



# Jones County

## Historical Review

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# Land selected for settlement in Jones county is reminder of Scottish Highlands of home

The weary Highlanders spent the winter at Dubuque, where Isabella Livingston gave birth to their fourth child. The following spring the men traveled into the interior to explore the land which they had been told about during the winter.

They traveled in a southwest direction until they reached the open prairie land which gave the appearance of a sea of waving grass. The western edge of the prairie was bordered by the Maquoketa river. On either side of the river was a heavily timbered region which would provide the building materials for the settlers.

Hugh Livingston was impressed with the region and put his claim on a portion of high ground near the Maquoketa river in Delaware county near the present town of

Hopkinton, which reminded him so much of the Scottish Highlands. Other locations were chosen further down the river in Jones county.

During the summer of 1836, Alexander McLain returned to the Red river settlement with news of the land to the south. Plans were made and the Scottish families prepared carts and supplies for the trip to be made the following spring.

### FIRST GROUP SOUTH

The Red river or Pembina carts were the vehicle used for the thousand mile journey. These carts were a product of the locality, doubtlessly of French origin, and handed down to the Bois Brules or half-breeds, by their French ancestors.

For 75 years it was the common freight

wagon and family carriage of the community. The only tools needed to make the cart were an axe to cut down a tree and a gun to shoot an elk or buffalo.

Two huge wooden wheels over five feet in diameter with 11 or 12 spokes set into a wooden hub seemed the most essential feature. The body was made of rough boards laid lengthwise and pegged down by one crosswise board pegged to the axle.

A rude framework several feet high to be covered by a buffalo skin completed the body. No nails or metal parts were used in the construction. The shafts were an extension of a board in the body with a hole bored about a foot from the end, to which the harness for holding the ox drawing the cart was attached.

### PIONEER MEMBERS

It will be remembered that John Sutherland as a young man was among the first of the Kildonan group to come to the Red river, being a member of the second group, so now in 1837, as a middle-aged man, he was one of the early movers in the enterprise of moving to the United States.

With his wife Margaret McBeth, who had come with the Churchill party at the age of 18, and their children: John, Alexander, George, David, Donald, Roderick, William, Catherine, Adam, and an infant daughter Christina.

Alexander Sutherland, who had come with the Churchill party at the age of 24, had preceded his father and mother, William and Isabella Sutherland, and the younger members of his family. Now with his wife "Aunt Jean" and those of their children: William, Elspeth, "Eapie" and John, who were all born at the Red river settlement, he too was ready to try a new life to the south.

James Livingston, 42, a brother to Hugh Livingston, who was waiting in Dubuque, also planned to make the trip. He and his wife Sarah Bowie and their seven children were ready to leave.

Joining the Livingstons were: Angus



FIRST QUERNS or grindstones in Jones county. Brought by Donald Sinclair in ox cart from the Red river settlement.

# Pioneers leave Red river area for journey to Iowa--

Matheson, his wife Isabel Livingston, a daughter of James Livingston; Alexander Rose and his wife Lillas, parents of Hugh Livingston's wife; and Hugh Rose, a bachelor brother. The Rose family came from Nairn, Scotland.

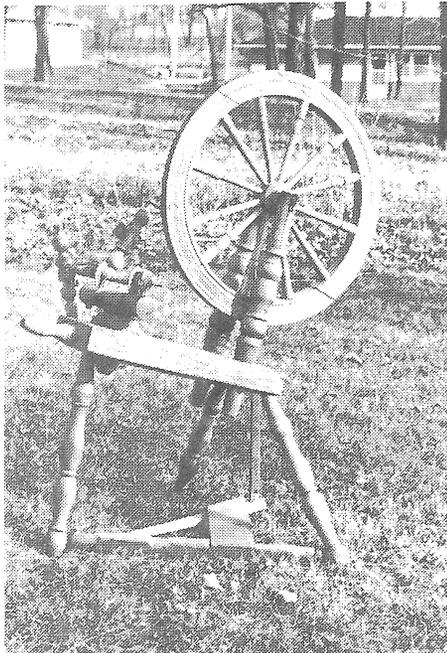
Other families in the party were those of Alexander McLean, David McCoy (originally spelled McKay), and Joseph Bremmer. He evidently was a widower, for he and his crippled son, "Willie" lived alone at Scotch Grove.

The McCoy's and the Bremmers are not names in the ships list of the first parties, so they had evidently joined Selkirk's settlers at a later date. The McCoy springs has always been a landmark in the Scotch Grove area.

## MAKES OWN TRAIL

The caravan left the Red river in the early summer of 1837 with Alexander McLain as the guide. The Red river cart carried these pioneers and their belongings over a thousand mile journey.

They covered about 15 miles a day over nightmarish wilderness trails or in many cases no trail at all. There were rivers to



*SPINNING WHEEL belonging to the Hugh Livingston family. Originally brought from Scotland to the Red river settlement and then by ox cart to the Upper Grove.*

cross, marshy ground to avoid, and lakes to go around. In sloughs or deep mudholes the long spokes enabled the wheels to reach solid ground.

When they had to cross deep streams, they lashed the wheels together to form a raft for the body, the men and animals swimming the current. There were no

luxurious springs on the cart to tempt even the most tired travelers with promises of easy riding, and its approach was heralded for miles by the screech of the wooden axles.

With these carts loaded with from 700-1,000 pounds and followed by whatever livestock they owned, these pioneers traveled southward through the summer of 1837.

