

DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY
PO BOX 94
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA 52537

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

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

Treasurer: Dorothy Goldizen
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Goldizen

Dear Friends

It is beginning to look like fall and tomorrow by the calendar is the first day.

We changed our meetings to daytime, but the last 2 months have not had 5 in attendance to have a quorum to conduct business. We changed the day and time because we were having the same problems with night meetings. What is the answer? We don't know, but trust there will be enough that we can have the October, November, and December meetings. We are considering reprinting the 1882 Davis Co. History and the 1924 (Payne) History, but need to have a vote by the members at a meeting. Please plan to attend on October 18, at the Public Library at 1:30PM.

There are some good ideas floating around, but need the workers to accomplish them. We need to get some clippings put on books and indexed, the room needs straightened and organized, there are things that could be typed into a computer,.... We have the WPA Cemetery records and 1870 Census index on a CD for sale. There are other records that could be readied for sale if we had volunteers.

Please check out the website by administrator Debbie Barker. She has done a fantastic job. Click on the "Obits" and scan the 400 plus that have been entered. Maybe you'll see a familiar name. Maybe you'll even find some information that has been hiding from you. Check the Unidentified Photo section...the Leach Diary...the Link to the Bloomfield Newspaper...Cousin Connect...Try the message boards...It is an interesting website.
www.rootsweb.com/~iadavis/davis.htm

We received a message from a granddaughter of my favorite rural schoolteacher, Beryl Pugh. She has pictures and information that she is willing to share with us. We're excited to see what she has.

Just want to encourage you to be an active member if you live nearby, but if you don't, join a local society and be active there.

Remember the meeting on October 18, then in November on the 15th, (just checked the calendar and I'll be in WY celebrating our oldest granddaughter's 16th birthday! How can time go by so fast?) Our December meeting will probably be on the 2nd Saturday as in the past with a noon luncheon, election of officers, and a sharing time. **MARK YOUR CALANDERS!!!**

You can email me any time with your ideas or concerns bhowk@netins.net

President Pat Howk

(This article is taken from the 1882 Davis County History Book)

The institutions belonging to and maintained by the county, are not numerous, but are important in their relation to society and humanity, inasmuch as the evil-doer and the poor exist in all countries to a greater or less extent. As already noted in the chapter on "county organization," the first public building constructed in the county was:

"The old Log Court-House"

The history of the first courthouse is almost co-extensive with the history of the county. The contract was awarded to J. J. Selman for \$164., at the July session of the Board of Commissioners, 1844. One his bond were John Banta and Wm. J. Hawley, as sureties. It was on lot one block thirty-one, and was built of hewn logs about 24x40 feet, two stories. In November 1844, the contract for furnishing lumber for the floors, windows, stairs and doors, and for sash, glass and putty for the windows, for framing and casing the windows and door, making the door , laying the floors and running the stairs, was let to Andrew Taylor for \$175, he giving bond in the sum of \$350. Miles Tatlock had some kind of job on the courthouse at this time, also, for which he received \$35.

This log house when completed seemed to be satisfactory until August, 1846, when the building as "underpinned and the roof let down by cutting off the window frames and running a petition in the loft, dividing it in two rooms, the division running north and south." In July 1847, Willis Faught repaired the institution \$25 worth. In May 1848, Samuel Riggs was authorized to go to work and repair the institution some more. In October I. Kister and H. B. Horn were allowed \$20 each for work on the institution. In April 1849, some window shutters were added at a cost of \$10, and in July a stovepipe. In 1851 the old institution became unfit for use and the county judge rented offices on lot six, block twenty-six. Some time after this rooms were rented of Wm. S. Stevens as a courtroom, etc., and in 1855a contract was made with Calvin Taylor for a courtroom for four years, at \$100 per annum.

The record, from 1856 to 1861, is lost. The writer, with the assistance of county officials, made a thorough search but failed to find any trace of it. In 1861 the Baptist church was rented for a courtroom for one term, for \$20. At the January session of the board it was resolved to submit to the people a proposition to build a courthouse at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.

