

# Jones County

## Historical Review

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### The life and death of Edinburg: home of first courthouse in Jones county



*THIS IS ONE of the first Sanford homes built in Edinburg, the original county seat of Jones county. Shown in the picture are Harvey Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Meade Sanford and daughter, Albert Sanford, Jennie Sanford, three Moncrief Bros., Mrs. Albert Sanford, William Payne and Baby Anna Sanford.*



*BUILT IN 1871, this brick home of the Sanford family is still standing on the original site of Edinburg. It was built by William Payne Sanford, who became postmaster in 1856, and incorporated the post office into his new home.*

It is surprising, but none the less a fact, that the very ground that is to become the Museum Complex of Jones county is only one step removed from its original owners -- Chief Black Hawk and his tribe.

If a stranger were to inquire the way to the first new building that is now erected on this spot and was told it could be located in the old Jones county seat of Edinburg, he would probably stare in disbelief. He would need a very old map to find Edinburg.

Ghost towns are quick to lose their identity in the fleeting years of a few generations.

Only to the five generations of the Sanford family is the name of Edinburg a common place word. Almost one could say that the Sanfords were Edinburg. Perhaps Sanfordville may have been a more fitting name.

#### THE BEGINNINGS

But we are getting ahead of our story. Just as families like to go back in time and figure where they belong on their own little branch of the family tree, so it might be well to turn back the pages of time and find out where Jones county, with Edinburg as the county seat, appears in Iowa history.

The waving grasses, horse high, the virgin timber where elk, deer, and buffalo grazed, the unpolluted spring water, had all been here since time immemorial. Disturbed perhaps, only rarely, by the silent tread of an Indian moccasin.

Little did the French explorer LaSalle know that when he penetrated the untamed Mississippi river valley in 1682 and lifted up his sword to claim that huge chunk of land for King Louis of France, that some day it would become 13 of the richest states of the union. LaSalle called it Louisiana.

After 80 years of possession, France decided it wasn't worth the chips. This big piece of nothing was a nuisance, as by this time the English settlers were moving toward it and it needed to be protected.

The English and the Indians had a

# Area becomes part of Spanish territory-1762

lucrative business going on in the fur trade.

In 1762, France ceded to Spain, their good friend, all of Louisiana territory that lay west of the Big River including what is now Jones county.

During the 38 years of Spanish ownership things in the territory went on as before. No one knew the difference nor cared as the hunting and trapping met with no interference.

By 1800 Napoleon came into power and had a dream of building a new French Nation in the new world, so by a secret treaty Spain was "conned" into giving the land back to France.

By that time the settlers were using the Mississippi river as a means of moving supplies of furs, salt pork, corn and other products to the markets in New Orleans. They brought back such things as coffee, tea, sugar, etc. up the river.

Napoleon became a bit nasty about the settlers using the river and the U. S. needed transportation, so in 1803 President Jefferson dispatched James Monroe to France to confer with Robert Livingston about buying New Orleans for the sum of two million dollars.

Napoleon at that time was having rather a bad time with the British Navy and realized that his best bet was to get out of the New World. He offered to sell the whole chunk for 15 million.

Many people in the U. S. threw up their hands in horror at such a waste of money and some states even threatened to withdraw from the Union.

The U. S. had really bought a "pig in a poke," but the pig proved to be a pretty good one. The short term under Napoleonic rule altered nothing at all in what would some day become Iowa and Jones county.

It still remained an anonymous parcel of virgin prairie. It should be mentioned that in 1788, long before the Louisiana Purchase, Julien Dubuque had come up the Mississippi river and made the settlement on the site which still bears his name.

This so called parcel of land, which eventually ended up as Iowa, became in the following order the step-child of these territories: Louisiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan and lastly Wisconsin.

In the years between the "fifteen million dollar mistake" in 1803 and 1836 all of these territories attained statehood. When Wisconsin no longer wanted to be bothered with the wilderness across the Mississippi that was full of Indians, Iowa became a territory in her own right.

Much of the delay in the settling of Iowa was due to the Indians. They had been pushed into by the other states and as might be expected were reluctant to relinquish their homes and hunting grounds to the settlers.

The Government had created buffer zones in several areas and had given to the Sauks (also called Sacs) and their leader Chief Blackhawk a 50 mile wide area along the Mississippi. This proved to be a factor that obstructed homesteading, so it was planned to move the Sauks on farther west, which of course resulted in the Blackhawk war in 1832.

After an heroic struggle the Chief agreed to sign a treaty, so Gen. Winfield Scott and Gov. Reynolds of Illinois, representing the U. S., along with their interpreter Antoine LeClair, purchased the 50-mile strip from the Indians for about 8 cents an acre - mostly in blankets, cloth, gun-powder and trinkets. This area was declared open for homesteading in 1833.

## A COUNTY IS BORN

In 1836 we find the land that was to become Iowa still a part of the Wisconsin Territory. This territorial legislature met in Burlington and divided the land west of the Mississippi into two counties, namely Dubuque and Des Moines.

With settlers now pouring into Iowa, these far away places proved inadequate in meeting their needs.

