

GRAVES, LEWIS

Birth

June 15, 1838 in Indiana

Death

February 17, 1912

Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 91
Lot was purchased by Lewis
Graves on June 16, 1880



Father

Joel Graves

Mother

Nancy Brookshire

Marriage

Lewis Graves to Arvilla Jane Dodd on December 4, 1865 at Winterset, Iowa
Ref: History of Des Moines and Polk Co. – 1911

Census

1840 –

1850 – Madison Co., IA; Page 151A; October 11, 1850
Dwelling 872; Family 944

Graves, Joel	35	farmer		NC
Nancy	34			NC
Lewis	12			IN
Louiza	11			IN
Sally	09			IN
Jane	08			MO
Pauline	07		IL	
Emily	05			MO
Bryant	04			MO
Margaret	01			IA
Hinkle, Emmanuel	28	farmer		VA

1856 – South Twp., Madison Co., IA; roll 56
 Dwelling 105; Family 106

Graves, Joel	44	farmer	NC
Nancy	44		NC
Louis	17		IN
Louisa	16		IN
Sarah	15		MO
Jane	14		MO
Paulene	12		MO
Emily	11		MO
Briant	09		MO
Margaret	07		IA
Harvy	03		IA

1860 – Center Twp., Madison Co., IA; Page 705; July 15, 1860
 Dwelling 408; Family 408

Graves, Joel	44	farmer	NC
		Real Estate, \$5800; Personal, \$1000	
Nancy	45		NC
Lewis	22		IN
Louisa	20		IN
Sarah	19		MO
Jane	18		MO
Verlina	17		IN
Emily	16		MO
Bryant	12		MO
Margaret	10		IA
Harvey	07		IA

1870 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 103B; August 22, 1870
 Dwelling 145; Family 142

Graves, L.	32	farmer	IN
Jane	26		IN
Nancy	04		IA
Laura	02		IA
Homer	4/12		IA

1880 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED167; Page 448A; July 12, 1880
 Dwelling 184; Family 184

Graves, Lewis	42	farmer	IN	NC	NC
Jane	35		IN	IN	IN
Nancy	14		MO	IN	IN
Laura	12		IA	IN	IN
Homer	10		IA	IN	IN
Almond	08		IA	IN	IN

Ella	06		IA	IN	IN
Charles	04		IA	IN	IN
Chester A.	02		IA	IN	IN

1885 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA
 Dwelling 165; Family 168

Graves, Lewis	47	farmer	IN		
Jane	39		IN		
Nannie	17		MO		
Laura	15		Polk Co., IA		
Homer	13		Polk Co., IA		
Almond	11		Polk Co., IA		
Ella	09		Polk Co., IA		
Charles	07		Polk Co., IA		
Forrest	05		Polk Co., IA		
Lewis	00		Polk Co., IA		

1895 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; Page 69

Graves, Lewis	56		IN		
Jane	51		IN		
Homer	24		Polk Co., IA		
Almon	22		Polk Co., IA		
Ella	20		Polk Co., IA		
Charley	17		Polk Co., IA		
Forest	15		Polk Co., IA		
Harry	08		Polk Co., IA		

1900 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED61; Page 9; June 13, 1900
 Dwelling 130; Family 131

Graves, Lewis	61	married 35 yr. - farmer Born June 1838	IN	NC	NC
A. J.	57	10 children; 8 living Born February 1844	IN	VA	VA
Charles T.	24	farm labor Born March 1876	IN	IN	IN
Forest	22	farm labor Born April 1878	IA	IN	IN
Harry Evert	13	Born September 1886	IA	IN	IN

1905 –

1910 – Bloomfield Twp., Polk Co., IA; ED64; Page 24A; May 4, 1910
 Dwelling 86; Family 86

Graves, Louis	71	farmer	IN	VA	NC
Jane	65	10 children, 8 living	IN	VA	VA
Harry E.	23		IA	IN	IN

History of Des Moines and Polk Co., Iowa – 1911; Page 61

Lewis Graves, who has devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits, in which direction he has met with most gratifying success, was born in Indiana on the 15th of June, 1838, a son of Joel and Nancy (Brookshire) Graves. The parents were natives of South Carolina and at a very early day came to Iowa, being numbered among the pioneer settlers of this state. The family home was established in Madison County, where the father entered land and opened up a farm. With the passing of the years he brought his farm under an excellent state of cultivation and continued in its development and improvement until the time of his death, which occurred June 10, 1900. For eight years he had survived his wife, who passed away in September, 1892.

