



# Jones County

## Historical Review

Volume 1

Published Quarterly by the Jones County Historical Society

Number 4

# Escape through the Jordan: flight from the battle of the Bad Axe

Almost everyone having any knowledge of early Jones County, or the eastern part of Iowa, is aware that the area was home for the hundreds of Sauk and Fox Indians that had been pushed westward a century earlier by eastern tribes, themselves pushed westward by the mounting influx of white men.

Broken treaties and promises, forever the trademark of white man, had driven tribe upon tribe, to flight, battle and despair, until finally, in sheer desperation, whole Indian nations would retreat no more, but take a final stand in what ultimately would mean without exception their decimation.

So it was with the people of Saukenuk. A beautiful people, a peaceful people, a people who in their finest hour were led by one of America's most faithful, most brilliant and, when necessary, most

ferocious Indian chiefs -- Blackhawk!!

To fully appreciate what part the area of Jones County played in harboring the remnants of Chief Blackhawk's people after his aborted attempt to reach Canada and escape the injustice of "CHEMOKEMON", as the white man was called, we must review the chronology of events leading up to the Blackhawk war.

### EARLIER EVENTS

The following dates and events are taken from the historical and military archives:

In November 1804, by the treaty of St. Louis, all the lands belonging to the Sauk and Fox Indians east of the Mississippi and north to the Wisconsin river were seized by the government.

In the spring of 1806, Captain Zebulon Pike, under orders, paid a visit to Saukenuk, which was a permanent Indian

village, located up the Rock River a short distance upstream from Rock Island, Ill.

In the fall of 1808, the Fort was constructed at the present location of Fort Madison. This caused the Indians much concern, for it was on the WEST side of the Mississippi, and there was no apparent reason for its construction, unless the white man had some ulterior motive.

During the summer of 1812, part of Blackhawk's people (who were known as the British Band) joined the British soldiers at Green Bay, Wis. They returned, however, to Saukenuk after a short time.

During the summer of 1814, the Sauk attacked Campbell's keelboats near Rock Island, and in the early fall of that year they drove Zachary Taylor's troops from the siege of Saukenuk. This siege had been perpetrated to intimidate and force the desertion of the permanent Indian village.

### SIGN TREATY

The spring of 1816 found Chief Blackhawk signing a treaty at Portage des Sioux, but during the summer of that same year construction was begun on Fort Crawford (today Prairie du Chien, Wis.) and Fort Armstrong.

We find in the archives that Galena, Ill. was founded in 1822, and immediately the mining of lead was started. This brought a tremendous number of white men into the area.

In 1827, while the Blackhawk and his people were on a summer forage, leaving their Village of Saukenuk to be tended by a few old men and women, white men moved in and destroyed the crop of corn, pumpkins and squash, torched the wickiups and main lodge, and put the ground upon which it stood to their own use.

In 1829 the government sold this land to the white intruders without any compensation to the Indians who had held it.

**THIS WAS THE ACT THAT BROUGHT DESPERATION UPON BLACKHAWK AND HIS PEOPLE.** While all records indicate Blackhawk and his people to have



*LOWER REACHES of the Jordan creek valley. Blackhawk's tribe found sanctuary here for a few days, before being overtaken by troops. Burial ground spoken of in story is located in this area.*

# Chief Blackhawk defies govt. orders, crosses the Mississippi

been a friendly people before this dastardly move (and even after), the fat was in the fire. While the Indians had been ordered to stay west of the Mississippi, Blackhawk decided to make an attempt to take his people again to Canada and join the British troops. The route was via Ft. Dearborn (now Chicago), then along the shore of the great lake northward.

## AGAINST ORDERS

On April 5, 1832, Chief Blackhawk and approximately 1,000 old men, women, children and a handful of warriors crossed the Mississippi from Iowa into Illinois. This was against the orders of the U. S. Government.

Therefore, on April 8, 1832, General Atkinson departed Jefferson Barracks in an effort to overtake Blackhawk.

If ever there were a comedy of errors, if ever the mouse outsmarted the elephant, in the opinion of this writer the next three months proved this out. One must read the entire story of the "Blackhawk War" in detail to fully appreciate the genius of the man "Blackhawk", or to realize what fool man can be.

On April 16, 1832, a week after General Atkinson took up pursuit and having found no trace of Blackhawk's group, Governor Reynolds of Illinois sent out the Illinois militia to head off Blackhawk. The Militia was under command of Posey, who lost himself in the dark, so was joined by General Whiteside and his army.

At this early date, it was already evident to government officials that boys had been sent to do a man's work, so General Winfield Scott was ordered to take command of all troops. He was able to report that Blackhawk was retreating -- in the direction he wished to go.

On July 27, Atkinson, with a small force, resumed pursuit north of the Wisconsin River. By this time Blackhawk, caught in a pincer movement, could see the futility of continuing his attempt to reach Canada, so turned his people back toward the Mississippi, down a small stream called the "Bad Axe" river. By this time all of the combined troops, numbering in the thousands, were hot on his heels.

## AT THE BAD AXE

On July 31 Blackhawk's band reached the east bank of the Mississippi at its confluence with the Bad Axe river. This is a short distance north of Prairie du Chien. Nightfall forced a delay in crossing and enabled the white troops to catch up.

On Aug. 1, at the crack of dawn, the women, children and old men began to cross. Every able bodied man held back, taking up a rear guard, but the fanatical troops, under orders to let no one escape, opened fire point blank. Many found it easier to simply pick up a club and beat the defenseless old men, women and children to death.

As if this were not enough, the Federal gunboat, "Warrior", lying offshore, hurled round after round from the deck cannon into the midst of the fleeing people. Deck hands picked them off with rifle fire while they attempted to wade to offshore islands.

By Aug. 3, it is all but over. Approximately 100 men, women and children have made it across. Blackhawk and about 40 warriors had escaped upstream on the Mississippi to a point approximately across from the present town of Lansing.

EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY, more or less, of the original band have met death in this flight. There is a huge victory dinner aboard the "Warrior" to celebrate. This on Aug. 7.

Blackhawk was betrayed, caught and taken prisoner before he was able to cross at the Lansing area. He was returned to St. Louis, later taken to Washington, D. C.

## INTO IOWA

What was left of Blackhawk's band, the approximately 100, moved swiftly away from the west bank of the Mississippi. Fear of pursuit drove them into the Iowa territory some 40 miles before they dared to turn southward in the hopes of getting back to the southern part of the area, that being south of the Maquoketa River. An earlier decree had given the Maquoketa River as part of the northern boundry west of the Mississippi. The order was that the Sauk and Fox were to stay in this southeast part of the territory.

Slowly they picked their way southward, entering present day Jones County about where Delaware, Dubuque and Jones County meet. Rather than follow the North Fork of the Maquoketa which would have taken them back east through present day Worthington and Cascade, they held to the high grass of the prairie and timberlines, crossing what is today highway 151 in the area of the Claire Aitchison farm.

Entering the long draws they now turned eastward and entered the Jordan area in section 7, about where the Buol brothers farm is today located.

They are now spent, completely exhausted and demoralized. Many of their number are seriously wounded or sick. Some have died in the 100 miles traveled since crossing the Mississippi. Others are near death.

They call a halt, and for a few days nurse their wounded and bury those who die during this stop. This stop is made at a point south of the present day "old Iron Bridge" that spans the Jordan on the "Butterfield" road.

The writer knows the location of a graveyard containing 8 to 12 souls. This has not yet been disturbed by plow, the elements have been kind to it, and it is still quite in evidence. It was pointed out by a very elderly man (now deceased) quite a number of years ago. This writer promised not to reveal its location to any but

professional archaeologists.

## TROOPS PURSUE

After a few days stay, word was received by Runner that a force of troops were to again take up the pursuit, but before the band could easily break camp the troops were upon them, and Blackhawk's few found themselves in panic flight. They had but two miles to safety. Would they make it?

Word had reached the command, located just outside of present day East Dubuque, that some of Blackhawk's people were in the vicinity of Fountain Falls, present day Cascade. Immediately the word went out. Two platoons of soldiers are to move across the Mississippi, proceed to the area of Fountain Falls, and drive the remnants of the Sauk and Fox back across the Maquoketa river or take them prisoner. If they engage in battle, they would be destroyed.

This is early in the fall of 1832, and the order for this action is given by the officer in command, Jefferson Davis. Davis is later to become president of the Confederacy. Legend has it that the order was given to Captain Abraham Lincoln, later President of the Union. Nowhere are there any records to bear this out.

No military records exist showing this order was given to Lincoln, but neither do they exist showing the order was given to anyone else. Records do exist showing the force departed East Dubuque, and did engage the Indians.

## NOT PROVEN

Records do exist showing that both Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln fought in the Blackhawk war. Both were officers. Both were stationed in the East Dubuque area at the same time. Hours of research, and everything available from the Illinois Historical Society and Wisconsin Historical Society, as well as the military records, do not PROVE nor DISPROVE that Abraham Lincoln commanded the force that drove the Indians back across the Maquoketa. The writer can only say there is more to prove he did, than he did not. His very presence, and status, lend support to this theory.

The troops caught up with the small band of Indians in the southeast quarter of section 20 as the band raced for the river. A few of the able bodied men, mostly old, set up a rear guard, allowing the women and children to reach the bank of the Maquoketa.

Fall rains had swollen the river, and at the point they would cross, usually not more than 75 feet wide, they beheld a river now 500 feet wide and wild with the rushing water. No choice was given them, cross and perhaps perish in the waters, stay and perish for a certainty at the hands of the troops.

The crossing was made, and if any were

# Indians cross Maquoketa river at Dale's bridge--

Most there is nor record to so indicate. The official report by the troop's commander, however, states that upon reaching the river bank all of the Indians had crossed, and the river being at flood it was considered foolish to endanger lives of the troops by ordering them into the water to cross and continue the pursuit.

## AT DALE'S CROSSING

The crossing was made in the southeast corner of section 28, Richland township, about 800 foot downstream from the present Dale's bridge crossing. The new home of Vernon and Mary Rees overlooks this famed crossing point from the south side of the river.

The small band of Indians continued moving southward, now at a slower pace, and left the area of Jones County somewhere in the southeast corner.

The Sauk and Fox numbered about 6,000 at their peak. About 1,500 of the 6,000 were of the Fox tribes. Both were originally from the Montreal, Canada region and were of the Algonquin language tribes. They had been driven to this area by the Iroquois during the 1700's, who had been driven into the Montreal area by the white men moving west.

Iowa's own better-known Mesquakie Indians, who had been driven westward, were bitter enemies of the French, who had named them "Reynards" or "Fox" because of their cunning. The Mesquakie had been almost decimated by the French by 1776, and in despair they joined forces with the Sauk, with a treaty guaranteeing

full equality.

When fall came, and during the period of Indian summer, the Sauk, Fox and friendly sub tribes moved to winter quarters, where hunting and fishing continued. These wintering grounds were located between the Des Moines and Iowa River, roughly cornered by today's locations of Ft. Madison, Wapello, Tama and Oskaloosa.

Enroute to these quarters, many campsites were set up in Jones County, along streams and even prairie areas that afforded spring water and a measure of protection. Many such sites are still in evidence, as is a more little known "Hole in the Hill" or dugout campsite very near the present community of Amber.

## DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR

At this point in history (1875) the emphasis on warfare between the white man and the Indian is the battle of "Wounded Knee", which took place Dec. 29, 1890 in South Dakota not far from the Nebraska line. Historians and writers alike, still able to glean second hand accounting of this battle, dub it the most brutal of all the many bloodlettings so far recorded between the Indian and white soldier.