In the winter of 1836-37 the Wisconsin Legislature subdivided Des Moines county and at the next session Dubuque county was lessened by the creation of Clayton, Fayette, Delaware, Buchanan, Jackson, Clinton, Linn, Cedar, and JONES counties.

At that time, Gen. George Jones of Dubuque represented the Territory of Iowa in Congress and it was in his honor that Jones county received its name.

The census of 1838 fixed the population of the county at 241. By 1840 the number had increased to 475. Land offices were opened in Dubuque and Burlington and soon thousands of claims were staked on the Blackhawk Purchase.

## CHOOSING THE COUNTY SEAT

An act of Congress provided that as each new county was organized, the U. S. government would grant to that county a quarter section of land on which the county seat was to be located.

In the official report of the Commissioners, Isett, McDonald, and Moffitt, we note that in 1839 they chose the N. E. quarter of section 36, township 85 north, Range 3 west of the 5th principal Meridian because it was the geographical center of Jones county.

There existed in this locale a three-building hamlet called Jonesville. The commissioners renamed the place Edinburg. It was then surveyed (but not platted) by Col. Thomas Cox of Bellevue.

The said commissioners were given 10 days to certify to the Governor of the Territory under their hands and seals, the location and description of the chosen spot for the county seat so the Governor

could officially proclaim it the seat of justice. The commissioners could then present their bill to the treasurer of Jones county and be paid \$3 per day for their work and \$3 for every 20 miles they traveled going to and from their respective homes.

These commissioners failed to carry out their duties and we find the records showing that the county seat was not legally established until the following year. Three new commissioners were appointed and were paid \$51 and \$36, respectively for services in locating a county seat.

In the interim, lacking a seat of justice, a sheriff from Bellevue, Jackson county, whose name was William A. Warren, served both Jones and Linn counties in matters of jurisdiction.

Concerning the spelling of the Jones county seat, a few earlier official entries show it as Edinburg with the "gh". Later after it was established officially as the court of justice the "h" was omitted. On a coach and traveler's map, owned by Gus Norlin and edited by the Valley Whig Printing Company of Keosauqua, Ia. in 1848 - 1849, the only listing of towns in Jones county is Edinburg.

## THE COURT IN ACTION

The first attempt at holding court at the newly designated county seat at Edinburg was in September 1840. Judge Thomas Wilson of Dubuque, associate justice of the state of Iowa, contacted Hugh Bowen, the first sheriff of Jones county, inquiring how to get to the courthouse.

Bowen replied, "we have no courthouse but have set up a bench under a large oak tree and the jury has been drawn." Judge Wilson replied "This court is never held in the open. I will be back in six months. Have a courthouse built. The pending case will be held over until that time." So that term of court was of short duration.

The next move, obviously, was to build a courthouse, being that the Judge had a distaste for benches under oak trees. Records show that E. Sutherland was so delegated and was paid \$140 for building the cabin courthouse. James Spencer presented a bill for \$50 for the work done inside.

In due time, when Judge Wilson returned March 22, 1841, the weather had turned unseasonably warm. The courthouse, no doubt crowded, became stuffy and court adjourned to go out in the grove. The remainder of the hearing was held under a large oak tree. The jury retired to a more remote tree to deliberate and shortly returned with the verdict.

## THE OAK TREE TRIAL

The case tried was an interesting one which could be a story unto itself. Ac-

# Store is built as companion to county courthouse

cording to the court records, it involved the United States vs. Robert Snowdon - the indictment - assault and battery to commit great bodily injury.

As the story goes Snowdon and his victim were partners in crime - both renegades up to no good. Because of some disagreement, Snowdon proceeded to beat his partner to death and left him as dead. The victim revived and crawled to a creek for a drink where he was found later in very bad shape.

At the long delayed trial Snowdon, who had lived around in Richland township during those six months, explained to the jury that his partner had insulted a lady in his presence and deserved a sound "clouting" with his cane.

The defendant did not testify in his own behalf so after that short deliberation behind the oak tree the jury pronounced Snowdon "not guilty." After the trial both Snowdon and his buddy disappeared and were never heard of again. Thus roll the wheels of justice!

## EDINBURG GETS A GROCERY AND AN INN

Shortly after the construction of the courthouse, William Hutton, who was the county commissioner and also clerk of court, built a store beside the courthouse.

A "grocery," as it was called in those days, was just a nice name for a saloon where the chief commodity was "corn juice." This product was made in the timber near the hamlet of Edinburg, possibly close to the grove near the museum.

Taxes were the unheard of sum of \$25 to run a "grocery" in those days. Not enough people came to Edinburg to make the store profitable so it was abandoned. Next, Mr. Hutton constructed a two-story inn. He was an optimist who had high hopes for the county seat.

An inn would house the people who would come for court sessions. The judge and jury would have a place to stay and it would be a great boon to the town.

The inn was furnished with chairs, a sheet iron parlor stove, public tables made of rough boards laid lengthwise, and for sleeping a load or two of nice prairie hay cut a few hours earlier and pitched into the upstairs windows. All in all a luxurious place for those days.

