

Jones County

Historical Review

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Cemetery history recounts many names, places in various Jones county townships

Since mankind inhabited the earth there have been burial places or cemeteries for the dead. Many burial places of antiquity survive, but many more have disappeared. Jones county has had its share of both in the years it has been in existence.

In Jones county there are between 60 and 70 known burial places and many more are scattered about in unmarked graves that cultivation has entirely obliterated.

In Section 6 of Richland township the cemetery at Bowen's Prairie is a mute reminder of what was once one of the earliest platted villages in Jones county. The original record book of the cemetery says it was started in 1851, but the first burial recorded was that of Eliza, the child of James McVay in 1849.

However, the first death in the village was that of 6-year-old Alfred Denson, the son of Thomas and Elenor Crawford Denson, who wandered from his home on April 24, 1838 and perished when he became lost in the prairie grass.

EARLY BURIALS

Among those interred at Bowen's Prairie are Barrett Whittemore, who was known as "The Old Schoolmaster of Bowen's Prairie". Also Captain David Stone and his wife Ruby and Curtis Stone and his wife, Mary Burton. This was the Curtis Stone, who, on a fine horse, rode up to a group of

men who were enlisting during the Civil War.

Isaac White had not volunteered, but seeing Mr. Stone, he remarked, "If I had that horse, I would go too". "Take it," was Mr. Stone's reply. "It is yours." No sooner said than done. Mr. White vaulted into the saddle and started to fight for his country.

Also among those buried there is William Moore, the 24-year-old son of Thomas Moore, who on a dark night rode off a cliff and he and his horse were both killed.

After many years of neglect, the cemetery was cleaned up by a group of interested persons, a new arch was put up over the gate and it is now well cared for.

PRIVATE PLOT

A private burial plot in Richland township is on the Faragher farm. Mr. Faragher, who died at the age of 83, was a native of the Isle of Man.

In Section 15 of Castle Grove township not far from the platted village of Downerville, (sometimes called Sumner) is another old burial place called the Moore cemetery. William Moore, grandfather of the William Moore buried at Bowen's Prairie, is buried here. He was also a native of the Isle of Man and came to Jones county in 1837 with his three sons.

Here, too, are Benajah Beardsley and his two wives, who were the parents of Rebecca, who married Thomas Peak, and Margaret, who married Daniel Varvel. Benajah Beardsley was postmaster at Argand in 1851.

Beardsley's house, which was somewhat larger than most, was referred to as the "Castle" and it was that from which Castle Grove was named.

FIRST MARRIAGE

Thomas Peak and Rebecca Beardsley were the first couple married in Jones county, the date Dec. 25, 1839. At that time Jones and Cedar counties were one and he walked 65 miles to Tipton to obtain the marriage license.

One of the earliest burials here was that of Harriet A. Beardsley, sister of Rebecca and Margaret, who died June 16, 1837, at the age of 17 years.

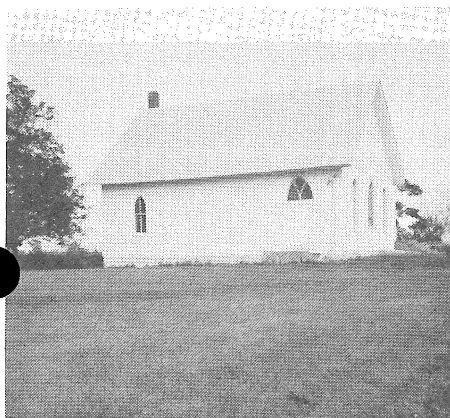
A child of Varvels is also buried here as well as the early Howies, Rev. Butterfield, the Clarks, Brunthavers, Glaziers, Marvins, Merriams, Rearicks, Sumners, Valleys, Sheridans, Scotts and John Evans, who was the blacksmith at Downersville. Many Civil War soldiers are buried here and there are a great many unmarked graves.

Argand or Immaculate Conception in Sec. 4 is but a short distance away and has the distinction of being the burial place of Jacob Muller, who was a drummer boy in Napoleon's army on its famed march to Moscow. He was born in 1800, came to Castle Grove in 1876 and passed away in 1884. He was the grandfather of Francis Miller.