Admittedly, the battle of wounded knee was atrocious, but taken in its full perspective, this writer does not believe it approaches the viciousness nor downright racial fever that drove the Illinois Militia and the Federal troops to inflict upon human flesh and blood, men, women, and children, the indescribable terror, pain

and death, that the followers of Chief Blackhawk suffered in their final moment of flight.

These final few hours are historically recorded as "THE BATTLE OF THE BAD AXE". They were referred to by Zachary Taylor as "THAT DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR".

Records bear out that well over 850 of the original 1,000 died. Only 70 white soldiers were lost. The entire three month running battle cost the United States over 8 million dollars.

The noted writer, historian and militarman, George Catlin, remarked after the battle, "For the nation, there is an unrequited account of sin and injustice that sooner or later will call for national retribution".

It is still to come, but Jones County today can take some solace in knowing that the beautiful valleys, so loved by Blackhawk's people, afforded them a resting place in their final hour of agony.

Note: To anyone wishing to read the most comprehensive account of the Blackhawk war, I would suggest the book, "THAT DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR" by Cecil B. Eby. The book is now out of print, but can be obtained through your library.

In an upcoming issue of the "Jones County Historical Times" we will learn how the valley in Jones County, known as the "Jordan", received its name. It will again have to do with Chief Blackhawk and the white man whom he considered his best friend. -- Research and story by Gus Norlin

## Partial list of charter members

- C. L. Norlin, 323 N. Chestnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - Mrs. C. L. Norlin, 323 N. Chestnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - William Corbin, 321 N. Cedar, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - Wm. E. L. Bunn, 318 W. South St., Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - Delbert Hodgden, R. R. 1, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323
  - Mrs. Delbert Hodgden, R. R. 1, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323
  - Mrs. Neva Pavlista, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323
  - Dr. A. G. Rexstad, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
  - Mrs. A. G. Rexstad, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
  - Robert Loomis, 731 N. Cedar, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - Mrs. Robert Loomis, 731 N. Cedar, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - H. C. Wilcox, 206 N. Walnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - Mrs. H. C. Wilcox, 206 N. Walnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310
  - John Schmidt, R. R. 2, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- (cont. on page 7)



FROM THIS spot and for 1,000 feet downstream, the remnants of Blackhawk's tribe who had escaped the massacre at the Battle of the Bad Axe, crossed the Maquoketa river when it was at flood. It is here that legend has Abraham Lincoln with other troops forcing the Indians across. Picture taken at old Dales Mill crossing.

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# History of cemetery continues; research unveils numerous locations

## MARKER REQUIRED

North Madison Pioneer cemetery in Sec. 3, Madison township, is a nicely cared for burial ground near Center Junction. In early days the nearest burial ground was at Johnsonstown.

Aug. 5, 1868 two acres was deeded to the church for burial purposes by Elephalet A. Nichols and his wife, the former Nancy Jane Krouse. I am told there are very few unmarked graves here.

One of the rules of the cemetery states that "the occupant of the lot" is required to place a monument on the lot. One of the earliest burials we found here was in 1857.

Among those interred here are Dr. Young, who was one of the early doctors in that area. The McDonalds, McNeillys, Serbouseks, Smiths, Reades, Strongs, Moncriefs, Livingstons, Baldwins and others and one that reads "John Haddon Corbett, 1857-1917 Buried in the Yukon Territory."

Madison Center in Sec. 16 is a small badly neglected burial place. Although it had an iron marker over the gateway, one could pass it by and not know it was there.

A group of Amber Boy Scouts and their leader did a clean up job a few years ago, so one could get in the gate. Blooming in one corner was a beautiful lily, as if to tell us someone cared.

Markers here date from 1853 to 1919 and bear such names as these: Andrew, Baldwin, Bender, Barto, Brownell, Bugh, Countryman, Dirks, Eranus, Mann, Farrington, Hartman, McCalmant, McDonald, Moore, Parks, Parsons, Perry, Preston, Smith, Sweeney, Turner and Worthington.

## OLD PINE TREES

Madison Village in Sec. 20 of Madison township is a much larger burial place with many ancient pine trees. A dirt road goes from the highway, midway through the section and ends in front of the cemetery.

One of the old timers buried here is Levi Larus Wells, who came to Iowa at the age of four from Pennsylvania, with his parents and an older brother in a covered wagon, drawn by an ox team. There are a whole row of Wells buried here, many in unmarked graves. Burials here date from 1853 to 1965 and some of the names are House, Walton, Raymond, Bills and McGuires. No doubt many we didn't even find.

Another most badly neglected cemetery is in Section 8 of Wyoming township. Among broken down trees and underbrush we found these: Amos Gilbert who died May 12, 1878, his wife, Lydia Gilbert d.

March 12, 1878, another Gilbert marker wife of ? d. Aug. 2, 1864 age 18 yrs. 9 mo. 15 da., one tombstone broken in 3 pieces, the base of another, and some small foot stones.

It was said there was a Negro buried here in an early day. A cornfield on one side gave one the impression part of the cemetery may have been plowed up.

## SOLDIERS BURIAL

The Diamond cemetery in Sec. 35, Hale township, is quite a large well cared for burial ground not far from the Cedar county line. In 1869 a Methodist church was erected there, but in 1894 the church was moved to Massilon.

Co. G. of the 31st Ia. Inf. was recruited in this area. It is said they did not suffer so many battle casualties, but many came home ruined in health and died within a short time. Many of them are interred here.

One of those was Corpl. W. P. Ferguson, Co. G, 31st Ia. Inf. His tombstone leans against an elm tree. The tree has grown around the marker making a complete frame around it. Here again we find a difference in the spelling of a surname, Ferguson, Farguson, and Fergusson.