Then the axe fell - Edinburg appeared to have had no advantages except its central position. Palaces and towers did not spring up out of the quaquire. Other towns were springing up all over the county and seemed to prosper more than Edinburg. People complained about journeying into the wilderness over bad roads to do business at the county seat.

Worst of all, no county officers ever lived there. Wm. Hutton, commissioner, clerk of

court, and "grocery" owner, lived at Farm, one of the earlier voting precincts. The recorder could be found in Fairview and probate matters were taken care of in Cascade.

The town did not prosper. No one, including the officers themselves, were satisfied with the county seat and by 1846 the Legislature was petitioned to allow Jones county to vote on a place to relocate the courthouse.

With a little "log-rolling" in their own direction, the acting commissioners named a place known as Newport, located eight miles southeast of Anamosa on the Wapsie river in Jackson township, and a second place adjoining Cascade on the south side of the Maquoketa river.

Newport received the majority of votes. This was even a more remote place than Edinburg. The solitary cabin of Adam Overacker was the only building. The very pleased Mr. Overacker gave the county 10 acres of land.

The town was platted and 28 lots were sold by the county for the sum of \$300, about \$11 per lot. Preparations were made for the erection of a log courthouse. Some timbers were hewn and laid on the ground and then every one went home and forgot about the courthouse.

When the time arrived for court to be in session in 1846, Judge Wilson arrived on schedule and saw nothing but the waving prairie grass and Overacker's shack. The commissioners quickly made arrangements with Adam to accommodate the court in a rented room, but the Judge got into his buggy and drove off to his home in Dubuque. No term of court was ever held in Newport.

The courthouse had now become a momentous and vexatious problem. Again the assistance of the Legislature was called in and permission was granted to the county to vote each according to his own inclinations. This time it would be every man for himself.

If no single location showed a majority, the two locations receiving the highest number of votes would be put up for election again. On the first election in 1847, five locations were returned: Lexington (now Anamosa), Monticello, Scotch Grove, Rome, and of all things Newport (again!). Edinburg received no votes at all. Believe it or not, Newport and Lexington rated highest, so the contest was between them. It was a victory for Lexington, whose name was then changed to Anamosa by Judge Wilson.

Once more the commission met in Edinburg on June 10, 1847. Court was held over until the next day, so it may be said that on June 11, 1847 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. the county seat at Edinburg was "ghosted" and Anamosa became the seat of justice. Court was held that day in the home of G. H. Ford, who later

constructed a frame building which was used until 1864.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF WAYNE TOWNSHIP

It was 15 years after Edinburg had the first courthouse that Wayne finally became an organized township. Jones county was originally laid out into four voting precincts of irregular shapes.

The northeast corner was Bowen Prairie, the northwest corner Farm Creek, a small slice in the southwest corner was Buffalo Fork and a large area including the central part and southeast corner was Walnut. Edinburg lay very near the center of Walnut.

These areas were much too large for township government and voting precincts, so in 1842 the county commissioners changed these voting precincts to 16 townships of equal size. Wayne was the last of the 16 to get organized in 1856.

The first permanent settler in Wayne was James Spencer in 1840. The township was to have been named after him, but because many of the early settlers had come from Penn, Indiana and Ohio the name Wayne was chosen in memory of a county in Ohio.

In this previously unnamed and unorganized township, James Spencer was the only real old settler remaining in 1840. Several others had founded claims but remained but a short time. It is said by some that J. McLaughlin as early as 1835 may have built a cabin and dug a well on land that became the property of Hon. George W. Lovell, a prominent Monticello citizen.

## EDINBURG 1840

As was mentioned at the very first of this article, all through the warp and wouf of Edinburg, is entwined the Sanford name. Day books, diaries, manuscripts, deeds, abstracts, wills, as well as family pictures and handed down stories, are becoming dimmer with age but they bring into focus the life and times in Edinburg, Wayne township, Jones county, Iowa.

From records in the "History of Jones County", published by the Western Historical Company of Chicago in 1879, a visitor describes Edinburg as follows:

"Edinburg was a city of grass. Its streets run in all directions. In fact it was all street. You could wander over its entire extent without getting sight of a single wall, brick, stone or wood. The earth below and the blue vault above were the only signs that the place was intended for human habitation; and, as all cities require ornament of some kind, a bounteous nature had planted there and reared a few scattered trees. Such was Edin-

# First Sanford arrives in 1840

burg in the summer of 1840."

This is the scene that lay before Horatio William Sanford when he arrived in Jones county and chose this place to stake a claim in 1840. There must have been something special about this particular spot that appealed to him and likewise to the five generations of Sanfords who have followed him.

Just as most of the early settlers were men of ambition and courage and possessive of an adventurous spirit, so was



Horatio Sanford

Professor Horatio William Sanford. His ancestry has been traced back as far as the death of a Richard Sanford in England in 1591.

There seems to be no record of when Horatio's parents came to Poultney, Rutland, Vt., where he was born Dec. 20, 1794. Nothing is known about his early education but he became a college professor in Poultney in his early manhood.

In 1819, at the age of 25, he was married to Malvina Hubbell of Sparta, Knox, Ohio.