Burning sun, violent hailstorms, wind and rain beat upon them in turn as they plodded on; mosquitoes and flies tormented them; fear of wandering Indians harassed them.

At night the carts became their fortress as hub to hub they were placed in a circle, while within this rude stockade the travelers cooked, ate and slept, always guarded by one of their number.

## REACH DUBUQUE

After reaching the headwaters of the Mississippi river, they followed the western bank southward. Food was plentiful and they lived off the land as they traveled. The journey took four months to complete but in the fall of 1837 the party arrived at Dubuque.

Hugh Livingston was waiting in Dubuque for the arrival of his brother and friends. After their arrival there was a short rest after which Hugh brought his brother James, Alexander Rose, Angus Matheson, Hugh Rose, and their families to his claim in Delaware county, which he had selected the year before. This settlement became known as the Upper Scotch Grove.

Alexander McLain, the Sutherlands, Joseph Bremmer and David McCoy went to the area along the Maquoketa river in Jones county. That settlement soon became known as the Scotch Grove.

## THIRD PARTY SOUTH

In 1838 a third party of Scotch settlers left the Red river and made the slow trip by ox cart to Dubuque. Again it took all summer to complete the journey.

Arriving at Dubuque and going to the Scotch Grove settlement were: Donald Sutherland, his wife Nancy Livingston and their two children; Ebenezer Sutherland, his wife Sarah Gunn; Isabella Sutherland, mother of Donald and Ebenezer, who died the following year at Scotch Grove; Donald Sinclair, his wife Ann Gibbs and their 3 children Christina, Elizabeth, and Angus; and the John McLain family.

Shortly after their arrival, Nancy Sutherland gave birth to a son on Nov. 23, 1838. The child was named Donald and was the first child born in Scotch Grove township.

## FOURTH CARAVAN

In 1840 the fourth group left the Selkirk settlement. Among this party were Hugh Livingston's brothers, Donald 49, and John 32. Donald Livingston came to the Red river in 1812 as a ship's carpenter for Lord Selkirk.

He was paid \$1.25 a week to build various types of boats at the settlement. The largest was a schooner used on Lake Winnipeg.

He and Angus Matheson were appointed the first constables at the settlement in 1817. But now, he and his wife, Ann McGilroy, along with their four younger children were leaving.

John Livingston was single, his wife having died in 1835. Also included in this group were David Essen and his wife Margaret Rose and the Lawrence Devaney family.

This caravan encountered additional hardships which made their trip more difficult than the earlier ones. The guide became sick and the caravan wandered aimlessly for days in an unknown region.

Ann Livingston was involved in an unfortunate fall which broke her hip. A bed was made on one of the carts but the ride was painful for her as the cart joggled along over the rough ground.

When they reached the Mississippi river at Fort Snelling, a raft was constructed to transport Mrs. Livingston downstream. Her 18-year-old son John was put in charge of poling the raft and caring for his mother.

The caravan arrived in Dubuque in the fall and continued on to the Scotch Grove settlement. The Devaneys remained in Dubuque where Mrs. Devaney soon gave birth to a son.

## SETTLEMENT LIFE

Upon their arrival at Scotch Grove, the new settlers selected some land for their future home. With the help of their neighbors a log cabin was soon erected and preparations made for the approaching winter.

These Highlanders had endured the hardships of the Red river region but conditions along the Maquoketa were also difficult for the early settlers. They lived a very simple life.

Wild game was plentiful and the hunter could bring in prairie chickens, turkey or deer with little trouble. Wild honey was abundant in the timber and was used in many ways by the housewife.

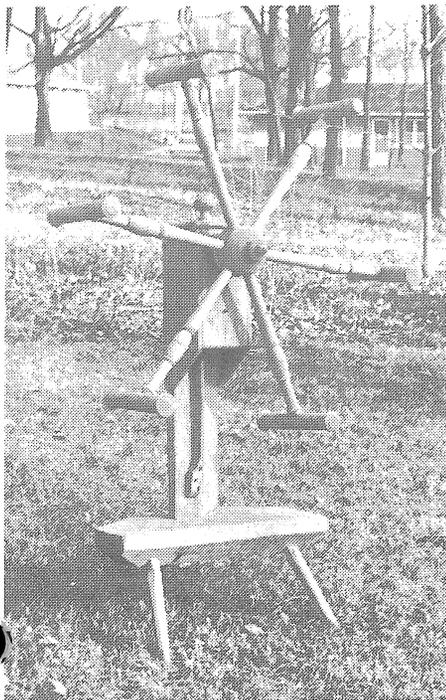
During the summer there were plenty of berries, grapes, and crabapples for the table. In the fall they gathered hazelnuts, walnuts and butternuts to be dried for winter use.

The wheat that they could raise was needed to make their flour. Threshing the grain from the stalk was a long, slow

# Querns brought from Scotland used to grind grain--

process. The Livingstons at the Upper Grove spread the wheat shocks on a floor and the oxen were driven over it continually.

The straw was raked off and the remaining material collected. The wind



*JACK REEL used by the Hugh Livingston family and originally brought from Scotland.*

was then used to blow away the chaff, hulls, and excess straw as the collected material was poured from one container to another. After doing this several times only the grain remained. This process of cleaning the grain is known as winnowing.

## FIRST QUERNS

Donald Sinclair brought the first querns or grindstones to Jones county. These two hand hewn stones were each six inches thick and two foot in diameter. They had been brought originally from Scotland.