One tombstone here was rather interesting. It is shaped like a cradle for a child with the name on the headboard part. Jimmie, the son of G. and L. Field d. Nov. 19, 1888, age 5 yrs 9 mo 10 da.

The oldest we found was the infant son of William and R. DuBois Feb. 11, 1851. A few of the names found here are Calkins, Cruise, Freeman, Hammond, Kinniston, Sutherland, Titus, Kirkpatrick and Buskirk.

## PUT UP MONUMENT

The Hale cemetery in Sec. 10 is at the edge of the Village of Hale. Albert Osborne, a stone mason and brick layer, didn't like the idea of being buried in an unmarked grave as so many people are, so in 1960 he decided to do something about taking care of his own and he erected a nice monument with the dates 1876 to 1976. I expect he thought that 100 years should be enough.

He had been married 6 times and his last wife had died in 1952. He was 84 when he put up this monument.

I had a feeling there probably were some unmarked graves in the Hale cemetery also. Some names we found were Wooder, Mullet, Wood, and Preston.

In Sec. 21 of Hale township is the Pleasant Hill of Point cemetery. In early days it was called "Nigger Point". It was so called because a Negro lived there. It is

quite a large well cared for cemetery.

History says Joseph Baumgarner came to Hale township from Indiana in 1840. It also says that Daniel Garrison was the first settler in Hale township. He also came from Indiana. He was said to be a public spirited man and whenever there was a parade he was there on his horse.

History also says W. S. Simpson came to Iowa and Hale township the fall of 1839, so it is hard to say who really was first.

The oldest tombstone we found at Pleasant Hill was Sina Simpson, the wife of W. S. Simpson. She died in 1844. We found one wooden marker there.

I doubt if there are many unmarked graves in this burial place. One marker we saw was that of William D. Aldrich and his wife Amanda. On asking whey there was no death date for her, I was told that she was buried in Minnesota.

The old atlas lists a cemetery in Sec. 23 of Hale township, but we never were able to locate this one.

## FAIRVIEW CEMETERIES

Fairview township has several cemeteries as well as several that have disappeared completely.

Holy Cross, the Catholic cemetery, is in Sec. 3. Many of our good Anamosa merchants and citizens are buried there, including the Fays, Dr. Henry Dolan, Aments, Foleys, Doughertys, Flahertys, Hayes, Hintz, Lazios, McKeones, McNamaras, Soukups, Yandas, Nevilles, Powers, Wegmans and many from the Stone City area as the Sampicos, DeNois, Rushfords, Barnes, Ronens and Meres.

Also, in Sec. 3 there's the Reformatory cemetery. This was started in 1872 and the first burial was in 1873. The tombstones are all made at the Reformatory and are all made alike of stone.

The present location of the cemetery was established in 1900 when the other was moved. Many stones are marked with the surname but a few are marked unknown. There are something like six common graves where several are buried. There are some over 150 buried here.

Early records show there was once a cemetery in Sec. 4.

## LARGEST CEMETERY

The largest and main cemetery is Riverside in Sec. 10. The Anamosa Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1863. In May 1864, the grounds known as the old cemetery and adjacent ground (about 15 acres) was purchased from G. H. Ford for burial purposes. It is located on a hill at the confluence of the Buffalo and Wapsipinicon rivers.

# Riverside cemetery at Anamosa is 112 years old--

The first burial in Riverside was the child of John Leornards in the early 1850's. Burials here are too numerous to mention though each played part in the building of the town and country. There are a few that I must mention.

One is Colonel Wm. T. Shaw, who was the first mayor of Anamosa, a financier who built many of the buildings in Anamosa, built creameries, did surveying, built the first frame house in Cass township, loaned money to many a pioneer to help them get a start. I know, for my grandfather was one of those.

He gave land and helped to build a church. When the church was in financial difficulties, he was asked if he belonged to the church. He replied by saying it looked like the church belonged to him.

## BUILDS RAILROAD

When the Civil War started the railroad had been built as far as Anamosa. At that time Shaw was superintendent of construction for the railroad. When he received his commission as Colonel he dismissed the men he had employed and, as abruptly as Putnam left his plow, he proceeded to the service of his country and the railroad wasn't finished until after the war.

The Dearborns of Stone City are buried at Riverside. During World War II there were two Iowa boys who were in Claire Chennaults Flying Tiger Squadron.

One of those was Col. Wm. N. (Bill) Reed, who was born in Stone City Jan. 8, 1917 and died in service at the age of 27. His parents were Edward and Mayme Dearborn Reed. He was brought from China and buried with the Dearborns at Riverside.

And we have the artist, Grant Wood, who was born and raised in the Anamosa area. Visitors are attracted from many places to see the place where the world famous artist is buried. The Wood Family plot is marked by a huge monument with a lion on top.

## PRISONER BURIED

Another marker is that of Caroline Thomas, who died not long after admission to the Women's Reformatory when it was at Anamosa. She was reportedly a woman of "easy virtue".

Her father refused to claim her body and when they wanted to bury her in the Reformatory cemetery they found the rules said only men prisoners could be buried there.

She was buried at Riverside much to the consternation of many townspeople who had folks buried there. The prisoners fashioned a tombstone for her which read "Caroline Thomas Age 22". At the base it reads, "He that is without sin among you, Let him first cast a stone at her."

Here also we find Dr. Hejinian, the

Sigworths, Remleys, Stacys, and hundreds more.

The Spade cemetery, also sometimes called O.K., is in Sec. 27 and is named for the Spade family who very likely donated the land as they are buried there.

It is the burial place of Benona Brown, who died at the age of 102 yrs. His wife Sibbel Brown was buried there in 1847 at the age of 78 yrs. William and Margaret Hester are here also. They were among the ones who started the Congregational church.

There are Northrups, Benedicts, Hakes, Halls, Millers, Underwood, and Youngs here also. We found around 25 rocks rounded on top with no markings on, also lots of sand burrs. It is quite a good sized lot, which is back from the road quite a distance.