This year the county offices were in rooms belonging to J. W. Ellis, at \$100 per year. It is to be supposed that the proposition to build a courthouse was defeated as no more is heard of it. In 1863 the Methodist church was rented as a courtroom. A proposition to build a \$6,000 jail was submitted to the people in 1863, that is the last heard of it. In September 1866, another proposition to build a courthouse was submitted to the people to cost \$24,000. The county officers were moved into a building on lot eight, block 19, belonging to J. B. Glenn and E. T. Cole. The proposition to build the courthouse was lost, and in June 1867 a contract was made with the Bloomfield Town Hall Association for the use of a courtroom and county offices, in a building to be erected by the association and the county as a kind of a joint stock company. This contract must have fell through as no further notice was taken of it, and in 1868 another contract was made for renting rooms. The building rented was owned by Moore, Hogan and Walton.

the building for 1869 was \$300. In November 1872, another proposition was submitted to the people to build a courthouse and jail on the public square in the city of Bloomfield, and that a tax be levied of five mills on the dollar for three years and for that purpose, commencing in 1873. After the election it was discovered that the people didn't want it just year. The result was: For 598: against 1702.

So the same building was rented again, and continued to use, being rented for three years at a time, better known as the Phoenix Block, on the east side of the square. The rent was six hundred dollars a year, in advance.

At the October election 1874, the board ordered that the courthouse question be submitted again: this time it was \$25,000.00 one. But it is presumed, the people had got tired of voting on that question so much, as only two townships voted upon it, Fox River giving six votes for and 44 against, and West Grove giving fifty for and ninety-seven against. Total for, 56: against, 141.

So the question was defeated again, but the board, with a persistency worthy of the reverence of future generations, determined, at the June session, 1875, to submit it again at the next general election. The cost not to exceed \$50,000, and the people to determine whether it should be on the public square in Bloomfield or not.

The Election resulted in 1404 votes for the tax, 1133 votes against the tax and 1464 for the public square, to 182 against the public square.

The people of Bloomfield had, on the 13th day of May 1872, at an election then held, authorized the use of the square for that purpose, and in November 1876, the ground in the center of the square was cleared off to prepare for the erection of the courthouse. The plans of T. J. Tolan & Sons, architects, were adopted, and at a special session of the board in June 1877, the bids for building the courthouse were opened.

After examining the bids, the board at first determined to have pressed brick, then changed and awarded the contract to Larkworthy & Menke of Quincy, Illinois, for stone, at \$45,201.00, and John Lande was appointed local superintendent of the work.

In March, 1878, bids for steam heating the courthouse, were examined. The following were the bids: J. N Manning & Co., Chicago, \$2,672.77; Robt. Ogden, Fort Wayne Indiana, \$4,490.00; Haxton Steam Heater Co., Kewanee, Illinois, \$2,675.00; Larkworthy & Burgs, Chicago, \$2840.00. The contract was awarded to the Haxton Steam Heater Company.

In September the county officers were authorized to sell all the old furniture, stoves, etc., belonging to the county a private sale. In October A. L. Hoyt was employed as the first janitor of the new courthouse at a salary of \$20. per month, and was continued in that official position without decreasing his salary until he died in 1880, when he was succeeded by O. A. Rockafellow, the present janitor. In September 1879, a chain was ordered put up around the square.

At the January session 1880 the new courthouse was insured for \$35,000, being \$3,500 in cache of the following companies: The Fire Association, of Philadelphia, Insurance Company of North America; Springfield Fire and Marine; Hartford; Home; Aetna; North British and Mercantile; Glen's Falls; Phoenix, of Hartford, and American, for five years.

Company to put an iron fence around the square at \$2.23 7-11 per lineal foot. (Fence was later taken out. It is not around a rural cemetery in Davis County)

The dimensions of the courthouse basement are 97 1/8 x 87 1/6 feet and the jail occupies about one half of this space and the furnace, coal vault and water closet the other half. The jail is on the east end, in which there are three steel clad cells.