It is the burial place of those affiliated with the Immaculate Conception church, including the Hogans, Millers, Leonards, O'Rourkes, Supples, Kehoes, Lackeys, Delays, McDonalds, Bradys and many others.

LONG GONE

The Troy cemetery in Sec. 2 is entirely gone. Of those buried there we were told of a Mrs. Clark, who died in 1846. Much to our disappointment we found no trace of any



Forest Church



Forest Hill Cemetery

Early settlers are buried in Prairie Hill--

markers.

The Prairie Hill cemetery in Sec. 21 of Castle Grove is the burial place of many early settlers. The Danks, Heiseys, Cunninghams, Starrs, Nobles, Spechts, Becks, Stimpsons, Deischers, Standish, Manns, Browns, Stadtmullers, Heikens, Harkens and others. Many of its beautiful big pine trees were destroyed by the tornado of June, 1974.

Oakwood cemetery in Sec. 27 of Lovell township is undoubtedly the largest cemetery in Jones county and also the best cared for. Monticello may well be proud of it.

The first burial in Oakwood was that of Alexander Farragher, who died April 12, 1852. His sister, Ann George, owned the land at that time and donated an acre of land for the cemetery.

In 1866 the Monticello Cemetery Association was organized and they purchased two more acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. George for cemetery purposes with the understanding that the acre donated by Mrs. George was to be used as a burial place for the poor.

NO RECORDS

For many years no good record was kept. In July, 1873, a notice was published in the Monticello paper by Samuel Gardiner. He requested that friends and relatives of people who had been buried there to please furnish information, giving the names, ages, dates of death, etc., so that records could be kept.

In 1955 and 1956 William Corbin put in many hours of time making a record of all burials, so it would be as complete as possible.

The beautiful Soldier's Monument, which is the focal point of the Memorial Day parades, was donated in 1909 by Major S. S. Farwell, who was one of Monticello's leading citizens.

Wandering about among the tombstones one finds such names as Doxee, Stuhler, Perrine, McLaughlin, Gill, Richardson, Lovell, Sturton, Hicks, Behrends, Suters, Carpenter, Podhaski, McNeill, Rohn, Ricklefs, George, Young, Deischer, Hoags and others too numerous to mention.

These people contributed much to the building of the town and making it what it is today. Not to be forgotten, too, are Mary I. Jarman, who was teacher and high school principal of Monti High for over 30 years, and Billy Sloan, who was the school janitor for over 40 years and a friend of every school child. His grave was unmarked for many years until many contributed to buy him a marker.

SACRED HEART

Sacred Heart cemetery in Sec. 16 north of Monticello is another well kept cemetery with its many stately cedar trees.

Buried here are those affiliated with the Sacred Heart church, the Lochers, Hayes, Kehoes, Millers, and many others of Monticello's good citizens, including Dr. M. F. Hogan, who cured many a toothache. He was a kindly person and a friend to all who knew him. He also became postmaster of Monticello.

East of Monticello in Sec. 14, is what courthouse records refer to as East Monticello cemetery. Although on Highway 151, one can easily pass it by without knowing it is there. Even though slightly neglected it should not be forgotten.

We found among the native prairie grass and sand burrs around 90 markers. Some real modern and some of wood, which of course, were no longer readable and a few homemade ones of cement, which showed that someone really cared.

Among the names we found Shover, Kaylor, Killias, Grover, Jecklin, Green, Flitch, Korkill, Bougher, Darrow, Boner, Butterfield, Barnts, Brownell, Hediger, Humble, Kipp, Like, Meyer, Beier, Owen, Richardson, Schatz, Smith, Taylor, Vandermark, White, Moffett, Appleby, Ralston and Rolston, Winkler, Wilson, and Kiburz.

Some of the markers that we knew were of the same family, had several variations in the spelling of the surname. Especially the names Kiburz, Kiburtz and Kyburz.

This cemetery surrounded by its ancient and stately pines is the resting place of several soldiers and deserves to be better cared for.

FAMILY PLOT

Skipping over to Oxford township in Sec. 20 near Oxford Mills was found one of the long forgotten burial places. In 1971 the Boy Scouts of Oxford Jct., under the supervision of their Den Mother, Mrs. Joseph Buresh, and other Scout leaders proceeded to do a clean-up job.