We were told there was a cemetery in Sec. 15 but I have no information on that.

## FOREST CEMETERY

Forest cemetery also referred to as Forest Hill is in Sec. 26. It is a nice well cared for burial ground that adjoins the church yard.

I have no complete record on this cemetery but find that the land for the church was purchased in 1859 by Samuel Stover. Some of the burials here go back to 1861, but possibly there are some older.

Benjamin Gilkinson, a veteran of the War of 1812 is buried at Forest. Some names found here are Alspach, Meeks, Stover, Hay, Sones, Decius, Miller, McMurrin, Klinefelter, Remington, Sterling and Ruhl.

Highland Grove in Sec. 36, Fairview township, is located where the Village of Highland Grove was years ago. Many of the merchants and townspeople of the old time village are laid to rest here.

Many of the tombstones go back to the 1850's, some too weatherworn to read. The cemetery is well platted so that is a help in locating the older ones.

The courthouse started keeping records of births and deaths in August, 1880. Richard Bancroft, who died Aug. 22, 1880, was the first death recorded in Jones county.

He was also the first one I was asked to do research on. He came from Wakefield, England at the age of 84 and was only in the state five days when he died.

Some of the burials here include Dr. Ira Bates and his second wife; Daniel Lambard, who was the blacksmith; the Foremans, Evertsons, Ingrams, McConaughays, Murfields and Secrists. The cemetery is kept mowed and well cared for. It was one of those hit by vandals.

## ESTABLISHED IN 1865

The cemetery at Norwich in Sec. 31 of Fairview township was established in 1865, surveyed Dec. 18, 1869 by F. M. Bishop and

record filed Jan. 1, 1870.

In the central part of the cemetery, a huge monument and historical marker tells of the coming of the Soper family to this area from Chenango Co., N. Y. in 1847. They came with wagons bringing their families and possessions, a trip that took them nearly a month.

Several of the Sopers are buried here along with many others of the very early settlers in this area, including the Breeds who go back to Breeds Hill of Revolutionary War days. There are several hundred burials at Norwich dating from 1849 to the present time.

One of these is John B. Dumont who was a veteran of the War of 1812. Others are the Hakes, Armstrongs, Allens, Biggarts, Peets, Leapers and Rundalls.

## FROM VERMONT

The Cady cemetery in Sec. 16 of Wyoming township is one that I was very much interested in as the Cadys came from Lamoille Co., Vt., where my grandparents came from. I have been to the cemetery at Cady's Falls, Vt., where I have relatives buried.

The family arrived in Wyoming (then called Marshfield) July 3, 1854. They stopped for the night west of Wyoming and their oxen and cows wandered away. After locating them their friends at Pleasant Ridge convinced them to stay and go no farther.

This mushroom village of Pleasant Ridge in Pierce township, as it was then called, grew and flourished for several years, and was said to have been full of colorful characters.

Irishmen whose wit and brogue were as thick as fiddlers are said to be in Tophet's roar. The cemetery nearby is all that remains of the village.

Just inside the gate is a small marker which says Miss Cady, age 17 years 1844. It is my opinion that the year 1844 must have been the year she was born since they didn't arrive until 1854.

In wandering about here one can't help but wonder at the small markers that are scattered throughout the cemetery, with nothing but a name. Better than no marker at all, but no way of telling who or when. For example: Mrs. Wheeler, A. L. Bronson, Rosie Eye, John F. Gould, Henry Harder, Jessie King, O. G. Rundall, Cora May and Ida Vaughn.

One finds others with births and deaths of many of the old settlers as the Waggys, Propst, Bills, Pitzenbargers, Huffmans, Hights and the Van Voltinburghs, who were the first to arrive in Wyoming.

It is said they dragged a post back of their wagon, smashing down the prairie grass so if need be they could retrace their way back to where they had been.

## MAIN CEMETERY

The main Wyoming cemetery is in Sec.

# Beautiful evergreen trees mark cemetery at Wyoming--

21 of Wyoming township. This is a large well kept burying ground with many beautiful evergreen trees.

One of the first burials was Neal Brainard, a veteran of the War of 1812, although the first death in Wyoming was the year old son of Daniel E. and Angeline Brainard Nov. 16, 1858. The cemetery has been added onto several times.

One finds many of the older names in that community are the Huttons, Morses, Lightfoots, Aldens, Lucksteads, Dawes, Fishwilds, Calkins, Chattertons, Stoffels, etc.

I'm sure there are more cemeteries in that area but so far I've not been able to locate them.

The Walnut Grove cemetery in Sec. 28 of Rome township is another of the abandoned cemeteries. Sixteen markers remain and just outside the enclosure are the steps and entrance to the church which was there at one time.

The tombstones date from 1878 to 1915 and are Berryhill, Johnson, Jones, Grafft, McMurrin and Sherman.

The Merritt cemetery in Sec. 3 of Rome township is one of the nicest, well cared for private cemeteries one would ever find. The Merritts came to Olin in 1837.

When Mrs. John Merritt died in 1855 she asked to be buried where they first stayed when they came to their farm. There are around 55 buried in this burying ground, the Lyons, Storys, Culdice, Houstmans, Robins, Harveys and Bloods, mostly related.

West of the Green Center church yard in Sec. 8 of Rome township is a very well cared for cemetery. There are many old tombstones here as it is an old community. The oldest we found were two children of Alexander and Polly Starry, who died in 1846. There are still many burials in this God's Acre.

Some of the old settlers who are buried here are the Millers, Smiths, Tallmans, Weaver, Richstines, Resides, Pfeifers, Munsingers, Maidens, Lindleys, Graffts, Hughes, Harris, Grassfields, Darsees and Bickerstaffs.