In Indiana and Iowa Lewis Graves spent the period of his boyhood and youth and in the latter state acquired his education, being a pupil of the district schools of Madison County. In addition to the development of his mental capacities he also received thorough training in the work of the farm, early becoming familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the country lad. As time passed and his strength increased he undertook greater responsibilities and the practical experience which thus came to him made his services of value in the operation of the home farm, in the cultivation of which he continued to assist his father until he was thirty-five years of age. He then took up farming independently on a rented place, which he continued to operate for some time, and then purchased forty acres of land in Bloomfield Township. With characteristic energy he at once turned his attention to its development and cultivation and in the course of time made of it a valuable property, well improved, with a fine house and substantial barns and outbuildings, and equipped with all of the modern accessories necessary for facilitating farm labor. In the conduct of his agricultural pursuits he is meeting with most gratifying success for his methods have been progressive, his business insight keen, and with indefatigable energy he has combined an aptitude for successful management which brings about desired results. Aside from his home farm he is the owner of eighty acres of valuable land within the city limits of Des Moines.

Mr. Graves was married at Winterset, Iowa, on the 4th of December, 1865 to Miss Arvilla Jane Dodd, who's parents, Greenville P. and Harriett E. (Smith) Dodd, were natives of Virginia but moved to Putnam county, Indiana, where she was born February 2, 1845, and the family, in 1851, came to Iowa, locating at Osceola. There the father opened a blacksmith shop which he continued to operate for twenty-five years, when he purchased a farm and engaged in farming in connection with his blacksmith business until his death, which occurred on the 30th of June, 1902. His wife had passed away September 29, 1891. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Graves was blessed by ten children, as follows: Nancy J., who is now married and makes her home in Warren county; Laura E., the wife of D. E. Miller, of Bloomfield township; Homer H., whose home is in Des Moines; Almon, also of Des Moines; Ella M., a widow residing in Chicago, Illinois; Charles F., a resident of Bloomfield township; Forest B., of Woodburn, Iowa; Harry E.; Louis, who passed away in April, 1893; and one who died in infancy. The youngest surviving son, Harry E., makes his home with his parents and assists in the operation of the old homestead, taking charge of the actual work of the place, although the father still retains the supervision of his affairs. Harry E. Graves was united in marriage, on the 14th of September 1910, to Miss Blanche Chatfield, a daughter of Edwin and Martha (Dowdney) Chatfield, natives of New York

and Iowa respectively. Her parents are both living and now make their home at Iola, Kansas. The father is a contractor and has followed that trade throughout his entire life.

Mr. Graves and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are well known in the locality in which they make their home. He gives his political allegiance to the Democratic Party and although he has never sought nor desired public office as a reward for party fealty, he has been called to minor township offices, serving for some time as road supervisor; also as school director of Bloomfield Township. He has been a staunch champion of the cause of public education, taking a deep interest in the subject of progress in the schools. Indeed, all matters which tend toward progress along material, political, intellectual and moral lines make strong appeal to him, and in his citizenship he is ever public-spirited and loyal to the interests of community, state and nation.

Wills and Probates

Probate place: Polk Co., Iowa

Case Number: 7730

Probate date: March 4, 1912

Item Description: Probate Case Files, 7718-7736, 1912

Lewis Graves Estate

Harry Graves Executor

Last Will & Testament

I, Lewis Graves of the County of Polk, and State of Iowa, being of sound and disposing mind and memory and knowing the uncertainties of life and infirmities of age, do make, publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament.