They became the parents of two children, Oliver in 1820 and Malvina, the second, in 1823, at which time the mother died. Five years later he married Lydia Iowa (Ham). Their three children, William Payne, Allen and Lucinda, were destined to become a part of the early life of Edinburg.

Horatio probably came by horse and buggy when he staked his claim in 1840. There is no record that shows exactly when he moved his second family to Edinburg by covered wagon, or what experiences they encountered while they were putting down roots in the prairie sod of Iowa.

It is known, however, that Horatio probably did not personally do much grubbing of stumps or breaking of sod. His business ability was soon recognized by the Government and he became the intermediary between the homesteaders and the United States. He took care of the titles for the claims and became what today might be termed a land agent.

The nearest land office was in Dubuque, so it is known that Horatio made innumerable trips back and forth with his horse and buggy. It would be interesting to

know how many he wore out during those busy years. Family records reveal that he also made several trips all the way back to Sparta, Knox, Ohio - still bound with the ties of his old home and the grown-up children from his first marriage.

In working with the Land Office, Horatio became familiar with the territory for miles around. He knew when settlers lost their claims and moved away and which choice areas were not sold. This gave him the inside track and as time went by, he bought up the bargains and owned thousands of acres in this vicinity - even as far away as Dubuque.

Many property owners in Jones and neighboring counties will have abstracts on which the first entry will read: "Grantor - United States - Grantee - Horatio W. Sanford."

People who own homes in what is now called the Railroad addition in Monticello might be surprised to find that it once was owned by Horatio W. Sanford. He bought 40 acres in 1847, which extended from the old bank corner north and west - total cost of some \$50.

Coincidentally, the house at 323 North Chestnut St., now the domicile of Gus Norlin, was once owned by H. W. Sanford. Hopefully, he does not believe that ghosts of former owners keep their favorite "haunting" grounds.

Another source of land came from military grants which were left unclaimed. It comes as no surprise that finally by an Act of Congress in 1850 soldiers and officers of the War of 1812 were given bounty land (a bit late for many).

The Sanfords have in their possession a 12 by 16 inch certificate signed personally by President Franklin Pierce, whereby Horatio was assigned the unclaimed 80 acres located in the South half of the North West quarter of Section 12 in Township 84 of Range Two West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Dubuque, Iowa.

It had been issued to John Kelly, Private in Captain Sanbaker's Company of the Georgia Militia. "Now know ye, that there is Granted to Horatio W. Sanford by the United States, said tract of land to have and to hold." Dated 1855, this gift may have been in appreciation for his services rendered or as payment for the work as land agent for claims. It would be interesting to know who owns Private Kelly's bounty land now.

But Horatio Sanford must not go down in history as being only a great businessman, an opportunist, and a speculator. Personal gain came only second. His first concern was Edinburg and the pioneers who tried hard to make a success of their homesteading.

During the bad times, he helped many a worthy settler hang on to his claim. Many

of them came with nothing but health, courage, and their bare hands. It must be remembered that no soil was ready to grow a crop. Some timber needed to be cut and the land 'grubbed' of stumps.

Even the open prairie with wild grasses higher than the horses' heads was unmanageable. The tough, obstinate sod was hard to break. Machinery was hard to come by and often shared and borrowed. Money was a scarce article and the Government demanded gold and silver in payment for land.

The money of State Banks was called "red dog", "wild cat", and stump tail. No one accepting it one day could tell what it would be worth the next. Those who could not pay the \$1.25 for their land went either back to their old homes or pushed on further west to what they hoped might be greener pastures.

Those who were already cropping some land found their produce almost worthless. Corn and oats brought six to ten cents a bushel. Frequently, corn was used for fuel in the fireplace. Hogs brought \$1 per CWT. and the best horse in the county could be bought for \$50. Settlers borrowed and exchanged grain, potatoes, and meat.

There was no such a thing as hiring out for money. Labor was paid for in produce. The late Nellie Rummell enjoyed telling of an old court record where Horatio Sanford took a ham in exchange for a plot of land.

He frequently rented newcomers an acre of land for a garden plot while they cleared their claim. Payment was often a few bushels of potatoes in the fall. He was no believer in welfare or hand-out. He liked to have the seller feel that he had paid his just debts.

A philanthropist at heart, he not only provided in his will for his own children and for his children's children, but for the orphans of deceased Iowa soldiers who fought in the Civil War and designated one-fourth of the residue from his estate "for the purpose of assisting and educating the poor colored people of the late slave states." It should be said that Horatio William Sanford was a man who not only knew how to make money but how to use it wisely and well.

Horatio's wife died in 1861, his job as government agent was finished, his sons were established on the land he loved and his days became long and lonely. He moved to Monticello to the "big white house on the hill", but known today as 323 North Chestnut, the home of the Gus Norlin family.

Little is known of his last days. He died in 1870 and it was his wish to be buried back in Sparta, Knox, Ohio beside his first wife - a peaceful resting place for a great pioneer.