The courthouse proper is two stories high with mansard roof and a beautiful belfry on the center, with a clock face on each side. The belfry is surmounted by a life-sized statue of the blind goddess, with the scales in one hand and a sword in the other. In the belfry is the complicated clock machinery which keeps old father time from going to sleep, and strikes the bell each hour of the year, day and night. The courthouse clock is the first thing noticed by stranger on entering the city. The courthouse proper is entered on the east and west by a flight of nine stone steps, entering a vestibule ten feet wide running through the building east and west. From this vestibule opening on either side as the county offices. Entering from the east the stairway to the court room commences just inside, and on the left is the Recorder's office, on the right the Treasurer's office, and next on the left is the Clerk's office, and on the right the Auditor's office, next on the left is the Sheriff's office, and on the right the janitor's room; the next door is the stairway leading into the basement. The courtroom, County Superintendent's office and jury rooms occupy the next floor.

This building is one the people can look upon with pride, as a fitting emblem of their prosperity. As we write this, the statue, 130 feet from the basement, is draped in mourning for our dead president, as a coincidence, she has dropped the sword and stands merely holding the scales of justice.

For the benefit of future generations, we will say that the old courthouse, for the "Institution," was sold in January, 1855, to D. C. VanDuyn and he moved it out on his farm, four miles southeast of Bloomfield, where it now stands, used at a dwelling, by J. T. Norris, who now owns the farm. The price paid by VanDuyn for it was \$50.

THE JAIL

The first jail was built in 1848; the board of commissioners, in January of that year, ordered that a jail be build on lot seven, block seventeen, in the town of Bloomfield. This jail was build of hewed logs, was about sixteen feet square, two story, the lower story having a double wall of logs, the space between the walls, about six inches, being filled with stone; there was no door in the lower story, and the only means of entrance was by a stairway on the outside, and a trap door in the center of the floor on a ladder, the ladder being drawn up. No doubt the criminals all enjoyed this arrangement, as there is no record that they every made any complaint. This institution did service as a place of criminal detention, with the aid of occasional repairs, until about the year 1877, when it was burnt down. Some time before it burnt a door had been cut in the wall of the lower floor, and during the winter, the prisoners had been trying to burn the door off its hinges with a red hot iron poker, and at the time it burnt down William Barton was confined in it for horse stealing, and tried the same experiment when the fire got beyond his control, and he came very near losing his life. After some lively work with "Dennison's key," he was taken out in an unconscious condition.

a man named Demison, who dusted in a schoolhouse door with this wonderful instrument, some years before, in Bloomfield.

This old log jail was built by Willie Feagans, at the cost of something over \$400. During the last few years of its existence, it was seldom used, on account of its dampness and stinkativeness. And after it was burnt down the prisoners of State were kept in the Ottumwa and Centerville jails, until the present courthouse and jail were completed. This history of the new jail is identical with the courthouse, and will be found under that head.

MARION W. OVERTURF, 92, TRUE DAVIS COUNTY PIONEER (ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN BLOOMFIELD democrat on August 8, 1946)

Marion Warner Overturf was born December 18, 1858, the eldest of nine children, to William and Sarah Overturf, in a one room log cabin. The logs were not hewn logs, but just the round logs. His grandfather had a two roomed log house, but there were no doors between the two rooms, one had to go outside to get into the other room. He well remembers the first house built with lumber, in the neighborhood, and it was a very small house, built on the old Downing place.

Overturf's father was a blacksmith, having learned his trade in Sunbury, Ohio, and his son began to blacksmith at the age of sixteen years. He working at this trade until 1935, at least 66 years, when his eyesight became so poor he could no longer see to do the work, and the ring of his hammer on the anvil was missed by his neighbors. Although he cannot blacksmith, he can still split wood, clean chicken houses, shell corn, and help with many odd jobs. He has made many friends during his 66 years of work with the public.

He was married at the age of 21 years to Sarah Ann Hunt, and to this union twelve children were born.

In the year of 1879 he, his wife, and son, little Will, and an uncle and aunt went to Kansas, making the trip in two covered wagons. It took them sixteen days to make this journey. They lived there one year, then returned to Iowa, he in the covered wagon, his wife by train, with their two small children. They moved back into the same small house they left the year before. He has spent his entire life of 92 years within one-half mile of the home, where he was born, with the exception of the one year spent in Kansas.

