

**DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY**  
**PO BOX 94**  
**BLOOMFIELD, IOWA 52537**

**VOLUME XX NO.2      2003      APRIL      MAY      JUNE**

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DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY REGULAR MEETINGS THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH. BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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**President: Patricia Howk**  
**Vice President: Mary Kay Stephenson**  
**Secretary: Lana Doll**

**Treasurer: Dorothy Goldizen**  
**Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Goldizen**

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Dear Friends,

It is reunion time and visiting with relatives is a favorite. Today, one of Mom's cousins brought several pictures that she promises to have a friend scan and send to me. Two were looking at my books and decided they should get the forms I sent them filled out. Others were telling "do you remember when" stories.

We have a new project that a couple of people, Debbie Barker and Sue Spilman, have spent a lot of time on. They have prepared the WPA Cemetery Records and the 1870 Davis County Federal Census for burning onto CD's. They will be available at the Davis County Fair in our booth in the southeast corner of the 4-H/Art Hall building. Debbie put together a nice label depicting the Davis County Courthouse. Be sure to stop in.

Two of our members, Willis and Carol Hoffman, will have a computer set up in the grandstand building with GPS locations of all known cemeteries in Davis County. Stop by and see if you know of one that is not on their lists.

We have ordered a new copier for use in the genealogy room at the Bloomfield Public Library. Trust it will be easy to use and will be an added asset to your research. Don't forget to pay the 25 cents per copy by putting money in an envelope and giving to the librarian on duty.

We are also looking into reprinting some of the Davis County history books. We should have firm details by the next newsletter.

RAGBRAI will once again be coming through Bloomfield on July 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have some of our fair exhibits in a store window on the square.

The State of Iowa has raised the cost of birth certificates to \$15. this year, but July 1, 2004 they will be \$20! So now is the time to request any you might need.

Please check out our website that Debbie Barker is the administrator for. It is [www.rootsweb.com/~iadavis/davis.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~iadavis/davis.htm) Also, check out the IGS website for our offerings through them. [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

Davis County has voted to have a local option tax. As of July 1, 2003 the tax rate is 6%.

Until next time, have a good researching summer.

President Pat Howk [bhowk@netins.net](mailto:bhowk@netins.net)

this year is the Genealogy Category. {see fair book, or rules on webpage}

May was proclaimed as Cemetery Appreciation Month by Gov Tom Vilsack. An article of the society' plans was in the May 14, 2003 Bloomfield Democrat. These plans include the fair & reprinting of our history books. Also a big interest has been displayed in fixing our Pioneer cemeteries. A Work day is to be scheduled for this fall at Gammack Cemetery. Any one interested in donating supplies, materials, or labor, please contact the society, or e-mail [iadavis@netins.net](mailto:iadavis@netins.net).

The Davis County web sight is a host to vital information.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iadavis/davis.htm>

The various links to post, contribute, query, or read obituaries, wills, documents, and such are transcribed by volunteers, such as yourself. Please feel free to donate your time and effort and help make this project grow. All of us have obituaries, copies of census, family group sheets, & documents that can be turned into information for other researchers.

As you know most genealogy web sights charge a fee or membership to view their information. Davis County provides this free of charge to our viewers. Transcribers and contributions are very much appreciated.

Random Obits, Queries, Documents, and Biographies are posted on the sight through the IAGenWeb project.

<http://64.28.101.122/boards/davis/biographies/index.cgi>

<http://64.28.101.122/boards/davis/queries/index.cgi>

<http://64.28.101.122/boards/davis/documents/index.cgi>

<http://64.28.101.122/boards/davis/obituaries/index.cgi>

A sight search is available, type in the surname you are looking for, and remember to try various spellings, as the records can be typographical.

IAGenWeb is a USGenWeb Internet based repository for genealogical information. All other 99 Iowa counties have a similar project. The State link is <http://iagenweb.org/index.htm>

Recently new is a link to the Gravestone Photo Project. A wonderful way to upload tombstone photo's and preserve for viewing in the future. Additional information can be added with the photograph.

[http://iowagravestones.org/index.php/search\\_index/cid\\_26](http://iowagravestones.org/index.php/search_index/cid_26)

Also on our web page is a wonderful way to share special events, share your reunions with distant relatives!

[http://resources.rootsweb.com/~caienar/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi?calname=Davis\\_Co\\_IA](http://resources.rootsweb.com/~caienar/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi?calname=Davis_Co_IA)

Be sure to sign the guestbook when there, many folks just list the surnames their interested in and others can contact them.