To grind flour, one stone was placed on top of the other with the flat sides together. The top stone had a hole in the center into which the grain was poured. As the top stone was turned in a circular motion the grain was ground into a coarse flour used to make sweet bread. Fine bolted flour was needed to bake the snowy white bread.

In 1837 the closest gristmill was five miles above Dubuque. Later one was built on Catfish creek and several years after that one was constructed at Cascade on the North Fork of the Maquoketa river. A trip to the mill and back in the early days would take three days.

The first sawmill in the region was built at Canton. Any building material which

could not be hued out at home had to be hauled back from the Canton mill. In 1842 a sawmill was built at Rockville on the North Fork. In 1844 a sawmill was put in operation at the present location of Hopkinton.

Early settlers had their own tools for making wood shingles. Clear logs were selected and cut into short lengths. These blocks were quartered and then the men used a knife-like tool and a mallet to split off a rough slab or shingle.

## MARKET HOGS

The early Scotch people needed all the crops they grew for their own use, but one item they did market was hogs. Their hogs ran loose in the timbers where there were plenty of acorns and forage. In the fall they would be rounded up and killed when the weather turned cold.

The animals were dressed and the carcasses hung up to freeze. When frozen the meat was loaded on a sled or wagon and taken to Dubuque for sale. At this time \$2.25 to \$2.50 was considered a good price for a dressed hog. Usually the carcasses were traded for other supplies which the settler needed.

During the 1840's the Scottish settlers experienced some severe winters with heavy snow and strong winds which lasted for days. It was a tragic incident that both Hugh and James Livingston lost their lives as a result of these winter storms.

On January 31, 1845 the two brothers made a trip to the Cascade gristmill. On the return trip they encountered bad weather which developed into a severe storm. The brothers became separated and James failed to reach home that night. The next morning a search party found his frozen body.

Two years later Hugh Livingston and his nephew made a trip to Dubuque for supplies. They were returning home on Christmas Day when they were caught on the open prairie by a severe storm.

In the vicinity of what is now Sand Springs the tongue on the long sleigh broke and the team got away. The young man ran after the team while Hugh remained with the sleigh. By the time help was obtained and they returned to the sleigh Hugh Livingston had perished from the severe cold weather.

## FIRST COUNTY SEAT

Donald Livingston acquired land in the southwestern part of Scotch Grove township. A quarter section of land next to him had been selected for a county seat and with the influence of the Scottish settlers in the area the site was named Edinburg.

When the Highland Scotch first arrived they organized church meetings in various cabins. During 1837-38 the Rev. Michael

Hummer was a circuit rider, who was welcomed at Scotch Grove to preach to these stray Presbyterians.

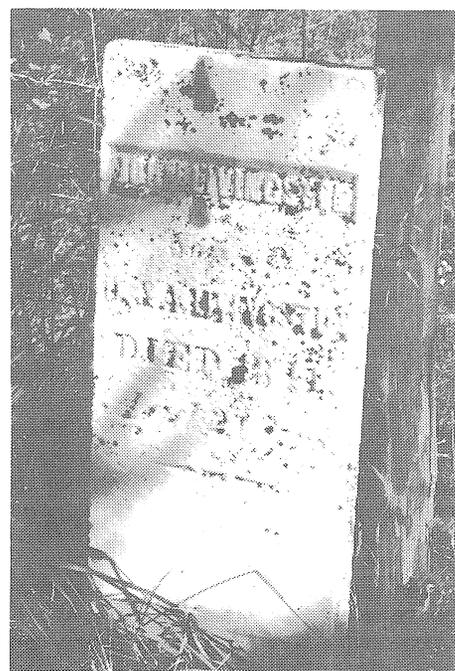
When Edinburg was established, the Highlanders recognized it as a future town and in June, 1841, they organized the First Presbyterian church of Edinburg consisting of 12 members. Their minister was Rev. Salmon Cowles of West Point, Lee county. He made the 130 mile trip to preach at Edinburg five or six times a year.

In 1841 Donald Livingston's son John, who had brought his mother down the Mississippi river on a raft, died. No cemetery had been established in the township and since the church was now located at Edinburg, a burial ground was located there also. The first burial being that of John Livingston. The burial ground was used by the settlers until about 1851.

## BUILD CHURCH

By 1850 the Highlanders realized that the town of Edinburg had failed to develop as they had expected. Ebenezer Sutherland offered the Presbyterians seven acres of land on the northeast corner of his farm for a church and cemetery.

The offer was accepted and a church building erected in 1851. In 1851 the name of the church was changed to First Presbyterian church of Scotch Grove. A larger church was built in 1861 and it still remains today. Burials were discontinued at the Edinburg cemetery and all interments made at the present church



*FIRST BURIAL at Edinburg in Jones county. John Livingston, son of Donald and Ann Livingston, died 1841, age 21 years.*

# Early settlers write letters urging family to come to Iowa

On May 9, 1829 the William Snowden family left Belfast, Ireland for America. They landed at St. Johns, New Brunswick, on June 11, 1829. They remained there until October before moving to the United States. They settled in Philadelphia, Pa., and soon obtained work there in the shops and mills in the city.

George Snowden was 15 when the family settled in Philadelphia. He remained there until he was 18 and then started out on his own headed west. In 1833 he was in the Mississippi river region and traveled north to the lead mining region at Galena, Ill.