Overturf well remembers when his grandfather broke up the bottom on the home place, with the old plow fastened under the wagon. They had three yoke of oxen hitched to the wagon, and it took two men to handle the oxen, one man to plow.

It also took three men to plant corn. One man plowed the furrow, using a brush plow, his Grandfather then dropped the seed by hand, and Overturf finished by riding a horse, hitched to a flat rock.

The lighting system in those days was not electricity. For light, they took a flat pan, filled them with lard or tallow, put a candlewick in it, letting it hang out the edge of the pan. While the women folks did their evening "work", the men folks sat in the light of the fireplace.

Neither did they have electric stoves nor pressure cookers. Corn pone was their main bread. They pulled the coals out in the front of the fireplace, placed a flat iron skillet in the coals, covered the batter with an iron lid, and placed coals over the lid. Their first cook stove was what he called a step stove, and all heating was done with the fireplace.

Hogs in those days ran in the woods and fattened on acorns. If needed any meat, he just took his gun and went hunting, shooting the first fat hog he saw. Hogs could not be sold in the summer time in those days. The hogs were cleaned and halved, then loaded and taken to a receiving store in Drakesville, where they were cut up. He father would then take a load of meat on to Keokuk, and bring back supplies for the store. He received 1 ½ cent per pound for the meat and salt cost \$7.00 a barrel.

Overturf also remembers well that deer meat was plentiful. He has seen a dozen hams of deer meat hanging that had been smoked and dried.

The Old Stage Line came by the home place from Ottumwa. There was a Station on the old Tom Hunt place, where the driver would unhitch his four-horse team, put them up to rest and another driver would continue on to Bloomfield. He would return there the next day, unhitch, and the first driver return to Ottumwa. There was just one or two houses on the South side of Ottumwa and the Des Moines River was crossed by a ferry boat.

He remembers from stage coach days to train, to automobile and airplane and telephone.

Point Isabel, forgotten now as a town, with nothing left to show of its existence but a cemetery, at one time boasted two grocery stores, a millinery shop, tobacco press, shoe shop, post office, log church, a doctor and five dwellings.

Ormanville, too, was a thriving little village. There was a sawmill, two blacksmith shops, three groceries, a dry goods store, a tavern, eight or ten dwellings and a post office. There were three doctors there at one time.

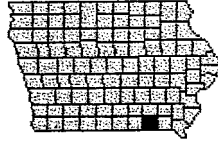
The women folks were busy too in those days. To make a woolen garment, they first had to make the material. The wool was washed and dried, then carded by hand. After the carding it was spun on the old spinning wheel, then placed on a reel. It was then dyed. It was then threaded on the loom and woven. Three yards of material was counted as a big day's work.

When boots were needed, they went to the shoemaker, had their feet measured, then it took two days to make a pair of boots.

During his 92 years of life in Davis County, Overturf has witnessed the growth of the community from the wilds to one of the most progressive counties of the state.

At the present time he resides at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. And Mrs. James Helmick.

By Deb Barker



With winter around the corner, and the end to a busy summer, most of us may be looking for indoor projects. A project to help to the society and researchers as well could be just the answer. May I suggest transcribing! It may be only what you have available at home, or a selection from our library. Have you been clipping obituaries over the years, and now wonder what to do with them? The county website has a special place to contribute obits, <http://64.28.101.122/boards/davis/obituaries/index.cgi>



How about them sheets of census you have copied over the years, and are tucked away in your special filing system? These can be reproduced and transcribed for other researchers also. Just type into text and e-mail to iadavis@netins.net

Have any family stories, documents, or lone pictures? There is space on our website to post, and other distant cousins may find you! What about them country schools your parents attended, still keeping souvenirs? Oh, how interesting to others, please share. Our history is to be documented, and what better way than to add to our genealogy website!

Don't forget that you can upload the cemetery pictures that you took this spring and summer also. They'll be available for all to see, forever. Try looking around here, http://iowagravestones.org/index.php/search_index/cid_26

IAGenWeb
Gravestone
Photo Project



For those of you without computers, have you donated a family folder to the society? We keep families filed alphabetically in our library room, for others to view. We have many books that are in need of an Index can you help?