I give, devise and bequeath all my property both real and personal of which I am possessed at the time of my decease in a manner and form as follows:

Par 1

I direct that all my funeral expenses and just debts be paid as soon as after my decease as conveniently can be done.

Par 2

I am the owner in fee of the South half of the North East quarter of Section 23, Township 78, Range 25, West of the 5th, P. M. and I hereby direct that my beloved wife Jane Graves shall have and occupy said land as her homestead during the term of her natural life, and that she shall have the use as well as the profits and income of said property as long as she shall live, and upon her death said property shall be equally divided between my children Mrs. Nancy Gray, Mrs. Laury Miller, Homer Graves, Almon Graves, Charles Graves, Ella Graves, Forest Graves, and Harry Graves.

Par 3

I am the owner in fee of the South East quarter of the South East quarter of Section 23, Township 78, Range 25, West of the 5th, P. M. comprising in all Forty (40) acres; this property I

devise and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane Graves subject only to the conditions set forth in paragraph Five (5) hereof

Par 4

Should the income from the land herein described be insufficient for the support and maintenance of my beloved wife it is my will that she shall have the right to sell and dispose of enough of the land described in paragraph two (2) hereof as may be necessary to meet her needs. All personal property remaining after the payment of my debts and funeral expenses I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane Graves to be her own absolutely.

Par 5

It is my Will that my beloved son Harry Graves shall care for and look after the welfare of his mother, and that upon her death such portion of the land described in paragraph three (3) hereof as shall remain unsold shall go to my said son Harry Graves to be his own absolutely.

Par 6

Should any of the beneficiaries under this Will other than my said wife object to the probate hereof or in anywise directly or indirectly, contest or aid in contesting the same or any of the provisions thereof or the distribution of my estate thereunder, then and in that event I annul any bequest herein made to such beneficiary, and it is my last Will that such beneficiary shall be absolutely barred and cut off from any share in my estate.

Par 7

I hereby revoke any and all Wills by me at any time heretofore made.

Par 8

I hereby nominate and appoint my son Harry Graves as executor of this my last Will and Testament and direct that he serve without bonds.

In Witness Whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament consisting of three (3) sheets of typewritten paper and folder cover subscribed my name in the presence of two (2) witnesses at Valley Junction, Polk County, Iowa, this 22nd day of December, 1909.

Lewis Graves

We hereby certify on this 22nd, day of December, 1909, at Valley Junction, Polk County, Iowa, Lewis Graves, to us personally known, did in our presence, sign the foregoing instrument and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament; and we at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, do hereunto subscribe our names as witnesses thereto.

J. W. Muelane

F. E. Herring

Will opened and read this 4th day of March 1912, and set for probate on the 30th day of March 1912.

J. P. Maher, Clerk

Lester L. Thompson, Valley Junction, Iowa
Attorney for Realator

On June 24, 1912 Charles F. Graves was appointed by the court administrator as being in charge of the Estate of Lewis Graves. Prior to his appointment the widow and all of the children and heirs at law of the said Lewis Graves, deceased, set aside the Will of Lewis Graves that was made on December 22, 1909.

Lewis Graves left a Will but by agreement was not offered for probate but was broken by wife Arabella J. Graves and his children.

The children were as follows:

Nancy Gray, daughter, age 46, Norwalk, Iowa
Laura Miller, daughter, age 44, Valley Junction
Homer Graves, son, age 42, Valley Junction
Albert Graves, son, age 40, Des Moines, Iowa
Ella Graves Young, daughter, age 38, Chicago, Illinois
Charles F. Graves, son, age 36, Orilla, Iowa
Forest B. Graves, son, age 34, Woodburn, Iowa
Harry E. Graves, son, age 25, Valley Junction

J. E. McDermott was the Undertaker
The total cost of the funeral was \$368.50
The Probate packet consisted of about 53 pages.