<http://guestbook.pax.nu/cgi-local/guest.cgi?book21489>

Feel free to contact the society  
<mailto:iadavis@netins.net>

There are several websites that I'll recommend that you take a look at to see if you can use them in your research.

1. [www.iowahistory.org](http://www.iowahistory.org) will list the holdings of both the Iowa City and Des Moines Historical Society Libraries. Eventually collections of 2100 Iowa newspapers, books and manuscripts will be included.
2. [www.censusfinder.com](http://www.censusfinder.com) directory of free census records, currently about 12,000 links to free online censuses.
3. [www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html](http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html) includes the Federal Township maps for 1804-1891. You'll need a Mr. Sid plug-in to view the maps but it is free.
4. [www.genealogvinc.com/maps/uscm.htm](http://www.genealogvinc.com/maps/uscm.htm) offers many state county formation maps and animated presentation of how the borders changed during each decade.
5. [www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org) searchable online index of Ohio deaths from 1913-1937. You can print out request forms in PDF or text formats.
6. [www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk](http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk) for English wills. Copies of wills can be sent by PDF file and there's a shopping cart.

The above list is from recent IGS newsletters.

b. Date of Birth  
 p.b. Place of Birth  
 m. Date of Marriage  
 d. Date of Death  
 p.d. Place of Death

(Father of No. 2)  
 b. 27 May 1855  
 p.b. Scotland  
 m. 23 Sep 1881  
 d. 11 Jan 1924  
 p.d. Cincinnati, IA

d. unknown  
 p.d. unknown  
 9 Margaret Steck Black  
 (Mother of No. 4)

18 b. (Father of No. 9,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)

19 d. (Mother of No. 9,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)

2 James Milner  
 (Father of No. 1)  
 b. 6 Jan 1903  
 p.b. Cincinnati, Appanoose, IA  
 m. 7 Mar 1924  
 d. 30 Sep 1934  
 p.d. Cincinnati, IA

10 unknown  
 (Father of No. 5)

20 b. (Father of No. 10,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)

21 d. (Mother of No. 10,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)

5 Margaret Guthrie  
 (Mother of No. 2)  
 b. 28 Feb 1858  
 p.b. Scotland  
 d. 8 Dec 1933  
 p.d. Cincinnati, IA

11 unknown  
 (Mother of No. 5)

22 b. (Father of No. 11,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)

23 d. (Mother of No. 11,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)

1 EVELYN MILNER HUNT

b. 15 APR 1929  
 p.b. Cincinnati, Appanoose, IA  
 m. 22 Mar 1947  
 d.  
 p.d.

12 John Jasper Martin  
 (Father of No. 6)

b. 7 Dec 1849  
 p.b. Scotland County, MO  
 m. 19 Jan 1873  
 d. 14 May 1923  
 p.d. Cincinnati, IA

24 John R. Martin  
 b. 1808 (Switz) (Father of No. 12,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 m. 31 MAR 1833 (IL)  
 d. 9 Dec 1884 (MO)

25 EVELINE BISH  
 (Mother of No. 12,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. Oct 1817 (VA)  
 d. 24 Jun 1893 (MO)

8 Ira Franklia Martin  
 (Father of No. 3)  
 b. 8 May 1879  
 p.b. Schuyler County, MO  
 m. 23 Jan 1903  
 d. 15 Dec 1942  
 p.d. Cincinnati, IA

13 Sarah Louisa McLaughlin  
 (Mother of No. 6)

b. 17 Dec 1849  
 p.b. Decatur County, IN  
 d. 24 May 1916  
 p.d. MO

26 HIRAM McLaughlin  
 (Father of No. 13,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. 24 Apr 1824 IA  
 m. unknown  
 d. 10 Feb 1903

27 SARAH BEECRAFT  
 (Mother of No. 13,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. 13 Nov 1820 IN  
 d. 4 Mar 1892 IA

3 Eva Beatrice Martin  
 (Mother of No. 1)  
 b. 30 Nov 1905  
 p.b. Schuyler County, MO  
 d. 28 Mar 1994  
 p.d. Centerville, IA

14 Robert Franklin Alexander  
 (Father of No. 7)

b. 9 Oct 1852  
 p.b. IN  
 m. 13 MAR 1879  
 d. 11 Dec 1909  
 p.d. Schuyler County, MO