## ON HILLSIDE

The Olin Cemetery at the edge of Olin in Sec. 24 of Rome township is a beautifully kept cemetery on a hillside. The first burial in Olin was the father of Joseph Glenn, who died in 1838. Olin is one of the oldest towns in Jones county, so it is really pioneer country.

When Mr. Glenn died materials were scarce and the coffin was hewn from a hollow log. In those days many were made in this manner, some being made from wagon boxes or whatever was available.

It is said that when burials were first made there was no system to the placing of tombstones, so they were erected in a haphazard manner. This cemetery, like most others still in use, has been added

onto.

Many of the early settlers are laid to rest here as well as all those who have come later and played a part in making Olin what it is today.

Dr. White, the Voorhees, VonSpreckens, Tarbox, Storys, Stingleys, Rummels, Platners, Morelands, Lawsons, Irelands, Harris, Hammonds, Gilmores, Gordons, Glicks, Easterlys and many, many more are buried here.

There is a grave on the Tenley farm, where there is a tombstone for Andrew Stingley, who was accidentally shot in 1853.

In another old cemetery on the Delbert Smith farm the tombstones bear the name of Taylor.

## PROBABLY OTHERS

This story of the cemeteries in Jones county is far from complete, I'm sure, for the courthouse records tell of cemeteries such as Campbell, Paul, Albright, South Fork, Buckhorn, Burns, Frenchs, Thompson, Lonely Hill, Woods, South Prairie, Brickham, Bell and Bethel, to name a few.

A great many of our Jones county people are buried in cemeteries just over the line in Linn, Delaware, Cedar and Dubuque counties, such as the Wilcox, Cascade, Hazel Knoll and Boulder.

On one farm stones were plowed up bearing the name of Reid or Reed. The people living there had no knowledge of a small cemetery being there.

There are many places we know of where there were single burials in early days, babies and small children buried in family door yards, all in unmarked graves. Epidemics sometimes took whole families, especially the diphtheria epidemic in 1878 and 1879. Typhoid fever, small pox, and scarlet fever all took their toll. Modern medicine has eliminated most of this.

Anyone doing genealogy research dislikes seeing old cemeteries destroyed or not cared for, because often times when records are not kept and markers destroyed there is no other way of tracing one's ancestry.

Cemeteries filled or abandoned, overgrown with grass, bushes and weeds, their leaning or fallen tombstones nearly obliterated by time and weather, are a mute reminder of man's tendency to forget.

This story on Jones county cemeteries was compiled by Mrs. Thomas Stimpson, Anamosa, who with the help of her late husband, spent many hours and days researching the burial places located here. They received much help and information from friends living in different areas and were very grateful and indebted.

Mrs. Stimpson is actively involved in genealogy research and welcomes in-

formation from others, as she receives inquiries from people the world over looking for their ancestors.

## Seeks interest in County Foxfire group

The Society would like to get a JONES COUNTY FOXFIRE group going. Foxfire was started in the State of Georgia, Rabun County, by Eliot Wigginton, a school teacher. His primary courses were in English and geography, with many side responsibilities as all teachers have.

A group of his students interviewed people of Rabun County, putting these interviews on paper and tape recorders. The interviews covered everyting of interest from tales and legends to how to build log cabins, butcher hogs, spin, weave, etc.

Most of the interviews to begin with were between student and grandparents or aged neighbors. It soon became of such interest to everyone concerned that the county boundaries were broken.

It is still going on, has spread to other States, led to the printing of a book, and the cataloging of tapes and stories. Old poems, songs, lost arts were captured on film.

JONES COUNTY HAS A WEALTH OF THIS MATERIAL. Can we get any teacher or class interested? Between the Historical Society and the Bicentennial Commission, we might find it possible to supply the tape cassettes.

Dale Hackett, a principal at Anamosa Schools is chairman of the Jones County Bicentennial Commission. If interested contact either Mr. Hackett or Gus Norlin.

## Needed: old buildings

The Society is looking for the following old buildings to become part of the Pioneer Village complex at the museum grounds: small old log cabin, small one-room schoolhouse, old train depot, small old livery barn, small frame house.

In the spring of 1854, over 1,000 people from just one county in Ohio, were getting ready to move westward into Iowa. That fall, over 300 of these people chose Jones county, Iowa as their new home.

Jones county had one of the very first official weather stations in Iowa. Beginning in 1854 and lasting until 1906, it was located at Monticello. Upon the death of the last attendant, a Mr. Smith, it was moved to Olin where it was continued for a few years.

# President's Message:

**MANY SUBSCRIPTIONS EXPIRE WITH THIS ISSUE.** If the box located on the address label is X'd, your subscription has expired. Do not wait to renew. We have printed only enough copies to fill current subscriptions, and when they are gone, there are no more. Original issues are already becoming a collector's item. If you delay in renewing your subscription until it is too late, we'll both be sorry.

The Jones County Historical Society has received a letter of commendation from the State Historical Society and library. First they commend the Society on the rapid progress that has been made on all fronts, starting with organizing an active society, to building a museum, and especially to putting out a quarterly like the "JONES COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW".

They tell us we are miles ahead of many older county historical societies in Iowa. Now while most of the active members of the Society would take some credit for this, much of the credit goes to all of you who are members, whether you are able to be physically active or not.

To a smaller number goes the credit for making the museum a reality. Hundreds of volunteer man hours have gone into the structure itself, and leading this group is Mr. and Mrs. Joe Messerli of Monticello. In fact I'm not too sure Joe doesn't call it a second home. Such dedication to a project, as the Messerlis have given to this is almost unbelievable.