The land on the Iowa side of the Mississippi was Indian territory and the white man was not allowed to live there. In 1831 and 1832 soldiers from Fort Crawford had been sent to the Dubuque area to keep the whites away from the lead mines. In May, 1833, the soldiers were withdrawn and in June, 1833, the Indian title to the eastern Iowa country ended. Permits were

cemetery.

Schooling for the children was of primary importance once the settlers became established at the Upper Scotch Grove and Scotch Grove settlements. The children were taught by one of the residents in their cabin for various lengths of time.

In the 1840's many new settlers began arriving from eastern states. The number of children requiring schooling grew along with the number of parents who could contribute to hiring a teacher. Soon special log buildings were erected for a school and an instructor hired. The teacher's salary ranged around \$12 a month.

In 1856 construction started at Hopkinton on a building to house a college for advanced education. When financing the new building became a problem, the Livingstons donated lumber from their farm to complete the building's roof.

The college became a Presbyterian school and was supported and attended by the people in the Scotch Grove region. The first student to enroll was Alexander McKean from Scotch Grove. Later his brother, the Rev. James W. McKean of Scotch Grove, became president of the college.

Because of financial problems this college was forced to close in 1946. The original building is still being used as an elementary school building but will be discontinued at the end of the 1975-76 school year. The campus, the Civil War monument, and all the buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

issued to miners at Galena to cross the river into Iowa. Here they could mine and smelt lead in the old "Mines of Spain" formally belonging to Julien Dubuque.

Scores of men registered for permits and crossed the Mississippi river to the Dubuque area. Supposedly anyone else found living in this area not engaged in mining would be reported to the Indian agent, who had the authority to order them back to the east side of the river.

George Snowden moved on to the Dubuque lead mines in that same year, 1833. The future looked good here and there was money to be made. He sent word back to his friends in Philadelphia to join him.

In 1834, John Williamson quit his job at a factory in Philadelphia and with his wife, Sarah Boyd Williamson, moved west to Dubuque. This same year the Dubuque area became part of the Michigan Territory. Work was easily obtainable and George Snowden and John Williamson worked as miners and lived together for four years. They continued to keep in contact with their friends and family in Philadelphia by letter.

In 1835, a letter and envelope consisted of one sheet of paper  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches by  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches. This paper was then folded in half which gave three pages  $7\frac{3}{4}$  x  $9\frac{3}{4}$  to write on. The fourth side was left blank and when the letter was finished it was folded several more times with the blank side of paper kept to the outside. The last fold of the letter was sealed together with sealing wax and the address written on the front.

The final size of the letter for mailing was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  x 5 inches.

No stamps were used but it did cost 25 cents to mail the letter to Philadelphia. The letter was cancelled with a hand stamp when it left Dubuque.

The mail was transported by boat down the Mississippi river and then up the Ohio river into Pennsylvania as far as possible before being carried by coach or rider to Philadelphia. Boats did not travel the rivers on a regular schedule. There were many transfers and stops for the mail as it waited to be taken farther along on its route. It took approximately six weeks for a letter to go from Dubuque to Philadelphia at this time.

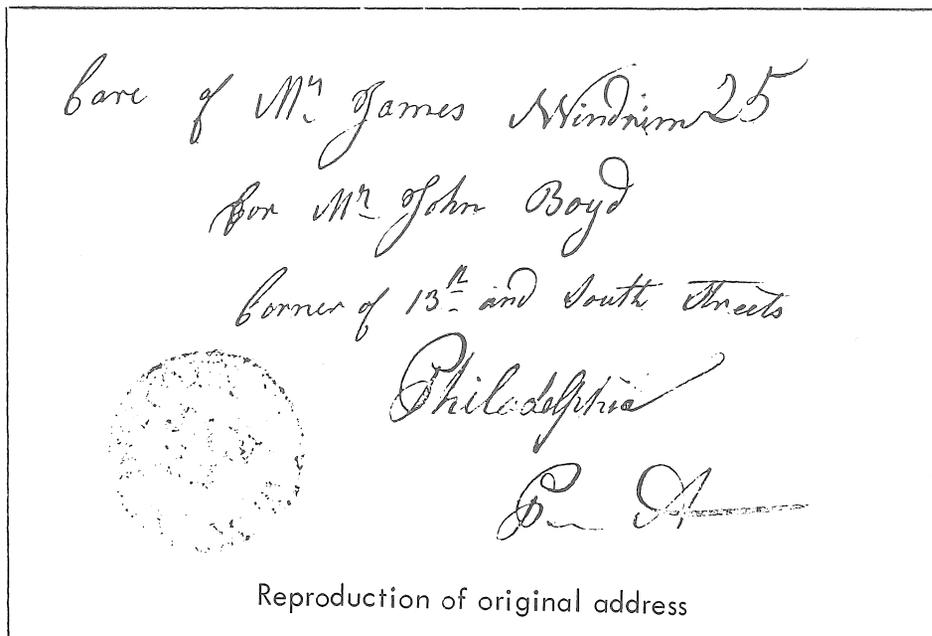
The following letter was written by John Williamson to his father-in-law, John Boyd, in August, 1835:

Dubukes Lead Mines Upper Mississippi  
August the 21 1835

Honoured Sir

This is to acknowledge the receipt of a letter partly from you and Robert and the girls dated June the 23 It makes us happy to hear that you are all in good health as we are all at present Thanks be to God for all his mercies it is more than 2 weeks since I received your letter and I would have noticed it sooner but Sarah at that time was dangerously ill with a billious fever She was bed fast for three weeks