The earliest marker they found goes back to 1854. No one seems to know how this cemetery was started, but some think it might have been a family plot. Most of the burials were of young children, but we were told that there had been many older people buried there.

It is now called the Schnipp cemetery and some of the names found were McClure, Weeks, Schnipp, Mar, Kellogg, Brier, and Matthews.

The 1879 Jones County History tells us there was a Gilbert Weeks family living in that area. They were the parents of 11 children. The Boy Scouts and their leaders are to be commended for the work they have done.

In Sec. 15 of Oxford township is the Mayflower cemetery, which is one of the larger and best cared for burial places in Jones county. It was started on land donated by Frank Nowachek, Sr. and Ignatius Mizaur.

Early records were destroyed by fire so some of the early history was lost. In June 1920, a cemetery association was organized and incorporated. May 30, 1955 a beautiful \$12,500 iron fence surrounding the cemetery was dedicated. It was given by Elizabeth Brackney as a memorial to her parents, sister, and brother, the Vit Blizek family.

This is the final resting place of many of Oxford Junction's early settlers, the Benischek, Pegorek, Benhart, Straka, Vacek, Powelka, Koranda, Buresh, Lasack, Hodoval, Soukup, Tech, Kula, Mizaur, Hodgden, Blahnik and many, many more whose names are familiar in that area.

REVOLUTIONARY NOTE

South Mineral cemetery in Sec. 32 of Clay township is one that has quite a story to tell. It takes us back to Revolutionary War Days, which should be told at this time when the bicentennial of our country is being celebrated. So far as I have been able to learn, Jones county does not have a Revolutionary War soldier buried here.

But South Mineral does have David Kenison, Jr., who was the son of David Kenniston, Sr. and his third wife, Huldah Vittam. David Kenniston, Sr. was one of those who dressed and painted as an Indian and took part in dumping the tea in Boston Harbor during the famous Boston Tea Party.

David Kenniston, Sr. was born in 1736 and died in Chicago in 1852, at the age of 115 years, 3 mo., and 17 days. He had been married 4 times and had 22 children.

During the tea dumping, he saved a package of tea, which is in the museum in Chicago. He was the last surviving member of the Boston Tea Party and is buried in Lincoln Park.

Before the park was enlarged, it was the site of quite a large cemetery. The cemetery was moved, but the Kenison family objected to moving the tomb of their Revolutionary ancestor so it was set aside as a memorial and the D.A.R. chapter is named for him. After the Tea Party, he dropped the "T" from the name Kenniston, thus changing the name to Kenison.

EARLY RESIDENTS

David Kenison, Jr., his first wife Mary Allard, and a granddaughter, Sarah Ann, are all buried at South Mineral. It is also the burial place of Samuel Conoly, a veteran of the War of 1812. He served through the war and received a pension of \$8.00 per month. He came to Jones county in 1851 and was Jones county's first county superintendent.

Here also is a variation in the spelling of surnames, Conoly, Conally and Conley.

Other names common in that area are Baldwin, Eye, Danks, Edwards, Cooley,

Gravesite dates back to September of 1851--

Brown, Bliss, Gombert, Bodenhofer, Henderson, Hutton, Huffman, Nicholes, Moneypenny, Propst, Reade, Scripture, Silsbee, Sinkey, Soesbe, Warren, and Zeadow.

The oldest burial we found was Isaiah Holt, the child of William and Isabel Holt, who died Sept. 8, 1851. One couldn't help but notice that these were a long lived people as so many had lived to be in their 80's and 90's.

LOST CEMETERY

The Minnie Creek or North Mineral cemetery on the Hutton farm in Section 32, not too far from South Mineral as the crow flies, is another old time, almost forgotten burial place.

Several tombstones and rocks that could have been markers were almost hidden in the underbrush and broken down trees. Some we could not read and some very large ones were tipped over.

Mr. Rickels, who lived near there, told us where to go or we never would have found it. It is truly a "lost" cemetery.