The unofficial Mayor of the Ghost Town

## Charter members--

(cont. from page 3)

Tom Stimpson, 116 Sales Ave., Anamosa, Ia. 52205  
Mrs. Tom Stimpson, 116 Sales Ave., Anamosa, Ia. 52205  
Ms. Judith Jones, 2563 Meadowbrook Dr., S. E., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52403  
Ferinand Burda, R. R. 1, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323  
Grover Benischek, R. R. 1, Olin, Ia. 52320  
Mrs. Kay Mulvihill, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323  
Herman Benischek, R. R. 1, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323  
Leonard Benischek, R. R. 1, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323  
John Burhop Jr., R. R. 1, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323  
Mike Lambert, 444 W. 7th St., Monticello, Ia. 52310  
Mrs. Mike Lambert, 444 W. 7th St., Monticello, Ia. 52310  
Albert McNeill, 708 W. Park Dr., Monticello, Ia. 52310  
Mrs. Albert McNeill, 708 W. Park Dr., Monticello, Ia. 52310  
Joe Messerli, 142 N. Sycamore, Monticello, Ia. 52310

(cont. on page 8)

of Edinburg, Edwin Freese, next door neighbor to the museum, has put in his share of hours working on the grounds, as has Hans Hinricksen of Center Junction.

A group of ladies from the Center Jct.-Onslow area have spent many hours refinishing display cabinets. I don't wish to slight anyone, but I believe this group of ladies is headed up by Mrs. Robert (Pauline) Orris.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hodgden of Oxford Jct. are building biceps and an ulcer in chairing the group that is moving the old blacksmith shop to the Pioneer Village complex located on the museum grounds.

I could go on and on, naming dozens of people from all over the county. Those who have taken time to write interesting stories for the Review. The Curators who are now cataloging and displaying the hundreds of artifacts, getting ready for the open house which is tentatively scheduled for the last week in April or first week in May, 1976.

The newspapers of Jones County have played an important part in keeping your interest up. Editorials and urgings to get behind the project by Jim Mayer of the Anamosa newspapers and Betty Wagner of the Monticello Express have been more of a driving force than they probably have been given credit for.

While we have been commended for having an outstanding publication, I must admit that without the help of Betty Wagner and her staff, there probably wouldn't be much of a publication. Betty's office is handy, I'm no writer, and when it gets close to putting the review to press, I make a lot of phone calls and trips to the Express to get things in order so they can be read.

To those wondering if bequests can be made to the Society the answer is yes. We have already received some memorials for deceased souls. You can remember the Society in your will. It certainly will be a wonderful way to remember Jones County, and be remembered by Jones County.

We certainly need material for this publication. Will someone come forward with the story on "NIGGAR POINT"? If you don't feel you can write a story, let me know and sometime we'll sit down and talk, and put your story on a tape recorder. The tape will be stored in a tape library at the museum after the story has been written and published.

Remember, the Society is receptive to all and any kind of help you can give. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism. It is your Society, and has become one you can be proud of. It has over 400 paid members and over 600 subscribers. It will exist and grow even more rapidly than it has in the past with your continued interest and support.

Gus Norlin, Pres.

## Many persons give to building fund

Mrs. Thomas Stimpson, Anamosa,  
Donald P. Sutherland, Monticello  
Mrs. Carrie Sutherland, Monticello  
Anna L. Brickley, Anamosa  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Benischek, Cedar Rapids  
"In memory of Wm. D. & Blanche Noble McLaughlin", Monticello  
Velma Paulsen, Monticello  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Corbin, Monticello  
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Miller, Monticello  
"In memory of G. J. Pasker", Monticello  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Orris, Center Junction  
Geo. L. Bader, Monticello  
Mrs. Thelma Kiburz, Monticello  
Mrs. Myron C. Zumbach, Monticello  
"In memory of Thomas Stimpson, Anamosa  
Mrs. Betty Angus, Illinois  
E. J. Recker, Monticello  
Monticello Lions Club, Monticello  
Dr. & Mrs. E. H. DeShaw, Monticello  
Monticello Express, Monticello  
Eloise Sutherland Helgens, Scotch Grove  
Bert Ballou, Monticello  
John L. Willison, Morley  
Florence Noble McColm, Monticello  
Gladys Smith McNeilly, Center Junction  
"In memory of Adelbert King", Monticello  
Monticello State Bank, Monticello  
Haberta M. Livingston M. D., Hopkinton  
Florence G. Miller, Morley  
Mr. & Mrs. Avert Kiburz, Scotch Grove  
Henrietta Baer, Cedar Rapids  
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Lincoln, Anamosa  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Eilers Jr., Monticello  
Mr. & Mrs. William Buol, Monticello  
Mr. & Mrs. Marcine Harms, Cedar Rapids  
Mr. & Mrs. George Topping, Wyoming  
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie M. Balster, Scotch Grove  
James Moran, Onslow  
Ivan Duncan, Stanwood  
Mrs. Robert J. Gerdes, Langworthy  
Marvin Hunwardsen, Onslow  
Carol Hunwardsen, Onslow  
Dr. & Mrs. Rexstad, Wyoming  
Mr. & Mrs. John Clark, Monmouth  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Freese, Scotch Grove  
Mrs. Emma Zirkelbach, Scotch Grove  
Leonard B. Brokens, Anamosa  
Mr. & Mrs. Arend Balster, Scotch Grove  
Citizens State Bank, Wyoming  
Howard Zirkelbach, Center Junction  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Hearn, Monticello  
Monticello Super Valu, Inc., Monticello  
Wilson Kouba, Anamosa  
Ruth E. Jump, Green Valley, Arizona  
Anna B. Chamberlain, Cheyenne, Wyoming  
Eli Shada, Anamosa  
Monticello Standard Parts, Monticello  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Monk, Monticello  
T. G. Murray, Oxford Junction  
Ray George, Monticello, Iowa