During that time I had a doctor with her 12 times but I am happy to inform you that she is now able to go about and getting quite well and I will be able to go to work



# Writing style offers contrast to present day methods--

again in a few days as I could get no woman to depend on to stay with her I kept at home myself. My employer kept a man working by the day in my place until I get ready to go to work My wages is still 28 dollars per month and 10 allowed me for my board George is well and busy at work every day he boards with me he worked for 2 months at 18 dollars per and 10 for board Then our employer quit the lot he was working on and bought another and had not work for George for about 2 weeks at that time I took up a lot myself and took George for a partner and sent him to work on it I allowed him wages for the half of his time and he worked on it only 18 days when we sold our title for 560 dol We sold it separate as the most advantageous way George sold his for 275 dollars and I sold mine for 285 dol George is now working for the same man again and is engaged for 6 months at 23

willing that Robert would come here for reasons best known to himself for fear of loosing some of his money probably But if Robert or you has an inclination to come let him not be hesitant but start I have a little cabin a little money some potatoes and pork and live here and if the children dont fall out I think we will agree together for a while old maids would be a genuine article to import here as they are in high demand I am glad to hear that anns health is recovering Sarah would be happy to have her come here to help. She wants to know what would we have for her to do (to rock the cradle of course) No more at present but remain your affectionate soninlaw and daughter.

John & Sarah Williamson  
Write to me often Let me know all your concerns Sarah is glad you left providence please to direct your letters as at the head of my letter J. W.

as the head of the household. It contained four males over 21 and two females over 21. These would have been: John Williamson, 36; George Snowden, 22; Robert Snowden, 27; Thomas Cowan, 21; Sarah Boyd Williamson, 21, and Mary Boyd Snowden, 28.

When the soldiers were stationed at the Dubuque lead mines, they frequently made reconnaissance rides into the interior as far as the Maquoketa river. The new settlers also made trips into these areas searching for new mine sites and exploring the country. Williamson and Snowden made trips into this new territory looking for a good place to settle.

In 1837 they selected some land along Farm creek in what is now Richland township of Jones county. They laid out their claims, left men there to clear the land and build a cabin. John Williamson and the Snowden brothers returned to Dubuque to continue working during the winter.

In January, 1838, John Williamson wrote the following letter to his father-in-law trying to persuade him to bring his family to this new land. The cancellation carried the name Dubuque - W. T. (Wisconsin Territory) with the month and day it was mailed.

*Dubuques Wisconsin Territory  
January the 14<sup>th</sup> 1838*

*Dubuques Lead Mines Upper Mississippi  
August the 21 1835*

Dubuques Wisconsin Territory  
January the 14th 1838  
Honoured Sir

I received your letter of the 28th November which came to hand 2 days ago

We are happy to hear that you are all in good health as we are also at present. Thanks be to God for all his mercies We are glad to hear that you have a notion of coming to this country times is as good here as usual I see no body idle for want of employment that wishes to work I would be glad to have less to do myself Robert and Mary and George is in good health and is of the same notion about work Robert and I has been at our farms last week we have two men at work raising cabins and splitting rails at present

We bought both of us a horse and we intent if we can to buy 2 yoke of oxen in spring or the early part of the summer if we be able We are making preparations to get a crop of potatoes and jonny cake in the ground in the spring and if possible to move out in the summer or fall if we are able or weather permits You want to know if this place (Dubuque) or our farms is furthest off Dubuque is the furthest off but you have to go through Dubuque going there as there is no roads laid off yet to cut off round about corners Jack has not made his appearance here yet we would be glad to see him

Dear sir you seem to think that it would be intruding upon your friends to come here, so many of you. But be assured sir we

dollars per month and found he has now better than 300 hundred dollars He would have worked long in Philadelphia before he would make that I want him to send some to Robert but he seems to think to much of it However I think he may be prevailed on as he bound in ? to do Old Thompson was here him and Gowney took breakfast with me one morning he is an old fool and worse than that a liar you could not drive George away from here and as for Sarah such an expression never escaped her lips as a wish to go back Nor as long as God spares me death We will never have reason

We received the letter you sent by Hugh peoples the letter was sent to us from Galena We have not seen peoples I would be glad if Robert would come here but I would not be willing to encourage him But I know he can do better here than any place else Mary could make twenty dollars per month at tayloring and work for men is plenty Land is plenty and for nothing and it is the best county for farmers I know of George would not be

## Reproduction of original salutation

We also send our love to Elizabeth Martha Isabella and Jane George says he will write soon Sarah wishes to be excused for not writing according to promise on account of her ill health She will write to you soon

Robert Snowden married Mary Boyd in Philadelphia in 1833. Letters from John Williamson telling of the higher wages and free land was a challenge to Robert who liked farming and wanted some land of his own. Early in 1836, Robert and his wife left Philadelphia and made the long trip to Dubuque When they arrived they made their home with the Williamsons.

On July 4, 1836, Iowa became a part of the Wisconsin Territory. The new territorial government called for a census to be taken. This was done in September of 1836. At this time only the name of the head of the household was recorded. This was followed by the number of males over and under 21 years of age and the number of females over and under 21 years of age living there.

