days living so near a town, with saloons in it, that hands came home drunk sometime, which was very unplesent. Mother had a Widow staying with her for some time, she was a great compford to her, but then she had the misfortune to break her leg, right before our house, she was steping out of a carriage when it happent. She was in bed over 6 weeks and her leg did not heal. Then several men carried her on a strecher across the river about 4 or 5 miles to a sister, an there she died. This was another hard stroke on Mother. In a few years Mother moved onan other farm, which Grandfather had deedet to us children, when father died (in 1845.) Mother got all she could make on the farm, but had no share in it, although got 1,600 dollors for raising us children, which she had saved for a home somewhere. In 1853, she conclude to go to Iowa. Where she had a Brother living, not far from Fort Madson who moved there from Butler Co. Ohio (former from Stark Co. O) in 1843. They started in a coverd wagon with a family of 5 children, here I want to relate a little incidence, Uncle had a piece of furniture made in Trenton Ohio which they could not take along in the wagon, and yet did not like to part with it, so they left it and father shipped it by water, be put it on board of the Ohio River in Cincinnati to ship to Fort Madson Iowa, but it did not land there. It was lost. After searching for it about a year, it was found down in New Orleans Louisana. (Unclamed) It was missend in Cairo Illinois, where the Ohio and Mississipy run together. Instead of being send North on the Mississipy River, it went South almost to the Gulf. Wath little did my parents think, that piece of furniture would be in their baby's possession yet, in the fueture. When Uncle Rees quit house keeping, he want to sell it. Mother wanted me to have this bureau, as a relic, so I bought it for 10 dollors when I was single yet. Had been now in my hands for over 61 years (and would not exchange it for a new one). When Mother had fully made up her mined to go to Iowa in 1853 her brother, Joeseph Rees, came to help here get ready to move after the sale Uncle packt all that Mother want to take along in chests and boxes, (to fit the wagon). Then put on the bows and heavy cover, which

could be closed all around (Uncle and Brother Christ slept in the wagon every night. Then we were ready Mother, and a girl from Trenton, came with us and we children traveld in a two horse carriage and stayed in houses every night. When started, the first town we went through was Hamilton and first night we were in Indiana, just across the Ohio line. It took 14 days to make the trip to Uncle's home, in Lee County Iowa. The next morning after we arrived (in November 1853) was a 6 inch deep snow on the ground, we all could be thankful that we had reached our destanation and had shelter for the winter.

While there, we, with 6 of Rees's children wnet to a country school, it was held in a church house, about 2 miles strate north of Donnelson. This was the last school I attendet. In Ohio we had twice a German teacher in the house, the first in 1849. The school was held one week in our house and the next week in Uncle Jakes house, and so on through the winter. Was it kept turn about, some of the neighbour's children had attendet too. The other a young man who had worked for Mother during harvist had agreed to teach us 3 children after harvest a few months. (that was the last summer we lived in Ohio) So we could not boast on much schooling, but learned to read, and write, in German and English and do all the counting we need, and learnd to work from early youth, in house , garden, and field planting corn by hand. Helpt making hay, binding grain in harvest, and stack grain. The last in the year was spinning wool for clothes, and gathering corn late in the fall, all we had, and needed was a good long sleep and rest at night and plenty to eat. Which all these blessing we had. During the first winter Mother bought a house on lot in Franklin and in the spring we moved in town, lived there about 6 months, before we moved, Mother and Uncle Rees went to Davis County to look about land (for she want to be on a farm with us children which was the best for us all). She bough 80 acre of improved land (the plac Sam Ramsyer lives on) for 6 1/2 dollors an acre, and 160 acre of row prairie for 2 1/2 dollors per acre. The farm where Lizzie Rees lives. The 80 acre had a one room house on which was wheather coarted only on 3 sides, the North side was walld up with on layer bricklads and mud, when the wind was blowing hard, the wall shook as if it mighd fall in on our heads when we were asleep. The water was very scars. There wee wells but no living water in it. Mother allowed the man 50 dollors more if he would furnish a well with water fit for human use. There was one in a draw which had water in when ever it rained but was only used for stock.