Markers here go back to the early 1850's. Jacob Bodenhofer ran a mill in that area in an early day. One marker here is Elizabeth Bodenhofer, the wife of Jacob, who died Jan. 19, 1869, aged 70 years. One of his wives is buried at South Mineral.

Otho Dawson died July 31, 1855. His tombstone says "In the 60 years of his age. He was a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. There is not a cloud doth rise, to hide My Savior from mine eyes."

O. T. Griffin died Aug. 8, 1883, age 72 years. There was a broken tombstone leaning by a tree. The name looked to be W. W. Honstor, a soldier Co. D. 2D, Ia. Inf.

They told us for years there was an old soldier, who every year, walked across the field on Decoration Day to place a flag on this grave.

Other names here were Maroles, Moore, Nicholes, Soesbe and West.

IN CORNFIELD

On the Doll farm in Sec. 29 of Clay township we found the remains of a cemetery on a side hill in the center of a cornfield. We were able to find two markers in the grass. They were flat on the ground but when we raised them up they were in perfect condition.

One was Sarah C. Johnson, the daughter of D. E. and S. Johnson, d. Oct. 30, 1855, age 1 yr. 2 mo. 25 days. The other was Charlotte Rathbone, the wife of J. N. Rathbone, d. Aug. 2, 1855, age 51 yrs. 2 mo.

No doubt there were other covered up markers there. We were at this cemetery Nov. 20, 1966. Someday someone may come looking for the burial place of these two.

Canton cemetery in Sec. 18 of Clay township is near the Village of Canton,

which in early days was quite a flourishing little town. It was one of the earliest settled towns in this part of the state. A great many of the burial plots are marked for perpetual care.

The oldest burial we found was of Thomas Williams, who died Nov. 13, 1852, age 40 years, 8 mos. and 1 day. Conrad Stuhler, the little son of George and C. H.

Stuhler, was buried here July 30, 1855, age 8 mo. 12 days.

Early history of the Stuhlers tells us they were in Canton 5 years after they stopped there because of the illness of their little son. Then they were at Johnstontown one year before locating in Monticello.

The three wives of John Brenneman were buried here in the early 1850's. Two

President's Message:

Dear Subscriber.

Apologies, apologies. This issue of the Jones County Historical Times is coming to you late by some 40 days. I'll take the full blame, but it might ease the pain a little if it is explained that the recent HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUND DRIVE, held during the last two weeks of June cut into the time I was able to allot to the Society schedule.

I would also ask that you take note of the fact this issue does not contain the lead story as you were told it would in the last issue. That story was to be on the famed Indian Chief, Black Hawk, his people, the battle of the bad axe, and what part Jones county played in helping part of his band make good their escape.

I promise you this will be in the next issue, that God willing and the creek don't rise, will be off the press in late September.

We might make note at this point that for many of you, the next issue will be the final issue of your first year's subscription. This issue will have a box on the front cover that if you find X'd, , will indicate your issue expires with that copy.

If this is the case, don't wait to renew, for these publications are limited, and are available ONLY by subscription. We now have approximately 500 subscribers from all over the country, as well as in Jones county.

We have the printer turn out enough for our subscribers and a very few additional, to replace lost or damaged copies. If you fail to renew, and miss a copy -- we'll both be sorry.

The museum is progressing nicely, thanks to those members who are able to help with either the physical or financial problems or both. Many of the glass showcases have been moved in by active members and now await only a little repair work before the curators will start laying out the displays.

The Society has had a number of inquiries into the possibility of civic, fraternal, or family groups using the grounds for meetings and picnics. The answer to this is yes.

Arrangements should be made well in advance if your group wishes to tour the Museum (after it's finished, perhaps another month or six weeks). The Museum curators and attendants are all volunteers and take time from their busy schedules to open and lead the tours. They are happy to do it, for they are proud of Jones county and her heritage. The Society has not as yet set any charge for touring the museum, but it does cost money to keep it going so a free will offering in any amount is appreciated.

The Society has had inquiries into being the beneficiary of bequests. The answer again is yes. What better way to keep Jones county history, and the family name alive than by remembering the Historical Society in a will. Every cent the Society receives stays in Jones county.

At present a large cement floor picnic shelter is being constructed on the museum grounds. There will also be an outdoor fireplace.