# Wyoming Journal

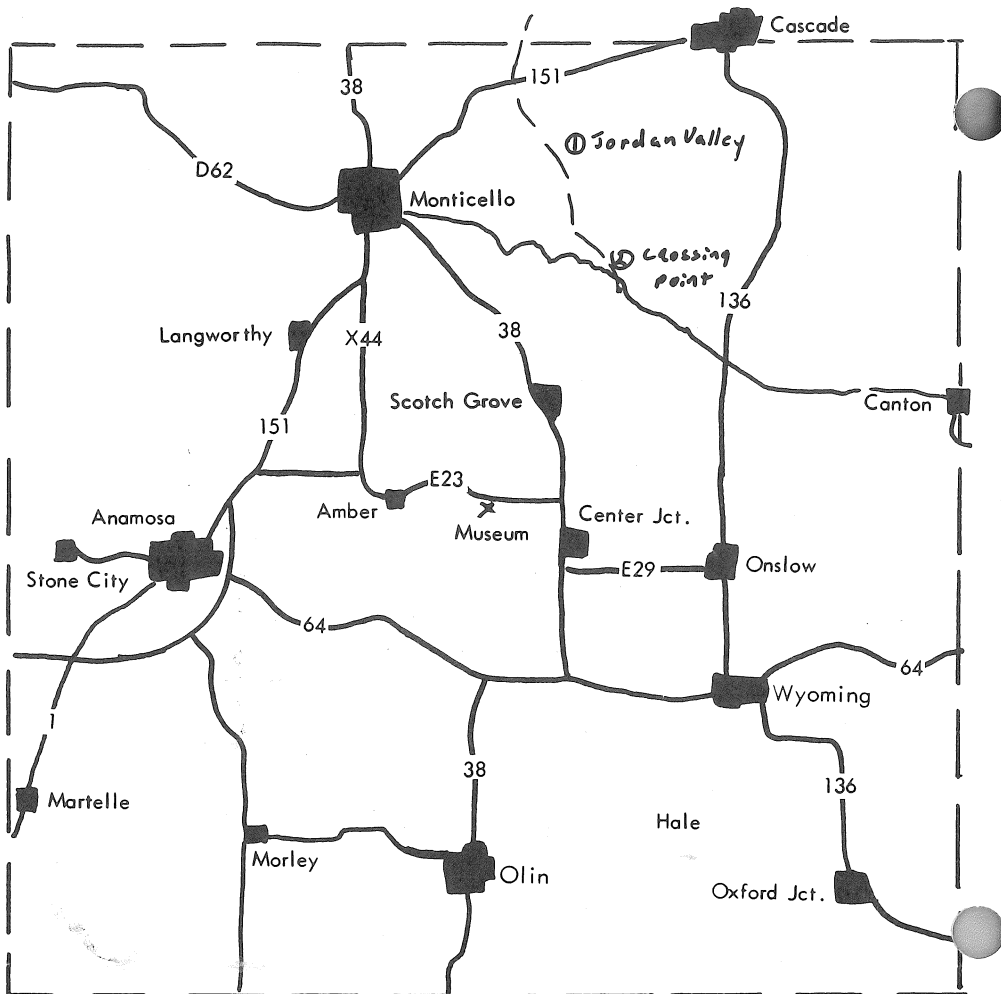
The Jones County Historical Society has been notified by the State Historical Society that all of the issues of the newspaper, "Wyoming Journal", printed between 1882 and 1952 are to be given to the Jones County Museum.

The State has microfilmed these, has no further use for them, and has offered them to us, only if they are made available to the public. President Norlin is to pick these up at the State Historical library Dec. 6.

## Charter members--

(cont. from page 7)

- Mrs. Joe Messerli, 142 N. Sycamore, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Robert C. Wilcox, 124 S. Locust, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- C. J. Matthiessen, 314 N. Chestnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Mrs. Mabel Gearhart, Onslow, Ia. 52321
- Mrs. Velma Paulsen, 129 Crescent Ct., Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Ida Tasker, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
- Matie Harms, Onslow, Ia. 52321
- Mrs. Carol Hunwardsen, Onslow, Iowa 52321
- Robert Orris, R. R. 1, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- Mrs. Robert Orris, R. R. 1, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- Lumir Holub, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
- Mrs. Lumir Holub, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
- Calvin Reiss, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- Mrs. Calvin Reiss, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- Mrs. Genevieve Paulson, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- Mrs. Mildred Dreibelbis, Onslow, Ia. 52321
- Fred Kromminga, R. R. 1, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Mrs. Fred Kromminga, R. R. 1, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Louis Helgens, 829 S. Haven Dr., Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Joe Spahr, R. R. 1, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Robert Thoeni, 111 W. Burroughs, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Ed Cox, 501 W. First St., Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Mrs. Myron Zumbach, R. R., Coggon, Ia. 52218
- James Maurice, 415 S. Walnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310



**THIS MAP** locates the areas referred to in the lead story on Blackhawk's flight and his people's return to safe territory. No. 1 is the area where the Indians sought sanctuary for a few days. No. 2 is the spot on the Maquoketa that the Indians crossed in flood to escape from federal troops.

- Mrs. James Maurice, 415 S. Walnut, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Ben Iben, Senft Apt., Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Robert Smith, R. R. 1, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Mrs. Larry L. Stotler, 3115 Pebble Dr. S. W., Cedar Rapids, Ia. 52404
- John Messerli, 139 El Camino Real, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- Mrs. John Messerli, 139 El Camino Real, Monticello, Ia. 52310
- James Moran, Onslow, Ia. 52321
- Frances Collier, Center Jct., Ia. 52212

- Mrs. Lizzie Schoon, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- Mrs. Pearl Naylor, Scotch Grove, Ia. 52331
- Mrs. Frieda Martens, Center Jct., Ia. 52212
- John Eichhorn, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
- Mrs. John Eichhorn, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
- Jim Eichhorn, Wyoming, Ia. 52362
- Mrs. Jennie Rathmann, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323
- Leonard Wood, Onslow, Ia. 52321
- Herbert Rehmke, Oxford Jct., Ia. 52323

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