So the man dug the well which had about a foot of water in but neighbors said he hauled it in from somewhere els and rather than quarrel he got his 50 dollors (when we moved here). We came from Franklin Lee Co. to this County in Oct. 1854. The road from Farmington up here was not a permanent road then but led across the prairies clear to Bloomfield. The little town Mount Sterling was called then, Dogtown, was close to the Fox River and was a very dangerous place to cross when the water was hight. West of there we could see the marks yet where the Mormons had campt on the prairie, some years befor. When we came to what is Cantrel now (was Niles then) and only a sawmill there, further up where Milton is was noting more than a one room (without plastering) frame fouse and a sawmill, owned by Sam Miller. (older brother of Mike Miller in Pulaski who came from Canada and his wife, her maiden name Lena Kinsinger from Butler Co., Ohio. She was a dear friend of my Mother, so we stopt a little while to visit with them, then hurried on to reach our destination before night. When we got to where Pulaski is now, was not inhapbit but a pile of brick there to build a foundation for a

sawmill. Someone might wonder why so many sawmills in such a big prairie was because every one who bought prairie land bought forest land too, and there was plenty of wood along the big fox and big Wycandah. To make use of the sawmills. When the first settlers began to improve their land and build houses or shantys to live in, the road these sawmills were on was the main traveled road in Southern Iowa from the Mississippi to the west and were soon surrounded with dwelling fouses and stores of some kind. The first store of Pulaski was on the same lot were Nusbacums Grocery now is. It was only a one storry building about 13 by 20 fron for the store toom and about 18 by 12 feet on the North side where the family lived. The store was kept by Sam Miller (the same one that had owned the sawmill were Millers. Who had sold out to his brother Christ Miller) In a few years afterwards Sam Miller died with Typhoid fever, the Widow was left with 3 children. The youngest only a few weeks old. The Widows Brother, Sam Kinsinger kept the store, but loss then 2 years afterwards, he wife died with the same fever and was layed on in the same store room as Miller was. I was at both of their funerals.

When we reached our permanent home, the family was still there, so we lived together for over a week. In the evening our beding was carried in and spread on the floor for 6 of us, and in the morning out again into the covered wagon or on the fence. After the folks moved out then, we hqad full possession, for a while. When we lived in Franklin Lee Co, we had a two room house, but it was not long until a Doctor and his wife moved in with us, (they could not find shelder anywhere els). They occupied our kitchen size 10 by 18 feet. So Mother knew that two familys can get along in one house if need be. The summer of 1854 was a very dry one, so was the fall of the same year, water was very scarce, in streams, and so was well water especally along the woods. We had to count on creek water all winter, except when it snowed much. Water was hauled in a barrel and kept out doors so it would keep fresh, (and it was fresh.) It often was frozen solid, but we kept an ax handy to chop it out, and this was our drinking & cooking water for about 6 months. There was a family living between here and Bloomfield on the open Prairie (in a new put up loge house and open underneath) by the name Christian Kroph who's wife & little baby died soon after we came here. The man was my Mother's first cousin, as soon as she heard it she went to see him and invite him to come and stay with us over winter, he was glad to except the invitation. If Mother would not had more room in her heart, then in the house she could not have made that offer. (For we were already 5 persons in one room, with 2 beds and trundle bed, cookstove, table & big chest, so there was not much room to set a table when we were all in) Well he came with some of his household goods, which was stored in an old shady away from the house. Since we had such a dry summer, we did not raise anything. Potatos were so scarce that we even did not get to see any all winter but game was plentiful, the prairie chickens use to come by hundreds. Then there were many quails and rabbets, all these were ease trapt on account of being so hungry. We relished this fresh meats with our corn diet. Without milk or eggs all winter and no fruit of any kind. In later years we gathered and dried much wild fruit and made pumpkin butter, without suger. (wihich was not very good). Altho we all had a good appetite and did not mind it much. In December we got the deepest snow we had every seen, it was over 4 feet deep, and drifted very much, especial were there were rail fences. After it froze hard cattle could walk over staked fence without trouble. At this time we saw the first wild deers, as 3 were coming across our place going over the top of the fence on the solid snow drifts and ameing for

the woods for shelter, and something to eat, and that was noting more than the bark of saplings. The few corn stocks in the fields were all under snow, and there was noting els to eat for the poor creatures. It is needless to say that we had plenty of clean good water for some time, by melting snow for house use, and to wash with. In the spring (after the snow was gone) Christian Kropf went to J. J. Plank to work in the sawmill, but before he left, he said there must be some water on this place, he then took a branch or twig, in his hands (the twig was shaped like a fork). He walked around close by the house awhile but did not find anything then he went east about 30 roods, on a little slope, there he located water, he commenced to dig right away, and about the third day he came unto living water, as good and clear as could be. The well was not deep, but furnished all the good water we needed as long as we lived there. Which we appreciated very much, (if we had to carry it a good ways) Before farming begun in the spring Christ Rees who was so faithful to us, went to the woods to get some timber to build an addition to our house (or room) he got rafters, weatherboards, and flooring sawed. The fame was made out of raw timber with a few comen tools and shingles split from oak blocks, just the size of shingles we now buy. All was done in a hurry, but it was a great help and protection to keep out the Northern storms especial since there were no weatherboarding on that side of the house. After this was all done he split a lot of pailings to fence in a gardan which was very much needet. (although we had only 2 dozen hens in the fall, and lost some through the winter, but was going to raise a few through the summer.) Idond see how we could have got along without Christ Rees, he was so handy at anything. Uncle Rees did a good work when he let him come and stay with us for sometime. My brothers were to young then yet to undertake any big work. Altho they could help a good deal.