The appeal for material to be used in the Society's publication still stands. If you notice that your area of the county doesn't appear much in the Society's publication, it is because no one is showing an interest, and no material is being received. Usually the best sources for this material is from grandparents. Many folks ask why we do not use the material found in the old Jones county history books, atlases, etc. We are not looking to reprint what has already been recorded. New material is much more preferable.

We have also had a few inquiries into the possibility of accepting advertising from Jones county merchants. Sure -- why not. It probably won't have much of an immediate impact advertising-wise, but you can be assured they will still be reading it many years from now. More on this later.

Remember, the Society is receptive to all and any kind of help you can give. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism. It is your Society, exists and will continue to exist only as long as you are interested.

Gus Norlin, Pres.

Frozen Hill name remains a mystery--

peculiar names we found here were Indiana Snyder, who was born in Ohio and died June 18, 1888, and Iowa Peters, the wife of A. J. Peters, who died Sept. 17, 1886, age 31 yrs. 5 mo., 12 days.

Names such as these are found in the Canton cemetery: Reyner, Sutton, Wilcox, Watters, Mackrill, Harwood, Brown, Hanna, Dimond, Vassar and Taylor.

FROZEN HILL

A larger and better cared for cemetery in Clay township, Sec. 17 is called the Clay or Frozen Hill cemetery. Who do you suppose named it Frozen Hill? And why?

It is the final resting place of such families as the Ames, Wherrys, Chattertons, Sears, Reids, Scroggies, Larkeys, Youngs, Orrs, Hortons, Kirkpatrick and Rippertons.

One marker says "John Barr, native of Tubbermore, Derry, Ireland, d. May 30, 1859 age 29 yrs. 6 mo. Remember me as you pass by, As you are now, so once was I." Truly, food for thought!

As far as I can learn Washington township has just one cemetery. It is in Sec. 28 at Temple Hill. The first settler in Temple Hill was Thomas Durigan, who came there in 1842.

The people in that area are mostly of Irish descent. There is a large Catholic church there with a big well kept cemetery adjoining.

Among the burials there are the Skahills, Fagans, English, Finns, Kellys, McQuillians, Morans, Supples, Takes, McKeever and Hughes. Many here were born in Ireland, so are buried far from their native land.

CHERRY GROVE

In Greenfield township, Sec. 10, there's a very old burial plot called the Mann cemetery. It is in the center of a field on the Murfield farm. It is located in what was once called Cherry Grove.

In early days Mr. Mann had a flouring mill near there. During a flash flood in 1851, the creek rose to a height of 20 feet in half an hour. Mr. Mann could not make his escape, the mill was washed away and Mr. Mann was drowned.

In this burial plot are Nancy, the wife of David Mann, who died Oct. 30, 1841 age 45 yrs., 5 mo. 23 days. Also David Mann and his second wife, Sarah. There are about 10 or 12 buried in this small plot.

Another burial place in Greenfield township is in Sec. 34. We found one we named the Piper-Kohl cemetery, because we are not certain what it really was called. The remaining stones are in a small fenced off corner of a hog lot.

There had been at least 15 burials there, mostly of the Kohl, Piper and Hempy families. Some we could not read, but they dated from 1860 to 1891.

The largest cemetery in Greenfield township is in Sec. 22. It adjoins the White Oak church and is well cared for.

The earliest burial we found here was Katherine McCammant, who died in 1862. Most of these are of a later date and are the families of Siver, Manley, Russell, Kohl, Hempy, Stearns, Grimm and Kuntz.

ONE OF OLDEST

In Cass township, Sec. 20, we walked through a field, way back on top of a hill, and found one of the very old cemeteries in the county. The Sams cemetery was named after the Edward Sams family, who came to Iowa from Ohio in 1842. In 1844 they came to Jones county.

He was the first white settler in Cass township and built the first log school house in Cass. His father was a Revolutionary War patriot. They were the parents of three children.

The first burial so far as we could learn and also the first death in Cass township was that of Edward Sams Reeves, the son of J. S. and S. L. Reeves, who died April 4, 1846, age 3 yr., 7 mo., 15 days.