How about attending our next meeting and showing your support, see you there, October 18 at the Library at 1:30.

Records were compiled from the WPA taken in the 1940's and canvassing done by Verle & Peggy Arnold, and recently by Deborah Barker. Please help fund restoration of this and other Pioneer cemeteries by sending a donation to the Davis County Genealogy Society PO Box Bloomfield, IA 52537 and mark to the attention of Cammack Cemetery.

<u>BROUHARD</u>			
Corydon	6 Mar 1844	30 Apr 1916	Marr. Lilena Stanley 1866
Clarrisa	1827	20 Jul 1859	32Y4M27D Mrs J
Ella		2 Feb 1895	9D DAU OF JC & E
Lucinda	Mrs Jerome		
Jerome C	1851	13 Apr 1905	
John	1816	20 May 1894	77Y9M24D
Martha Wade			wf of John
<u>CAMMACK</u>			
John	24 Oct 1825	12 Apr 1895	69Y5M8D GAR
Gregory			Co E 3rd IA Calv
<u>CHIBINE</u>			
Fannie	23 Sep 1894	16Y8M11D	SuicideDAU of H Clubine
<u>ELROD</u>			
Nancy E	14 Oct 1839	15 Jun 1917	Brouhard wf of Eli, Sister of Jerome
<u>FARRENS</u>			
Mary F	16 Aug 1889	2Y7M8D	DAU of WT & MT
<u>HAINES</u>			
James	1837	13-Mar-1905	62Y3D
<u>HAYNES</u>			
Wm R		8 Oct 1886	Deaths 1885-1893
<u>HALE</u>			
Meshach	1804	19 Sep 1874	
Polly	1808	27 Aug 1885	76Y10M6D WF of MESHACH
Rachel	1841	15 Aug 1892	50Y9M12D
<u>HINKLE</u>			
Frank		29 Jun 1883	21Y1M22D SON of WB & SE
Dora D	11 Jan 1866	1Y1M9D	DAU of WB & SE HINKLE
J S	1848	17 Mar 1875	26Y10M5D
James W	13 Jun 1876	3M2D	SON of J S & M A HINKLE
Beulah		3 Nov 1883	7YDeaths 1880-1883
<u>HARTMAN</u>			
Milton L	21 Aug 1848	3-Nov-1929	
Frederick	1820	31 Aug 1854	
Hannah S	1852	3Y	DAU of F & M
John B		11 May 1853	SON of F & M
<u>LINDBURG</u>			
Leroy Neal		2 May 1904	4D SON of T & K
<u>MILLS</u>			
Sarah Lucy	4 Aug 1864	23 Jan 1938	Nephew Gerald Mills
Malinda F	28 Feb 1860	29 Aug 1930	
Mary Matilda Jane	22 Oct 1861	30 Oct 1902	
Matilda	3 Apr 1826	25 Jun 1901	
<u>NEAL</u>			
Maria K	1831	28 Jun 1863	34Y3M2D Mrs D
R H	1810	16 Nov 1891	
Charlotte	1814	27 Oct 1890	wf of R H

<u>SHAFER</u>			
James		13 Apr 1879	INF SON OF J & LE
<u>SMITH</u>			
Infant son		28 Aug 1919	SON of CR & LULU SMITH
Susanna		19 Nov 1855	11Y7M DAU of A & M SMITH
<u>SHAFER</u>			
Margaret	1846	13 Apr 1905	
<u>WARNER</u>			
N	1792	15 Mar 1875	

**WPA GRAVES REGISTRARION & 1870 DAVIS COUNTY FEDERAL CENSUS
 AVAILABLE ON CD FROM
 DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY
 PRICE IS \$10.00 + \$3.00 S&H
 SEND ORDERS TO
 P O BOX 94 BLOOMFIELD IA 52537**

Jennifer Kerr 17010 Forest Lake Road Sonora CA 95370 email 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.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004. 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: _____

(SEND TO DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOC. P O BOX 94 BLOOMFIELD IA 52537)