# First cemetery is used as family plot

## THE FIRST CEMETERY

Just as success was a part of Horatio Sanford's life, so was sadness. On Christmas day in 1858, the 20-year-old daughter of the Sanfords died of a lung ailment. There had not yet been a need for a cemetery in Edinburg, so now a little plot of ground was chosen on the Sanford homestead to be used for a family burial place.

Just three years later, Horatio's wife, Lydia, died at the age of 57 and was laid to rest beside her daughter, Lucinda. Later on Horatio donated this cemetery, which is located across the road from the present Museum building, to the community of Edinburg.

No more of the Sanfords were buried here and only a few others, including some of the unclaimed from the "poor farm." It might be said here that after the Four Horn church and cemetery were established down closer to Scotch Grove, it became the religious center for the people of Edinburg. The name Four Horn was given to the church edifice because of the four spires that ornamented the bell tower.

The Sanford cemetery would probably be no longer in evidence had it not been that in 1877, William Payne, the older son of Horatio, as requested in his father's will, enclosed it with a wall.

His diary discloses that eight trips were made to Anamosa for rock which cost \$25. The iron railing, which cost \$36, came to Blue Cut (Amber) by rail, the freight being \$13.50. Counting the expense for digging and laying the wall, the structure cost a little over \$100.

For almost 100 years the wall has kept silent vigilance over the lonely graves. Hopefully, this wall can be restored and the Sanford cemetery can become a part of the Museum Complex.

## THE SECOND GENERATION

By 1855 Horatio's two sons, now grown to manhood, found themselves endowed with many acres of lands and a goodly share of their father's ambition and managerial ability. The land was divided and William Payne, the older son, kept the home farm in Edinburg and his brother Allen acquired all the land in the Amber area.

In this same year, William Payne was married to Elizabeth Jane Espy of Mercer, Pa. William usually preferred to call her Jane in his record book. By 1856 another home was added to Edinburg. On the first page - very worn and scarcely discernable - is a very complete list of the materials and costs of the dream house of Jane and William.

At least for the Sanfords, the era of rough hewn logs had passed. Good dimension lumber was used - walnut boards, pine boards, flooring, siding,

joists, two by fours and much more probably cut at a nearby saw mill from Sanford's own timber. The cost was about \$250 all told. Small structures nearby housed a blacksmith shop and cobbler and furniture shop.

It is almost incredible that any man could manage all of these businesses, in addition to his farming operations, but still more unbelievable is the fact that he fixed a room in his house for a post office and became the official postmaster in 1856.

As far back as 1840, when it was thought that the county seat of Edinburg would



Wm. Payne Sanford

soon become a thriving city, weekly horseback mail service passed through on the route from Dubuque to Iowa City. At that time there was an official government post office and William Hutton, who will be remembered as county commissioner and also clerk of court, was the official postmaster and was located in the courthouse. When the courthouse was "ghosted" in 1847, so also was the post office.

It is understandable that it was a great boon to Edinburg when William Payne made it possible for the surrounding area to enjoy the convenience of postal service again. His ledger indicates how meticulous he was in keeping accounts with the government. Those were the days of honest men and stamps, envelopes, ink and any other transactions came out to the penny.

A little ahead of our story, is the fact that later in 1871 when William Payne built a beautiful new home, a room was reserved as a post office and he continued to serve as postmaster until 1873, when the mail route by-passed Edinburg in favor of Amber and the post office was "ghosted" forever.

But "post-officing" had become such a strong habit with William Payne that on mail days he would be on deck in Amber to

bring the Edinburg mail back to his own private post office at Pine Hill Farm.

The William Paynes became the parents of five sons: Franklin - Jan. 7, 1856; Albert - Feb. 23, 1858; Harvey - Sept. 17, 1861; Meade - April 3, 1864; and Delano - Jan. 14, 1869. No wonder Jane needed a hired girl and a bigger house!

In the still meticulously kept ledger is a record of everything that went into the making of this house in 1871. The brick alone cost \$188. It was indeed a house that had everything (for those times). No mention is made of wall to wall carpeting, two complete baths, or all electric heating, but it was the show place of Edinburg. The complete structure cost approximately \$750!

More than 100 years have passed and today, due to neglect and the gnawing of the teeth of time, it is no longer fit for human habitation. It is hoped that eventually it can be restored and refurbished with heritage pieces to become a Jones county landmark.

## THE THIRD GENERATION

The first real tragedy to strike the William Payne family was the untimely death of their oldest son, Franklin, who according to the Monticello Express, Sept. 21, 1887, died of poison gas as he was digging a well in Prairieburg. The well was a planked up 36-foot-deep dug well and Franklin was drilling this deeper with an auger. He had drilled 14 feet when water began boiling up.

In his attempt to get his tools from the bottom of the dug well, he breathed the poisonous gas fumes and died before hooks could be brought to pull him to the surface. He was 31 years of age at the time and the first of the Sanfords to be buried in the Four Horn cemetery near Scotch Grove.

Albert, the second son, was married to Katie Wilhelma Eden. They became the parents of seven children - two of whom are still living: Jennie Sanford Rathburn of Cedar Rapids and Henrietta Duis Boer of Marion. Many people in Jones county may remember Albert's other children, namely: Anna, Minnie, Harold, John and Albert Clyde (also called Lee). Albert, the father, died at the rather early age of 51 and was buried in the Four Horn cemetery, but was later moved to Oakwood at Monticello.