John Williamson is listed in this census

## Letters--

think quite different We will make all that come welcome to what we call pot luck and will do all we can for them in other respects the girls could soon get good situations and you and mother in law and the little girls may live with us or we would build a house for you and give you as much land as you want without rent tax or tithes if you would prefer it We can please you in any way you wish as well as we can but we cannot be as comfortable in a new country for a while as in an old settled place. We have a great many difficulties to encounter Some of these we have surmounted others we see before us which we hope to scramble over and in a few years be able to live comfortable The girls wish to know what sort of mills we have There is but one mill in operation yet it grinds both corn and wheat there is some more grist and saw mills on the way but on a small scale The worst now I have to tell the girls is that instead of having a stately office with painted and ceiled apartments they would be introduced into a small log cabin where a hole in the roof would be necessary to thrust their head through to enable them to stand erect in the center of the floor This would be a great contrast between Philadelphia and the west Not with standing we would not be willing to change situations with a great many of you And now Dear Sir if you intend coming to this country in the spring all the luggage I would recommend you to bring with you is clothing beds and bedding and the cooking utensils that would be necessary on your passage I would sell every thing else, for the freight would be more than double their value if you do not all come in the spring let you and mother in law, Anna and Margaret come and Robert would be glad if Martha would come as soon as possible

he expects his brother William to this country in the fall and if any of the girls would stay behind they could come with him If you stand in need of any money be plain about it in your next letter and we will endeavour to send you it I will now inform you that Sarah had a young son on the 14th day of December she was about 4 hours sick They are both well and hearty at present I have often wished this month back to have Ann here for I am tormented every night nursing and rocking the cradle An amusement from which I would be heartily appreciative be excused. ....

John Williamson

When you write to me you need not direct it to any body's care for I am as well known in Dubuque as Bonapart was at Waterloo

John Boyd brought his family, including two married daughters, west in 1838. The Williamsons, Snowdens, Cowans, and Boyds all claimed land and built farms



## Green school in operation in Rome from 1850 to 1918

Rome township was organized as a township on July 5, 1842. The west part of the township was settled first, according to Vol. 1, of the Jones County History, published 1910.

The first school in this area was organized and financed by neighbors, in 1846. School was held in the Washington Lamb cabin, this site being the present Mrs. Melvin Doermann farm.

On January 8, 1849 Thomas and Effa Green deeded a plot of land in section 5 of Rome township for the site of District School No. 5, referred to thereafter as "The Green School".

One page of plain paper with lines drawn in ink, dated Dec. 16, 1850, written in beautiful penmanship by the teacher, Lorenzo D. Bates, lists the school directors as Jacob Miller, Andrew Sunday and Alexander Roney.

There were 40 students, namely Tyler Sunday, James Tallman, Benton, John, Emily and Rebecca Green, Rhoda, Margaret, Mary Jane and Elizabeth Foreman, Clinton Crawford, Barbara and John Pfeifer, Rebecca Herling, Geo. and Jacob Lamb, Elizabeth, John and Louis Starry, William Cresey, Henry, Isaac, William, Alan and Mary E. Harrison, William Smith, W. O. Bean, David, Amos and Jacobs Miller, George and E. B. Fall, Harriet and Phebe Sherman, Michael Lomunyon, Peter and two other children

along Farm creek in Richland township. They raised their families and spent the rest of their lives on this land. They are all buried in the Cascade, Ia., cemetery.

(names not legible) of the Betzer family.

Pupils were from sections 5-6-7-8-9-17 and 18. The education taught was the "Three R's", and orthography (spelling).

An attendance book dated from December, 1865 to January, 1878 listed pupils from 4 to 21 years of age. School was in session in December, January, February and in the following May, June and July. Some of the older children didn't attend the summer session.

Teachers were Mary Jane Foreman and James Tallman (both pupils of the 1850 class) and E. J. Cook, Chas. F. Klise, Eva Foreman, Elizabeth Tallman, Mary Kirby, E. A. Southwick, Mary A. Klinefelter, Celia Foster, C. A. Foreman, Salinda E. Pugh, William Rudisill, Calvin Sones and also the 1850 teacher, L. D. Bates.

The record book recorded the days present, number of times tardy and the number of minutes tardy. The minutes ranged from two to 135. With 135 minutes tardy it would appear someone got lost in the Big Woods. The best grade for any subject was 10 and the poorest four. The average number of pupils was 32 and also up to nine out of the district. These were from sections 17 and 18.

Subjects taught were reading, spelling, arithmetic, mental arithmetic, history, grammar, composition and declamation.

A note on Feb. 3, 1875 stated there was no school, due to a snowstorm and a note states there was no school July 4th, 1876.

Three pages in the back of the book were signed by visitors to the school, several from Viroqua (today Morley), Highland Grove and the county superintendent C.

## Record book is testimony of visitors' comments--

R. Champleon. Remarks followed each visitors name and most read as follows. "A full school, good order, scholars attentive and good morals taught".

A receipt in the book read as follows: "This is to certify that Rome township district has paid to the treasurer of Jones county the sum of \$5.25. in full interest to April 13, 1867 on note made by said district to the school fund of said county, dated Oct. 29, 1866, for \$525, as shown by the treasurer's receipt. J. C. Dietz, clerk"

Rome township census for April 1867 was 408 children. Green school attendance at the time was 41. At this time the Jones county school fund, apportioned 88 cents per pupil.

Before the Center church was built in the early 1870's, Sunday School, worship service and singing school were held in the schoolhouse.

The 1892 summer session had 24 pupils, namely Charles and Ella Corwin, Frank and Hattie Ganser, Jennie, Nellie, May, Allie, and Bill Hughes, Gertie and twin boys of the Hewitts, Sadie and Gertie Hotz, Delia Jaykels, Minnie and John McFarlin, Verna Miller, Stella and Nellie Moyer, Jennie and Herbert Smith, Ellsworth Tallman, and Olin Sunday. The teacher was Eva Byerly.