Although fenced with barb wire, it is not well cared for. The main reason is that it is so inaccessible. We found it quite an effort to walk to it.

The names found there are mostly Sams, Bower, Calkins, Farrell, Hamilton, Crow, Kelley, Leek, McBee, Reeves and Chopper.

We think at one time it was much larger than the fenced-in portion now is. John Chopper's first wife is buried there and his second wife at Cass Center. Mr. Hale, one of the older citizens, who lived in Cass township, told us of going to a Beeks funeral in early days. Going through the field the funeral procession came onto a bumble bee's nest, stinging the horses and they ran away.

CASS CEMETERY

The first burial in the Cass Center cemetery in Sec. 16 was that of Orson Wheaton, who died in 1857. The cemetery is located just east of the Cass Congregational church, on grounds adjoining the church yard.

Among those buried here are Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Dodge, who came to Cass township from Vermont in 1850, and the Fairbanks, who also came from Vermont in 1854. The Condit, Milo Thompsons and Ogdens, who were among the organizers of the church in 1856, are buried in the cemetery.

Other early settlers were the Ketchams, Coltons, Thomas, Byerly, Choppers, Clouse, A. W. Barker, who was one of the early postmasters in Cass, Days, Hamiltons, Grahams, Hales, Hoons, Hannas, Jackson, Houses, Dr. Haskins wife, Rev. Bundy's wife and son, Rev.

Cady's sons, the Jacobus, Manns, Lakes, Plamadors, Crawford, Smedleys, Thornleys, Wallaces, Watts, Brainards, Stimpsons and many others who pioneered and lived in that area.

Also there's one lonely grave in the northeast section to remind us of a man who committed suicide.

BEAUTIFUL SETTING

In Jackson township, Sec. 17, we find Antioch in a beautiful setting, with a well kept burying ground. It was not always so as there's an old story we've been told that at one time it was badly neglected.

One day there was a funeral being held. Some people going past stopped, looked, and were heard to remark that it surely was a terrible place to bury the dead.

That remark was heard and put folks to thinking that something should be done. They immediately held a meeting, went into action and did a clean-up job. Since then it has been well taken care of and added to not many years ago. It is one country cemetery to be proud of.

At one time there was a circuit of three Methodist churches in Jones county -- one at Langworthy, one in Cass, across from Carlton Brainard's home, and one at Burr Oak. All three are long gone.

At Burr Oak there was a cemetery. It is my understanding that the Burr Oak burials were taken up and reburied in a section at Antioch.

The first burial at Antioch was that of Mrs. Fred Ambrose in 1866. Nathan Potter, one of the early pastors of Antioch church is buried there. Also the Byerly, Russells, Brickleys, Coltons, Ellisons, Graffts, Hays, Johnsons, Kramers, Ruhls, Meeks, Porters and many others.

It has been said of Antioch that a burying ground is one of the things that holds a closely-knit community together.

ONE GRAVE

In Sec. 2 of Jackson township on what was known as the Bendixen farm, now owned by Eli Shada, there is one lonely grave. At one time the farm was owned by James and Minnie Brown.

The grave is that of George C. Brown, the son of James and Minnie Brown. He died Aug. 11, 1865, age 11 yrs. 2 mo. 22 da.

The grave is by two hickory trees and surrounded by a triangular fence. Mr. Bendixen told us that relatives from California were there to the grave several years ago.

At one time there was a cemetery in Sec. 4 near or on the Henry Wehling farm. In the long grass we found three grave stones, although there might have been more.

The ones we found were those of Elen L. Brown, dau. of R. O. and H. S. Brown, d. Apr. 30, 1862, 4 yrs. 1 mo. 24 da.; Margaret

Long forgotten cemetery is on Mardorf farm--

Ristine, the wife of B. Ristine, d. Jan. 21, 1863, 26 yrs. 5 mo. 27 da.; and Joseph H. Ristine, son of B. and M. Ristine, d. April 1 (no year) age 4 years.

MARKED BY LILLIES

In Sec. 14 on the Mardorf farm is a cemetery called the Ellis or Hazel Green. It was mostly grown up to tall weeds and lots of the old time lillies, which were so common everywhere. It was said there was no church there, but a school house not far away was often used for religious purposes.