The third son of William Payne was Harvey. He served as county recorder for a time, was unmarried, and departed this world at age 33, leaving very little in the form of records. He, too, was laid to rest in the Four Horn cemetery.

Delano lived out his "four score and ten" years. He was married to Myra Wells in 1891 and they were the parents of three children - a daughter, Irma, and two sons, Ray and Elmer, the only survivor being

(Cont. on page 6)

# Historical Society receives prized Ruth Jump collection

To many folks in Jones county, Ruth Jump may be a familiar name. The Jump family were long time residents of Anamosa; however, at present none reside in Jones county.

The parents of Ruth Jump are buried in the cemetery at Anamosa, and her only sister passed away July, 1974. Ruth was born and reared in Anamosa, spending some years as a teacher there, and some of the older generations may remember her as their "school marm".

In 1942 Ruth felt her country needed her talents, so being of an adventurous mind and spirit, she became a civilian inspector

## Now museum site--

(Cont. from page 5)

Elmer. It should go on record here that the late Ray Sanford, son of Delano, was the last Sanford to live in Edinburg.

That land still belongs to his daughter, Susanne Sanford Rose. In fact, it is the last piece of Sanford property left in Edinburg, but is not at present lived on by any descendants of Horatio William Sanford.

Meade was the one who kept a most interesting and informative "Day Book" from 1894 until the turn of the century. He was an excellent businessman like his grandfather, Horatio, and his father, William Payne, before him.

Grubbing and breaking the stubborn prairie sod were still going on, as was extensive gardening, reaping and harvesting. There was "thrashing", shredding, and grain binding to be done at home and for the neighbors. There were new potatoes, sweet corn and strawberries to be enjoyed and life was easier.

There were good times to enjoy, like weddings, oyster suppers, box socials, birthday parties and sleighing parties and even a day off to attend the Anamosa Fair. And there was the joy of having a baby daughter named Lila getting First Premium - a five dollar gold piece, for being the best looking baby in Jones county.

Occasionally, he mentioned reverses and losses, but with so many irons in the fire he didn't brood long over his misfortune. Almost as soon as the ashes cooled after he had lost his barn and contents, along with most of his sheds, he was selling the old iron from the ruined machinery and bargaining for new materials to rebuild.

In the year 1896, Meade wrote at length in his diary about William Payne being

for the Air Force. Her responsibilities to the Government included identification and classification of aircraft parts, often as many as 20,000 pieces. Duties included property inspection, and instructing in proper procedure at bases belonging to NATO members.

She often had to teach people unable to speak or understand English how to identify as many as 50,000 technical orders from over 500 supply catalogs. At Guam she acted as chief of property for a year and from there was transferred to Iwo Jima, where she was the island's only female civilian.

During her 23 years with the Air Force,

seriously injured in a runaway. He was thrown from his buggy and found "senseless" with his body and neck bruised all over and his head cut open. A doctor by the name of Gustavson was called to sew up his head. Later Dr. Myrick (the long time and much loved physician from Monticello) was called and discovered that the elderly man had a broken shoulder.

Perhaps it was at this time that William Payne came to "bord" with Meade for 14 weeks at \$2 per week. Also two kindly women, Cal Sutherland and Mary Sturtevant, came and cleaned up his bedroom "under the sympathy of their feelings." William Payne's wife had died in 1889, so until his death in 1900 he lived alone part of the time and spent some time at each boy's home.

The two living heirs of this most interesting member of William Payne's family are Mae Sanford Miller, who lives in Colorado, and Grace Sanford Terwilleger of Cedar Rapids.

### THE REVIVAL OF A GHOST TOWN

The regime of the Sanford clan in Edinburg is nearly at an end. It is now removed by seven generations from College Professor Horatio Sanford of Poultney, Rutland, Vt. Members of Sanford heritage are spread far and wide. Some may never have heard of the ghost town of Edinburg. But Edinburg is not dead. No past is without a future and tomorrow will sprout roots that will give Edinburg a second chance to become more than a county seat or a post office - a beautiful Museum Complex of which Jones county can be justly proud.

(By researcher and co-author, Wilma Sanford Merfeld, great-great-granddaughter of Horatio Sanford, great-granddaughter of William Payne Sanford, granddaughter of Albert Sanford and daughter of Albert Clyde (Lee) Sanford and consultant, Agnes Wilcox, curator.)

Ruth traveled in 57 countries and lived out of the U. S. for 12 years. These were not pleasure years as the average American tourist might view them, but years of heavy work performed under difficult and often uncomfortable conditions. By the year 1956 she was called back to the U. S. to act as project pullout officer when some sections of our own Air Force bases were phased out.

The years abroad, although busy and demanding, still left Ruth with the energy and determination to write three books for the Air Force. Much of the work was done with interpreters and the use of pictures and sign language. She also accumulated a large album of pictures and thousands of feet of colored movie film from all over the world.