28 GEORGE W. ALEXANDER  
 (Father of No. 14,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. 1823 (IN)  
 m. 20 May 1847 (IN)  
 d. 1876 (MO)

29 Janet E. Manly  
 (Mother of No. 14,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. about 1826  
 d. CA

7 ETHEL BEulah Alexander  
 (Mother of No. 3)  
 b. 24 Apr 1853  
 p.b. Schuyler County, MO  
 d. 19 Oct 1966  
 p.d. Centerville, IA

15 Mary Susan Kerby  
 (Mother of No. 7)

b. 30 Jun 1858  
 p.b. Davis County, IA  
 d. 13 Aug 1938  
 p.d. Schuyler County, MO

30 Samuel Perry Kerby  
 (Father of No. 15,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. 4 Sep 1827  
 m. 18 Feb 1848  
 d. 29 MAR 1906

31 Mary FRANCES Percy  
 (Mother of No. 15,  
 Cont. on chart No. ...)  
 b. 11 May 1829  
 d. 6 May 1918

Shelberdeen C. Hunt  
 (Spouse of No. 1)

b. 17 Dec 1926  
 p.b. Pocahontas County, IA  
 d.  
 p.d.

Date of Birth  
Place of Birth  
Date of Marriage  
Date of Death  
Place of Death

4 Grover Cleveland Ruttan  
(Father of No. 2)  
b. 30 NOV 1885  
p.b. Pella, Marion, IA  
m. 25 Feb 1907  
d. 17 Oct 1945  
p.d. Cathedral, Riverside CA

m. 15 Aug 1868  
d. 21 April 1931  
p.d. Des Moines, Polk, IA

d. 28 Mar 1898

2 Charles Dewayne Ruttan  
(Father of No. 1)  
b. 12 July 1924  
p.b. Jefferson tsp, Mahaska, IA.  
m. 2 Aug 1944  
d. 19 June 1984  
p.d. Burlington, Des Moines, IA.

9 Mary Matilda Heavlin  
(Mother of No. 4)  
b. May 1843  
p.b. Mills tsp, Tuscarawas, Ohio  
d. 13 Oct 1904  
p.d. Monroe Co, IA.

18  
b. (Father of No. 9, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m.  
d.  
19 (Mother of No. 9, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

5 Sarah Edna Cooper  
(Mother of No. 2)  
b. 9 Jan 1889  
p.b. Avery, Monroe, IA  
d. 27 Mar 1967  
p.d. Ottumwa, Wapello, IA

10 Hamlet Masler Cooper  
(Father of No. 5)  
b. 26 Dec 1851  
p.b. Sterling, Louisa, IA  
m. 4 Mar 1874  
d. 13 Jan 1933  
p.d. Hiteman, Monroe, IA

20 Hamilton Cooper  
b. 1809 (Father of No. 10, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m. April 1840  
d. 13 Oct 1876  
21 Maria Sutton  
(Mother of No. 10, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b. 1816  
d. 9 April 1852

11 Maria Jane Mason  
(Mother of No. 5)  
b. 23 Feb 1855  
p.b. Columbus, Bartholomew, Ind.  
d. 29 July 1933  
p.d. Troy tsp, Monroe, IA

22 Jonathan P. Mason  
b. 1818 (Father of No. 11, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m. 19 June 1849  
d. About 1870  
23 Susan Greenfield  
(Mother of No. 11, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b. 1826  
d. 1909

Jacklyn Ruttan

b. 26 Oct 1944  
p.b. Richfield, Sevier, Utah  
m. 26 Sept 1962  
d.  
p.d.

12 John Rueben Jolley  
(Father of No. 6)  
b. 17 Dec 1863  
p.b. Washington, Wash., Utah  
m. 16 July 1892  
d. 28 Oct 1935  
p.d. Antimony, Garfield, Utah

24 Francis Marion Jolley  
b. 9 April 1841 (Father of No. 12, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m. Abt 1863  
d. 13 NOV 1891  
25 Jemima Marinda Freeman  
(Mother of No. 12, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b.  
d. 17 Dec 1863

8 Merlin Henry Jolley  
(Father of No. 3)  
b. 22 Feb 1897  
p.b. Antimony, Garfield, Utah  
m. 4 Oct 1920  
d. 12 Dec 1948  
p.d. Salt Lake City, S-1K, Utah