Benjamin Ellis, a soldier of the War of 1812 is buried here. He was born in Massachusetts Oct. 25, 1794, came to Iowa in 1856 and died July 17, 1878 at the age of 83 yrs. 9 mo. 12 da.

The earliest burial was March 28, 1860, on up to 1888, although we were told of a Mr. Norris, who died at the Linn County Home, not so many years ago and was buried there. We found no marker for him.

Names we found here were: Annis, Belknap, Bissell, Brady, Colby, Denison, Ellis, Hinds, Knapp and Witham.

In Sec. 26 of Jackson township is another rather forgotten cemetery as it was not very well cared for. According to court-house records it was called Pleasant Valley.

It is the burial place of the John Brickley family, who came to Iowa in a very early day. His tombstone says he lived to the age of 84 years. We could not tell the date as the large stone was tipped over.

Some of the family were buried there in 1876. Earliest burials we found were in 1867. Besides the Brickleys, other burials there were Colbys, Days, Hathaway, House, Houstman, Ireland, Johnson, Nunn, Post, Russell, Stivers, Streeter, Strickell, and Truax.

NEWSPAPER REPORT

A newspaper of 1910 says this of a cemetery on the Grafft farm in Sec. 28 of Jackson township: "The first cemetery in the township was laid out south of the Newport schoolhouse in 1846. During the early history of the township this was the leading burying ground. Very few burials are now (1910) made in this 'God's Acre'."

The cemetery is on a hill back from the road quite a long way. We drove through the field and then walked quite a distance. The markers were mostly well cut and readable. Several had been repaired and some put together with straps of iron.

It is truly an old one and the oldest stone we found was that of Frederick Byerly, the son of F. and C. Byerly d. Mar. 28, 1847, 17 yr. 3 mo. 17 da. The latest was 1888. Elizabeth, the first wife of Dr. Ira Bates was buried here in 1859.

The names we found were Bates, many Byerlys, Hay, Hottell, Jefferies,

Overacker, Spear, Tice, Stevenson and Tallman.

A great many of the tombstones had quite lengthy epitaphs, more so than any cemetery we had been at before. One of these I copied was on the tombstone of Minerva E. Overacker, the daughter of A. A. and P. Overacker, who died Apr. 7, 1862, Age 19 yr. 5 mo. 7 da.

"O cease dear parents, cease your weeping,

Above the spot where I am sleeping.

My time was short, and blest be He That called me to Eternity."

A real old atlas of Jones county shows another cemetery in Jackson township in Sec. 33 near the Newport bridge. This one we were never able to find.

LONG NEGLECTED

To me one of the saddest and most neglected of all cemeteries in Jones county is in Sec. 26 of Scotch Grove township where the village of Johnson once was.

When we were there in 1966 we found one burial in 1859 - Cynthia Barnhill, the wife of D. K. Barnhill, who died May 23, 1859, age 53 yr. 21 days. Four more died in 1860.

A story of Johnson says the first burial was in 1853 and the last in 1888. At that time there were about 50 tombstones. When we were there we only found about 25.

One who died in 1879 had both the Masonic and three links of the Odd Fellows on his tombstone.

Names found here were Ames, Austin, Barnhill, Carter, Campbell, Corbett, Corkill, Eilsen, Fadley, Hibler, Krouse, Leggett, Overly, Orsen, Putman, Sayre, Titus and Westcott.

Scotch Grove cemetery near the Presbyterian church in Sec. 22 is quite a large, well cared for cemetery. Early history of Scotch Grove tells us that Alexander Sutherland gave four acres of land in the northeast corner of his farm for church purposes and the cemetery.

The first death in Scotch Grove was Christie Sutherland, the young daughter of John Sutherland, who died shortly after their arrival in 1837.

FROM PEMBINA

Many of those hardy Scottish pioneers, who came on foot and with oxcart down the Red River Valley with the famous ox-cart expedition from Pembina, are buried in the Scotch Grove cemetery. Many of them were born in Scotland and Canada, so are far from their native land.

The first church was called "The First Church of Edinburgh" and was in a corner of the cemetery. When a new and larger one was built it was called the Scotch Grove Presbyterian church.