Naturally, during her years of travel, Ruth made many friends who sealed their friendship with priceless treasures. These gifts came from civilian friends, military personnel, and heads of State. Her collection of over 200 items include many things which will be of universal interest to everyone.

In 1965 after an extremely busy and intensely interesting life in the Air Force Civil Service, Ruth was "mustered out", so to speak, from Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. She then retired in Green Valley, Ariz. and says that "retirement is the most magnificent opportunity of one's life. It is a challenge and carries the nearest thing to freedom that man and woman may ever know".

Her garden, built around the world theme, and her correspondence with as many as 500 friends all over the world kept her very occupied. Her last visit to Anamosa was in 1966. She speaks of it as, "the beautiful town nestled among the hills of the picturesque Wapsipinicon river".

The name of Ruth Jump will be preserved in Jones county's history, both upon the plaque of charter members and for the reason that she left the bulk of her world collection to the County Museum.

This collection will now become a part of our heritage, and while Ruth says her more favorite country's included Turkey, Japan, Pakistan, Italy, the Philippines and the City of Hong Kong, how very fortunate and deeply grateful we are that Jones county, Iowa is her most favorite of favorites. While Ruth has seen the wonders of the world, she has demonstrated with her gift to the county, "Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home".

Watch future issues of this magazine for more details on the Ruth Jump Collection.

Agnes Wilcox  
Curator Committee

# Zurich: the forgotten town is now only a dim memory in the pages of history

Richland township, Jones county, 1859, was experiencing a continual population growth as new families arrived from the eastern states to establish new homes.

The Military Road cut across the northern part of the township, connecting Monticello and Cascade. As the stage traveled over this section of dirt road, the only stop was at the settlement of Bowen's Prairie.

Bowen's Prairie, an aggressive little village in section 6 of Richland township, was laid out and recorded by Otis Whittemore and his wife Harriet, July 2, 1853. By 1859, they had a school, a post office, a Congregational church, several small businesses and had added an addition of building lots for new residences.

A mile east of Bowen's Prairie, a road from the south formed a junction with the Military Road. This was known locally as the Canton Road, which wound down through the Temple Hill region before reaching the flourishing village of Canton.

## NEW SETTLEMENT

At this road junction, in section 5, another small settlement was beginning to form. There were four or five homes, a church (Moses C. Carroll was the clergyman in 1860), a blacksmith shop and a small cheese factory.

Jonathan B. Ross owned some land south of the Military Road and just a short distance west of this little settlement. He and his wife, Elizabeth, laid out an area with streets and building lots, which was recorded Sept. 5, 1856 and listed as Richland.

A young man named John C. Lowbower, in his latter teens, arrived at the settlement and worked as a farm hand for Isaac Willard. He was interested in promoting the location and convinced the people to call the village Zurich, after his home in Switzerland.

They set to work on obtaining a post office and on Oct. 18, 1860, the government opened a post office at Zurich. The first postmaster was William H. Hickman, who had married Miss Abigail Ross just a year or so earlier.

## WAR HALTS PROGRESS

Then came the American Civil War and progress for Zurich stood still. Isaac Willard became a lieutenant in the Bowen's Prairie home guard. Many of the local men, including John C. Lowbower, joined the home guard units.

The State of Iowa soon called on these units to enlist in their regiments. The Scotch Grove home guard and the Bowen's Prairie unit united under Captain Harper

to form their own military company. They were mustered into government service as part of the Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

John C. Lowbower and his comrades marched south. They endured the mud and rain, slept on the ground in all kinds of weather and became accustomed to army food. Soon after the Battle of Pea Ridge, Lowbower developed a hearing problem, possibly from the noise of the battle.

He was transferred from his field unit to the headquarters unit, where he became a clerk. The hearing problem continued to get worse and on July 27, 1863, Lowbower was discharged from service because of his disability.

## CIVILIAN SERVICE

While working in the headquarters unit, Lowbower became a good friend of Major Henry Z. Curtis, son of Major General Samuel Curtis. Major Curtis was being transferred to the staff of General James G. Blunt, and hired John Lowbower as a civilian clerk on his staff. They reported to Kansas City for their new assignment.

During the Civil War, people in Missouri and Kansas were familiar with the name Quantrill. William Quantrill was a guerrilla leader, who supposedly fought for the South. Among his band were such men as: Jessie and Frank James; the Younger Brothers, Cole and Jim; Bill Anderson, the Yankee hater; and George Todd, all who after the war became famous outlaws.

On Aug. 21, 1863, Quantrill and his followers struck the sleeping town of Lawrence, Kan. They killed, looted and burned the town before scattering to avoid the federal troops.

In September, Quantrill's men began to rendezvous for their march south into Texas for winter quarters. On their way south, they attacked Fort Baxter, an adobe fort at Baxter Springs, Kan., Oct. 6, 1863. The first attack was repulsed and as they prepared for a second attempt word

arrived that a wagon train was approaching from the north.

## WAGON TRAIN ATTACK

The wagon train, which included 10 wagons, was that of General Blunt and his staff. The wagons contained files, supplies and the General's own military band. This was guarded by 100 cavalrymen.