13 Kate Effie Wilcox  
(Mother of No. 6)  
b. 12 Sept 1871  
p.b. Fillmore, Millard, Utah  
d. 2 April 1946  
p.d. Provo, Utah, Utah

26 Henry Franklin Wilcox  
b. 12 Jan 1830 (Father of No. 13, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m. 2 NOV 1867  
d. 18 Oct 1915  
27 Julia Minerva Owens  
(Mother of No. 13, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b.  
d. 1873

3 Ida Cloe Jolley  
(Mother of No. 1)  
b. 14 NOV 1925  
p.b. Antimony, Garfield, Utah  
d.  
p.d.

14 John Augusta Moore  
(Father of No. 7)  
b. 14 NOV 1863  
p.b. Golden City, Jefferson Colo.  
m. 31 Mar 1886  
d. 16 June 1936  
p.d. Kingston, Piute, Utah

28 John Patton Moore  
(Father of No. 14, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b.  
m.  
d.

7 Vera Moore  
(Mother of No. 3)  
b. 12 Oct 1902  
p.b. Elsinore, Sevier, Utah  
d. 23 Dec 1990  
p.d. Richfield, Sevier, Utah

15 Ida Lavada Levi  
(Mother of No. 7)  
b. 24 Oct 1868  
p.b. Belmont, Nye, Nevada  
d. 20 May 1947

29 Anna Phenora Simpson  
(Mother of No. 14, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b. 17 NOV 1845/46  
d. May 1916

Joseph Daniel Blythe

(Spouse of No. 1)  
20 April 1942 d. 16 Oct 1979

30 Joseph Hyrum Levi  
b. 31 Dec 1844 (Father of No. 15, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m. 1866  
d. 29 June 1902  
31 Sarah James Flake  
(Mother of No. 15, Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
b. 4 April 1847  
d. 12 Oct 1897

**4 Alonzo Wallace SHAFER**

B: 1 Nov 1851  
P: Wapello Co, IA  
M: 11 Nov 1875  
P: Monroe Co, IA  
D: 15 May 1928  
P: Sumner Co, KS

**2 Clifton Edgar Dewey SHAFER**

B: 27 Aug 1898  
P: Sumner Co, KS  
M: 22 Jul 1920  
P: Sumner Co, KS  
D: 27 Jun 1967  
P: Wellington, Sumner Co, KS

**5 Lozina Elizabeth WATKINS**

B: 2 Apr 1859  
P: Monroe Co, IA  
D: 17 Sep 1929  
P: Sumner Co, KS

**1 Melvin Dean SHAFER**

B: 1 Jun 1932  
P: Wichita, Sedgwick Co, KS  
M: 28 May 1950  
P: Wichita, Sedgwick Co, KS  
D:  
P:

**6 Charles Dill SPACE**

B: 12 Jan 1849  
P: Sussex Co, NJ  
M: 15 Oct 1888  
P: Belton, Cass Co, MO  
D: 26 May 1927  
P: Sumner Co, KS

**3 Maude Margaret SPACE**

B: 31 Mar 1901  
P: Cicero, Sumner Co, KS  
D: 22 Aug 1989  
P: Clearwater, Sedgwick Co, KS

**7 Olivia Adelia "Ollie" HALEY**

B: 6 Mar 1869  
P: Junction City, Geary Co, KS  
D: 23 Dec 1957  
P: Wellington, Sumner Co, KS

P: Sugar Creek Tp, Stark Co, OH  
M: 1 May 1849  
P: Hancock Co, OH  
D: 3 Jan 1904  
P: Monroe Co, IA

**9 Maria SMITH**

B: 24 Nov 1830  
P: Wayne Co, OH  
D: 9 Dec 1877  
P: Monroe Co, IA

**10 William WATKINS**

B: Dec 1816  
P: OH  
M: 18 Feb 1846  
P: Guernsey Co, OH  
D: 20 Sep 1900  
P: Eddyville, Wapello Co, IA

**11 Rebecca BUCKINGHAM**

B: Jan 1825  
P: OH  
D: 1903  
P: Eddyville, Wapello Co, IA

**12 Robert SPACE**

B: abt 1817  
P: NJ  
M: 1 Feb 1839  
P: Hope Tp, Warren Co, NJ  
D:  
P:

**13 Henrietta Ogden DILL**

B: 30 Aug 1820  
P: Hope Tp, Warren Co, NJ  
D: 24 Apr 1900  
P:

**14 Samuel H HALEY**

B: 17 Jul 1838  
P: Dover, Tuscarawas Co, OH  
M: 3 Sep 1863  
P: Coshocton Co, OH  
D: 20 Nov 1916  
P: Sumatra, Rosebud Co, MT

**15 Sarah J FULLER**

B: abt 1840  
P: Oxford Tp, Coshocton Co, OH  
D: 5 Apr 1873  
P: Junction City, Geary Co, KS

**17 Mary "Polly" PUTMAN**

B: 30 Nov 1792 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: 20 Sep 1848

**18 Sardis SMITH**

B: 1 Jul 1808 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: 13 Jun 1891

**19 Ruth WARNER**

B: 11 Jan 1811 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: bef 1845

**20 WATKINS**

B: cont \_\_\_\_  
D:

21 cont \_\_\_\_  
B:  
D:

**22 John BUCKINGHAM**

B: cont \_\_\_\_  
D:

23 cont \_\_\_\_  
B:  
D:

**24 Manus SPACE**

B: 1775 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: 22 Dec 1852

**25 Elizabeth MAINES**

B: 1783 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: 30 Jul 1853

**26 John DILL**

B: abt 1794 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: May 1872

**27 (OGDEN?)**

B: cont \_\_\_\_  
D:

**28 John HALEY**

B: abt 1810 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: bef Sep 1841

**29 Catharine SHUCK**

B: abt 1811 cont \_\_\_\_  
D:

**30 Benjamin FULLER**

B: abt 1810 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: 1874

**31 Nancy PARKS**

B: abt 1818 cont \_\_\_\_  
D: 13 Apr 1891

Prepared 22 Jan 2001 by:  
Della M. Shafer

**4 Azariah SMITH**

B: abt 1785  
P: Dutchess Co, NY  
M:  
P:  
D: 3 Jun 1867  
P: Wayne Co, OH

P: Litchfield, Litchfield Co, CN  
D: bef 1 Dec 1831  
P: Wayne Co, OH

**9 Mary TRYON**

B: 1754  
P:  
D: 31 Mar 1833  
P: Wooster, Wayne Co, OH

**2 Sardis SMITH**

B: 1 Jul 1808  
P: Chatham, Columbia Co, NY  
M: 1 Apr 1875  
P: Hancock Co, IL  
D: 13 Jun 1891  
P: Wyaconda Tp, Davis Co, IA

10

B: cont. \_\_\_

P:

M:

P:

D:

P:

11

B: cont. \_\_\_

P:

D:

P:

**5 Wealthy ENOS**

B:  
P:  
D: bef 1830  
P:

**1 Isaac Otis SMITH**

B: 25 Sep 1886  
P: Savannah, Davis Co, IA  
M: 27 Dec 1908  
P: Ottumwa, Wapello Co, IA  
D: 8 Jul 1943  
P: Ottumwa, Wapello Co, IA

12

B: cont. \_\_\_

P:

M:

P:

D:

P:

13

B: cont. \_\_\_

P:

D:

P:

**Lola Atha JESSOP**

Spouse

**6 Henry SCARLETT**

B:  
P:  
M: 20 Feb 1842  
P: Christian Co, KY  
D: bef 1850  
P:

14

B: cont. \_\_\_

P:

M:

P:

D:

P:

15

B: cont. \_\_\_

P:

D:

P:

**3 Martha SCARLET**

B: Mar 1845  
P: KY  
D: 30 May 1907  
P: Soap Creek Tp, Davis Co, IA

**7 Mary KNIP**

B: abt 1820  
P: TN  
D:  
P:

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designated in Davis Co. At the time the county was organized in 1844 the commissioners designated block 1 of the original town of Bloomfield for a cemetery. Block 1 is bordered by North St., East Street, Howard St. and Poplar. Just a year later this was rescinded and the east half of block 43, (lots 1, 2, 7, & 8) was designated. Block 43 is bordered by South St., East St. and Chestnut St. This site was used for about 5 years when the present site was laid out and the bodies were removed and reinterred at this location. The present site was donated by Martin and Eliza Snoddy because of their concern for the burial of black and catholic families in the community. Because of segregation at the time the black families were buried in an area away from the main part of the original cemetery. In 1867 the city obtained additional land and the cemetery was fenced.