In the spring of 56 Mother was married again, to Jacob King (a widower) who was also from Ohio, but lived in Lee County for several years before we came. He had a Mother & Sister( Magdalena Slatter a widow) and daughter Anne Slatter. They kept house for King and then he had an other sister Anna King, (an old maid) who had no home, and was often not in her right mind. All these women came with Daddy King to live with us. We still had the limit house house room. But as the old saying is, many patient sheep go in one fold, (or in other words, one fold will hold many patient sheep) Mother had knowen all these people in Ohio and did not doubt about their getting along with each other. In about one year and a half an other sister (of daddy) a widow with a little son, she had been married to Christen King a brother of daddys first wife, she also was homeless. She cam from Ohio to stay with her sister Mrs. Jacob Slatter (in Lee Co.) over winter but early in the spring she wrote to daddy, to come after her she wanted to live with us, so he went after her, and baby, Now they were all together again, for all three sister's had worked for Mother in Ohio (tho, one by one) There were 2 Magdalina & 4 Anna's in our family, at this time, and 3 afterwards 4 kind of children.

In 1855, over a year before Mother and Daddy were married, he tried to improve his 160 acre prairie. He and an other man by name Joseph Kaufman came early in spring (before all of that big snow was gone) he bought an old log cabin some whee, and was going to haul it on his land. But when they got near where he want to locate they got stuck in a snow drift, north of where Elmer Deiffenback lives, he broke something on his wagon. Some what discouraged, and unloaded his boys there (maybe he thought there mide be some other way to get a home that was already improved) Then came to our house for the first time, Christ Rees, teaced Mother about him coming there. And I, as

young as I was then, yet began to think there might be something in the air, because this was not the first one, she had several chances in Ohio that I knew of and one just a few months before this time. It was a man from Illinois who came purpose to see what for an outlook would be for him to get a home. Mother never said any thing to us about it, but I got a hold of a letter that he wrote after he got back, that if she would ever get married that he hoped to be her husband. Now after they were all with us, as recorded on page 11, and we were so much crowded Daddy hauled those loges on Mothers place, and set them up for a kitchen, which was an other big help for us, a family of 12 with the hired hand. We two girls, and Barbara King with her little boy slept in that nice kitchen 16 feet square in side with other belonging to a kitchen it was about full, not room enough to set a table for the whole family that we could all eat at once. In this manner we lived in the simplest way possible.

(This brief history of the Augspurger Family has been transcribed by a copy of the original hand written copy. I have left in the wording, spelling and sentence structure as Mrs. Anna Swartzendruber used. It may be a challenge to read at time but the story is worth the effort. These type of recollections give any historian or genealogist an insight into the lives of the early settlers of Davis County. In a future newsletter will be the family history of the Rees Family written by Mrs. Anna Swartzendruber.)

### **FOR SALE**

## **1882 HISTORY OF DAVIS COUNTY IOWA REPRINTS AVAILABLE**

**Here is an opportunity to order your copy of the early history of Davis County Iowa from 1846 to 1882. Book includes over 100 biographical sketches of early Davis County Pioneers and is indexed.**

**Cost of this book is \$70.00 can be ordered now. Send money order or check to D. Sue Spilman, 401 E Arkansas Ave, Bloomfield IA 52537-1260. Include your name and mailing address.**



Balance on Hand December 2003

Checking 482.47  
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Income 2004

Sale of Books 630.00  
Dues 637.50  
Refund on books 191.92  
Donations 388.90  
Sale of CD & etc 402.24  
Cost Share IGS 20.04  
Copy Machine 315.00  
Total 2585.60

Expenses 2004

P O Box rent 38.00  
Book Pymt 833.51  
Civil War Books 100.00  
Postage 313.01  
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Service Chg Bank 85.00  
Supplies 197.98  
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Door knob 30.98  
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Annual Meeting 15.00  
Total 1950.67

Balance on Hand December 2004

Checking 940.05  
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**FOR SALE**  
**DAVIS COUNTY RECORDS ON CD**  
Volume #1 contains the 1870 Davis County IA Federal Census  
And WPA Gravestone Registration Records Volume #2 contains  
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Price \$13.00 each. Send Orders to Society at P O Box 94 Bloomfield IA  
52537-0094 or order online at [iadavis.netins.net](http://iadavis.netins.net)

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