As they neared Fort Baxter, they noticed a line of some 200 cavalrymen in their front, all dressed in blue Union uniforms. General Blunt thought it was an honor guard from the fort and continued his march forward.

Suddenly there came the yelling screams and the thunder of charging horses. The honor guard turned out to be 200 of Quantrill's guerrillas. The federal cavalrymen were taken by complete surprise and retreated. It soon became a rout, with every man for himself.

Quantrill's men were excellent marksmen with their six shot revolvers. They rode down the fleeing federals and shot them in the head. Only a few of the federals, including General Blunt, escaped.

A large cavalry unit later returned to the wagon train, but found that it had been a complete massacre with no survivors. Seventy-nine bodies were recovered.

John C. Lowbower and the bandsmen, who were riding in the wagons, were all found shot in the head. Lowbower's friend, Major Henry Curtis, was found dead a short distance away, having been shot out of the saddle trying to escape.

## WAR TAKES TOLL

The people at Zurich were saddened to hear of their friend Lowbower's death, but the Bowen's Prairie region had suffered many deaths because of the war. Families were again selling their land to new people and moving on West.

Towns such as Monticello and Cascade

(Cont. on page 8)

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# Edinburg letters

Edinburg, Ia. April 14, 1896

Farmers are very busy sowing oats. The ground is in good condition for farming since the rain.

Albert Sanford was in Scotch Grove on business today.

A dance was given at Albert Sanfords last Thursday night. The music was furnished by M. Foust and Jesse Davis. Supper was served at midnight. About 28 couples were present enjoying a good time, until the next morning. For all the muddy roads that night. Quivive never has a failure.

Eiler Landherr and Gazena Eils are going to be married next Friday. We can tell you more about the wedding next week.

Edinburg, Ia. April 21, 1896

Katie Sanford visited at James Espy's, in Scotch Grove, last Saturday.

Mrs. Hohn and Ella Foust made a trip to Monticello last Saturday and were obliged to remain until Sunday on account of the rain.

P. Swartz's windmill was completely wrecked, by the high wind, last week. Only one of the wings was left on. People should be careful and not let their mills run in such wind.

This is certainly a busy time of the year, to see women going into the fields to plow and drag, there surely is no need of that when there is as many idle men as there is at the present time. If it is a womans place to do a mans work, why should they not have the right to vote?

M. Foust, and Delano Sanford have sold their hogs, the market being very low at present.

Eiler Landherr and Gazena Eils were united in marriage last Thursday at the home of the groom's brother. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. G. C. Mardolf of Wayne Tp. Many friends and relations were present in the day time, and a large number of young golks gathered in at night.

The groom came from Germany a number of years ago, he is a very industrious young man. The bride came from Germany about a year ago and has

## NEEDED: Material for the "Review"

We need stories and pictures on events, people, places and things that pertain to Jones county history. Pictures will be returned, if requested, and credit given to those submitting the material.

You don't have to be a professional writer. In fact, the more homespun the writing, usually the more interesting.

Submit material to any of the curators or any Area or Society officer. Material should be submitted 3 months in advance of publication date.

kept house for her brother ever since. We extend to Mr. and Mrs. Landherr our heartiest congratulation.

This is certainly a good spring to sow grass seed, over which the farmers have been pondering the last few years. It has been rather costly experimenting two or three years back. If it does not grow this spring, it is certainly not on account of dry weather.

Edinburg, Ia. April 29, 1896

Albert Sanford and family, and Carl Eden and family spent last Sunday visiting relatives in Cass Township.

Peter Swartz raised a new windmill last Saturday.

Little Henry Landherr, the son of G. Landherr, died last Saturday at 1 o'clock, brain fever. The little fellow has been ill all winter, but was up and around until April 20 when a physician was summoned, but there was no help for him. The funeral services were held at his home last Monday, by the Rev. G. C. Mardolf, and the remains were taken to the German Lutheran Cemetery at Wayne center. The deceased was 6 yrs. and 6 mo. old. He leaves in the hearts of a father and three sisters a verdant memory, the fragrance of which will remain during all their future lives.

--From Monticello Express

## Zurich--

(Cont. from page 7)

were growing and the railroad through Sand Springs had hurt the village of Bowen's Prairie.

On May 15, 1866, the government closed the post office at Zurich. Its small businesses were also closing and for many years the church, which was unused, was the only reminder of the settlement.

Today as you drive over Highway 151 between Monticello and Cascade the only reminder of Bowen's Prairie is a well-tended cemetery on the south side of the highway. A mile further you come to the forgotten settlement of Zurich.

The modern brick home of Lawrence Burlage sets at the junction of the old Canton Road, possibly the site of the old post office. Beef production is the main business here now and a feeding pen is located close to where the old church stood.

An underground telephone installation has been built near the site, which was once the Joshua Carter residence. Charles Carter was a Civil War soldier, who called Zurich his home.

--by William E. Corbin

### WATCH FOR ISSUE NO. 2

- Story on Canton and the remarkable man responsible for its birth.
- Charter Society members
- Charter building fund members .

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Monticello, Iowa 52310

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