In 1884 a gentleman by the name of Jessie Norris was named sexton of the Bloomfield Cemetery and in his contract he agreed to mow the cemetery at least two times during the summer. He was paid \$40 per year payable quarterly. Currently the cemetery is mowed anywhere from 12 to 15 times during the summer at a cost of approximately \$200 to \$250 each time. Mr. Norris was also the grave digger at a cost of \$4 for persons over 14 and \$3.50 for persons under 14. The standard depth of a grave then was 5' and 4 1/2' for persons under 14. However, to dig it a little deeper it would cost \$1 or \$.50 a foot according to the age of the deceased. To open a grave here now would be in the \$500 range.

There is room for approximately 2,250 graves and at a 1984 rededication only about 800 had been used. At that time a gravesite cost \$50 and today the cost is \$400.

Veterans buried here represent the Blackhawk War, the Civil War, the Mexican War, both World Wars, and the Korean War.

For special occasions there are 2 sets of 4 flags that are placed on either side of the taller flag along the front of the cemetery. These flags are of some historical note.

By the 1960's and early 70's the condition of this cemetery was deplorable. The low lying area contained a large ditch that made the eastern section almost inaccessible. The area was covered with scrub trees and brush. Thanks to the initiative of Sam Botts, who was DPW in the late 70's and early 80's and Ron Henkenius, sexton of the cemetery, the brush was cleared, the ditch was tubed and filled, thus allowing better access by car to the east section.

Elizabeth Trimble (Mrs. John) was the first burial in the cemetery other than those who were reinterred from lot #43. In the Bloomfield Cemetery there are many small identical markers with metal plaques. These markers were donated by local funeral homes during the period in the late 70's and 80's when sexton, Ron Henkenius, led efforts to repair stones and identify unmarked graves. There are still numerous gravesites that remain anonymous.

Each year, the Governor of Iowa, proclaims the month of May as Cemetery Appreciation Month. The proclamation states the "need to preserve the rich heritage contained in Iowa's pioneer historical cemeteries" in the hope of increasing appreciation of the pioneer heritage of our county and the need to preserve the rich history that our cemeteries contain.

2003 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Bloomfield Cemetery at it's current site.

Compiled June 2003  
By Lana Doll

Sources:

City of Bloomfield Cemetery Records  
City of Bloomfield Council Records, 1867, 1884, 1970's, 1980's  
1882 History of Davis County, Iowa  
1976 This is Davis County, Iowa  
Bloomfield Democrat July 19, 1984

**THOMAS DUFFIELD:** Thomas Duffield was born December 11, 1824 in Jefferson Co. Ohio on the eastern border next present day West Virginia. His parents were William & Barbara June Roop Duffield. In 1844 at the age of 20 he moved to Van Buren Co. Iowa with his parents and eleven brothers and sisters. In 1845 the family moved to Davis Co. Iowa on a claim north of Floris in Lick Creek Township. Mr. Duffield taught a few terms of school and helped his father on the farm. In 1850 he joined an oxen wagon train and traveled to California. He returned to Iowa in 1853.

Mr. Duffield married Katherine Ream on November 3, 1853 at her parent's home west of Pittsburg in Van Buren Co. Iowa. Most of the rest of his life was spent in Davis County Iowa. He and Mrs. Duffield had 10 children, 5 of whom lived to adulthood.

In 1854 Thomas Duffield was elected surveyor for Davis County and was re-elected many times. In 1911 he declined to run due to his age. Some of the areas that Duffield surveyed in Davis County were Martinsburg or Martinsville—now known as Mark—on August 30, 1856. Ezra Martin and William Burch gave the land. The town of Pulaski was also surveyed in 1856 from land donated by J. I. Plank, John Sauer and William Hill. In 1857 the town of Springville in Wyacondah township was surveyed. Jane S. Barnes donated the land. In 1881 the Davies Addition in the northwest part of Bloomfield was surveyed.

Thomas Duffield died April 13, 1913 and Katherine Duffield died October 5, 1918. They are buried in the South Cemetery, Bloomfield IA.