In 1903 Howard Young was the teacher. Cryus Lamb was director, Will Tallman was secretary, and C. B. Paul was county superintendent.

Students were Clarence, Albert and Mabel Boots, Nora and Elfa Boyd, Nellie Carey, Mary, Belle and Bessie Easterly, Alta Farnham, Otho, Leslie, Nelson, Jennie, Katie and Amber Hughes, Opha and Zella Hotz, Bertha, May, Hattie and Frank Ganser, Kizzie Miller, Chas. Maiden, Mae McMurrin, Martha and John Jurgensen. Also May Pavin, Marion, Laura, Fern, Dessie and Mary Tallman, Delbert and Kenneth Smith, Sammie Weaver, Theresa and Harold Young.

We find in later records the "Green school" became number 4. The school built in Morley in 1909 was then recorded as number 5.

In 1909 Carrie Page was the teacher. Her salary was \$48.88 per month, and we can assume she boarded at various homes of pupils attending the school, as was the practice in those days.

Other known teachers were Frank Barton, Norman Bickel, Irene Brady, Myrtle Bixler, Annie Ernst, Earl Duncan, Hattie Ganser, Carolyn Miller Hay, Kate Hansen, Alonzo Hunter, Frank Kroulic, Mildred Ladd, Ida Lake, Cyrus Lamb, Fannie Clay Mershon, Dave Farnham, Myrtle Farnham Miller, Lena Miller, Daisy McCleary Miller, Flora Fisher Moore, Rose Tallman Neff, Edna Griffith Newlin, Gladys Shoop Peet, Erma Roase, Annie Shaw, Bert Stingley, John Kramar,

and Mildred Turtlelot.

Miss Florence Miller living east of Morley is the great-great-granddaughter of Jacob Miller, one of the first school directors. Her grandmother was of the Green family, who gave the land for the school, and her mother, Mrs. Myrtle Farnham Miller, attended and later taught in 1889 at the "Green school" when she was but 16 years of age. Her salary was \$22.00 per month.

In the years 1914 to 1918, the teachers were Beulah Byerly, Miller, Irene and Mae Brownell, Grace Grassfield Seegar, Agnes Foarde, and Vera Rorah Ireland. The pupils from these four years had names of Bixler, Coleman, Cook, Darrow, Decious, Duncan, Eve, Farnham, Gilmore, Grassfield, Grafft, Laucamp, Leinen, McMurrin, Northrup, Smith, Sunday, Starry, Tallman and Thompson.

The secretaries' book listed prices paid for loads of wood for heating the schoolhouse, repairs to the "outhouses", and one person earned 50 cents for scrubbing the schoolhouse floors before the fall term began.

The Green school building was moved to Morley in 1919 and used for school purposes until the Morley Consolidated school was built in 1921.

Essie Coleman was the last teacher in the Green school building. It was later used to house the "school hacks" (horse drawn buses) and other items.

Mrs. Grace Grassfield Seegar of Morley and Mrs. Edna Griffith Newlin of Viola are the only known living teachers of the "Green school" era.

The above information and story was compiled by Mrs. Harlan Tallman from the few existing records, and the excellent memories of some senior citizens. School record books from which much of the information was obtained have been carefully preserved by Avert Cook and Ivan Duncan, and a deed transaction belonging to Mary B. Tallman, who resides on the site of the "Green school".

(To the reader: The story of the "Green school" is an example of the wonderful contributions that can be made to the Jones County Historical Review by those people having bits of information on things of interest. Mrs. Tallman is to be commended for sharing this with all of us, and it is the Society's hope that more of you will submit articles of interest for publication. Without these contributions your publication will begin losing the reader interest we hope to maintain. The Editor.)

## Jones county calf case in courts for 20 years

The prodigal calf has a great deal to do with making Jones county famous. From the stormy shores of the Atlantic to the tranquil beach of the Pacific, and from the cold borders on the north to the balmy clime on the south, the Jones county calf case, has been heard of, and discussed.

Robert Johnson, late mayor of Anamosa, was the principal party in the prolonged and expensive litigation which began in 1874 and continued for over 20 years. A history of this famous case, written about 1909 follows:

Four calves the market value of which was \$25, were the cause of the greatest lawsuit in the history of America jurisprudence. The litigation started by their sale extended over a period of 20 years, was tried in seven different counties before 114 jurors, was four times appealed to the supreme court of the state, entailing fees amounting to \$75,000 for an army of lawyers, and concluded with a final judgment for \$1,000 and court costs, amounting to \$2,886.84.

This litigation - a monument to the cost at which legal redress may be secured by a

persistent litigant - is known as the "Jones County Calf Case" from Jones County, Iowa.

Robert Johnson of Anamosa, to vindicate himself of a criminal charge preferred against him by a "Horse Thief association" of pioneer days, fought through this long period against seven opponents. Since the conclusion of the case five of the defendants have died without property and two are yet alive, but have never gained a foothold since the famous lawsuit consumed their wealth.

Johnson has prospered, but by strange destiny of fate in his every enterprise he must cross swords with the opponents in his long legal duel.

When he became a candidate for mayor of this city last spring, 15 years after the settlement of the suit, his opponent was B. H. Miller, a relative of one of the defendants in the 20 litigation. John's record in the "Calf Case" for being a persistent fighter together with a platform for strict law enforcement and amoral city, won him the election. He is mayor today.