**DR. WILLIAM MCKENDREE FINDLEY:** Mr. Findley was born in Dayton, Ohio, July 30, 1816. He was for more than forty years a medical practitioner in Iowa. He father, Rev. John P. Findley, was for years president of Augusta College, Kentucky, and his grandfather, Robert W. Findley, was a Methodist minister for sixty years, dying in his ninety-sixth year. The Findleys are of Scotch-Irish descent, pioneers in North Carolina, and a large number of them have been clergymen. The mother of William was Sarah Strain, John P. Findley died in 1825 and Rev. Dr. Henry Bascom became guardian of William McK., who spent two or three years in the college, then spent two years with his uncle at the Wyandotte mission, studying with the Indian boys and becoming an interpreter. He read medicine with Dr. Sabin, of Troy, Ohio; attending lectures at Pennsylvania University, and graduated in 1837. After practicing one year in Shelbyville, Indiana, he came to New London, Henry County, Iowa, and in 1843 settled permanently in Bloomfield, Davis County. Dr. Findley was one of the great pioneer physicians of the west, endearing himself to the early settlers by sparing no pains to respond to the calls of the sick. In 1863, he became surgeon of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and remained at his post of duty till the close of the war. Dr. Findley was anti-slavery in politics, and joined the republican party at its formation. He was a member of the M. E. Church. He was married October 3, 1839, to Miss Mary Bangs of New London. She was the daughter of Captain John Bangs, of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Of seven children, the fruit of this union, only three are now living: Anna M., wife of John Duffield; John B., druggists, and Samuel P., a jeweler, all living in Bloomfield.

William McK Findley died August 11, 1880 and his wife Mary died June 18, 1909. They are buried together in the South Cemetery, Bloomfield IA.

Dr. Findley built a two-story brick house that is one block off the southeast corner of the Bloomfield square that is now the property of the Davis County Historical Society  
(Biographical sketch from 1882 Davis County History book)

in his death Bloomfield loses one of her best doctors and one of her pioneer citizens. The life history of this man is almost co-extensive with the history of the county. He was one of the pioneers, who helped to lay out the city of Bloomfield and was awarded the contract for the building of the "old log court house" of which we have heard our fathers and grandfathers tell. He watched the growth of the county and city from its infancy to its present proportions. He not only witnessed the development but was instrumental in shaping the destinies of the county in no small way. More than we know, or can perhaps realize, this good man aided in the accomplishment of the blessings which we now enjoy. For a period of 58 years the doctor practiced medicine in the county and only those that experience it can appreciate the hardships endured and sacrifices made by one of his profession in those days of frontier life. All Davis County honored and respected the good man and mourn his loss.

Dr. J. J. Selman was born January 7, 1818 in Franklin County Alabama. He father was a prominent planter at that day and possessed large interest and here upon this southern plantation the deceased grew to young manhood. His early education was received in the Perryville Institute near St. Genevieve, MO. After the completion of the course here he went to Columbus Indiana, where he studied medicine for a time with his brother, Dr. S. H. Selman, and later entered the Ohio Medical college, at Columbus, from which he was graduated in 1837.

In July 1838, he began his practice at Rushville, Indiana. Here he remained for about three years and in 1841 came west and settled in Jackson township, Van Buren County, Iowa. In the spring of 1844, he came to this county and located a claim about three miles west of Bloomfield. He at once began the practice of his profession in which he continued until a few months before his death and enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest practicing physician in the county, if not in the state.

He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1846, and in 1848 was elected to the State senate from Davis and Appanoose counties. He drew a short term and was re-elected in 1848 and was elected president of the body. He was also elected a presidential elector and cast one of Iowa's four votes for General Cass, for president. He was a man of broad mind, far-seeing and might have arisen to front rank as a statesman, but he was in love with his profession and after serving his second term in the senate gave up his political career, he at all times though manifested a keen interest in the public concerns of the county.

Dr. Selman was married in 1841 to Miss Mary A. Morris, a native of Indiana, who died a few months after their marriage. On April 17, 1844 he married the second time to Miss Clarissa Cassady, also a native of Indiana. To this union were born fourteen children, Sarah, wife of W. E. Forker; Mamie, wife of Stock Huber, of Des Moines; Andrew J., Cora, wife of John Frazier, of Keokuk; Thomas, John J., Benjamin F., Samuel H., William, and five deceased. Mrs. Selman died August 6, 1886 and Mr. Selman died 1904, they are buried in the South Cemetery Bloomfield IA.

Dr. Selman has many descendents still living in Davis County and at the Cemetery Tour three generations told the story of his life and his dedication to Davis County IA

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Jennifer Kerr 17010 Forest Lake Road Sonora CA 95370 email [Jeneker@aol.com](mailto:Jeneker@aol.com) Would like to purchase an original or a used copy of the 1924 Davis County History book by Dillion Payne. Please contact her if you have one to sell.

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