# Persistence pays off as Johnson finally wins his case--

## WHEELER EARLY IN THE CASE

C. E. Wheeler of Cedar Rapids, as a young law graduate of Notre Dame, received his first retainer from Robert Johnson. He made his maiden speech in the "Calf Case" and remained in the litigation from beginning to end. He won his victory after opposing before the juries such brilliant orators as Ex-Governor Horace Boies of Waterloo. When final judgment was rendered he was a gray haired old man and a lawyer of experience.

In early days of Iowa, Robert Johnson was a stock buyer in Jones county. In June 1874, he sold to S. D. Potter in Green county 50 head of calves. A short time later John Foreman, one of his neighbors, asserted that four of the calves belong to him, and in a Green county justice court, by replevin proceedings, recovered their possession.

To reimburse Mr. Potter for the value of the calves, Mr. Johnson gave him his note. He explained that he had bought the animals from a stranger who gave the name of Smith. In a county store at Olin, the proprietor and several loungers heard the bargain made between Johnson and the stranger.

Shortly after this proceeding, an indictment was returned in Jones county against Johnson, charging him with having stolen four calves. Johnson and a brother then went to Green county and had Potter point out the four claimed by Foreman. They proved to be high-grade calves, whereas Johnson had bought scrubs of Smith.

Then Johnson discovered for the first time that he had not handled the Foreman calves at all and began to believe he was the scaegoat for another crime. He refused to pay the note he had given Potter, on ground there was no consideration. Suit was commenced against him in justice court, and after a long and expensive litigation Johnson was defeated and had to pay the note, on the ground it was in the hands of an innocent purchaser.

When he was indicted Mr. Johnson filed a motion to quash because of a defect. The prosecution of Johnson was prompted by

an organization of those early days known as the "Horse Thief association", perfected as a protection against the prevailing wholesale stealing of stock.

A few days before the court gave consideration to this motion Johnson found on his horse block near his home a note, accompanying a piece of rope tied in a hangman's knot.

It read: "In view of the present indictment we understand that you calculate to have the indictment set aside. We advise you to appear and be tried under the indictment with the defect, if any exists or take the lamented Greeley's advice and go west or take this --"

We the Committee.

Johnson was a fearless man. He pursued his motion. The indictment was quashed. Another was returned. A change of venue was taken to Cedar county. He was tried and the jury disagreed by a vote of 11 for acquittal and one for conviction. Then one night his house and barn were mysteriously burned to the ground. He was tried a second time and acquitted.

## MALICIOUS PROSECUTION SUIT OPENS

Johnson determined to have revenge and vindication. He gathered information concerning the membership of the "Horse Thief association" and on May 23, 1878, started suit in Jones county for malicious prosecution, demanding \$10,000 damages from E. V. Miller, David Fall, George W. Miller, Abe Miller, John Foreman, S. D. Potter and Herman Keller.

A change of venue was taken by the defendants to Linn county, and from there a change was taken to Benton county. The case was tried here first with a disagreement of the jury. It was tried a second time and Johnson recovered a verdict of \$3,000. The court set the verdict aside.

A change of venue was then taken to Clinton county. At the conclusion of the trial there, Johnson secured a verdict for \$7,000. The court set that verdict aside.

A change of venue was then taken to Blackhawk county. There Johnson again won. This time the jury said he would have

\$5,000.

From this verdict, the defendants appealed to the supreme court of Iowa and the case was reversed. On the next trial in Black Hawk county, Johnson was awarded, by the jury, a verdict for \$6,000. From this the defendants appealed to the supreme court and again the case was reversed by this highest tribunal.

On the last trial in Black Hawk county, Johnson recovered a verdict for \$1,000 against six defendants, the court having instructed the jury to return a verdict for the defendant, Herman Keller, whose connection with the "Horse Thief association" was not proven.

The six remaining defendants filed one motion to arrest judgment and another for verdict, for the defendants on the ground the findings were in conflict with the general verdict, the judge having submitted certain specific questions for the jury to answer. Both motions were overruled and judgment rendered against the six defendants. Thereafter they appealed and judgment of the lower court was affirmed Jan. 27, 1891.

When it came to the payment of the trial costs the defendants against whom the verdict stood wished to pay but six-sevenths of them, contending the exonerated defendant should pay his share of the defense. They once more went to the supreme court on this question and the higher tribunal directed the six to pay the total costs of the defense, this last ruling was made Dec. 20, 1894, so the case consumed from the beginning 20 years.

E. V. Miller, Abe Miller and H. D. Keller died about the close of the litigation without property. John Foreman died about six years ago and David Fall, three years ago. George Miller is now living in Anamosa at the age of 90 years, with but little property. S. D. Potter is still living in Green county, but has no property.

Robert Johnson is now 71 years old, having been born in Delaware county, Ohio, in 1838. He was married in Jones county in 1861 to Miss Mary Saum and they raised a daughter and son to womanhood and manhood during the progress of the Jones County Calf Case. Concerning the suit, Mrs. Johnson says:

"I know I was right in this case. I do not regret the tiresome litigation. My honor and integrity were questioned. It pays to fight under such circumstances. I lost my farm of 160 acres and all my property but I feel well repaid. My wife, my children and my friends know now I was innocent, and I can look any man in the face without blush."

--George Plueger

The population of Jones county today (1976) is very nearly what it was exactly 100 years ago -- 19,000 plus.

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