One of the first burials was that of Isabel Sutherland in 1839. Some of the early burials were at Edinburg, but after 1852 most were in the Scotch Grove cemetery.

Studying the history of Scotch Grove and wandering about among the tombstones, one learns much about the part these people played in the early growth of our county.

Scotch Grove was one of the first in the county to erect a Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The monument was dedicated May 28, 1908 with an address given by Major S. S. Farwell. There are many Civil War soldiers and two of the War of 1812 buried here.

MANY MONUMENTS

The monument of Rev. James McKean, who served in the War of 1812, is 14 feet tall. Charles Hutton was the other veteran of the War of 1812.

John McKean's monument says "He served God and the State, in the Senate, and on the bench, in the Church and in the home".

Thomas Lyons monument says he was born in Ohio Dec. 29, 1821 d. Nov. 24, 1903 and his epitaph reads, "Know ye not that a great man has fallen this day." Samuel 31-33.

Also buried here are Rev. Alyea, John E. Lovejoy, who was the first station agent in Scotch Grove; John Prouty, who had the first steam threshing machine in the Scotch Grove area, and May Himebaugh, who was post mistress of Scotch Grove for many years.

One monument catches a person's eye when they enter the cemetery. It is the one of Benjamin Collins who died Apr. 27, 1866 at the age of 60 years.

Etched in the marker are the words "An Old Soldier", a man with a gun in hand and a deer. History of Jones county says Benjamin Collins, an old hunter, settled south of the river in Clay township at an early date.

Some more of the old names of this area are: Dreibelbis, Espys, Huttons, Strongs, (cont. on page 7)



Cemetery on Grafft Farm

Episode involves Grandfather Rice and early day Jones county judge

The following story has been submitted by Esther Sinclair, a life long resident of Scotch Grove, direct descendant of the Rev. John Rice and Donald Sinclair, one of the original Selkirk Scots, who made the perilous overland journey from Quebec to that area of Jones county known as Scotch Grove township.

I have heard this story many times, but never so graphically or realistically retold since about 40 years ago. From the lips of the principal person involved, the late Hon. Frederick O. Ellison, judge of the circuit court in Anamosa, the occasion being my first experience with jury duty, came the words that caused me never to forget the time.

Others involved were my grandfather, Rev. John Rice, justice of the peace, and my father, then a young boy whose father thought he and his brother were old enough to learn what could happen if you tangled with the law, and the consequences thereof.

ALWAYS PROMPT

Judge Ellison was known to be a stickler for promptness, especially about his court starting on time. In this instance, however, the clock rolled right past 9 a.m. and no Judge appeared.

This was in the old Jones county courthouse, and while everyone knew the Judge was in the building, probably in his chambers, two very unhappy attorneys paced the corridor outside the room, not daring, of course, to interrupt.

To make matters worse, laughter began pouring from the room, building hilariously and uncontrollably, and this in the very room where the potential jurors were being held until court convened. Nothing like this had happened before in Judge Ellison's long time justice proceedings.

Mid-December was bitter cold that year and colder in the old courthouse, where wind crept in every crack around the long windows and snow lodged on the inside ledges. The deep snow and temperature well below zero easily outclassed the old woodburning heaters in the rooms, around which the would-be jurors clustered awaiting 9 a.m., roasting on one side, freezing on the other, as windows rattled and banged against the strong winds. It wasn't comfortable to say the least.

WARM GREETINGS

Many of us were first timers and a bit nervous. About 10 minutes before the time of 9, the door opened and a slight, elderly, white-haired gentleman entered saying, "Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I

hope you weren't too inconvenienced by the weather in coming for which I thank you. I am Judge Ellison."

At that he spied my Dad on the outer edge of people and his face lit up with a wonderful smile, and with both hands outstretched he greeted my father especially.

"Don! It's been too long since I've seen you. Are you a juror?!"

"No, I'm not a juror", Dad answered, "but my daughter is and I'm staying a bit to see when she will be through."

Both men now stood patting each other on the shoulders, which on my part was something to see since Dad was not a demonstrative man.

"Is Miss Sinclair in the room?" the Judge asked, and as a small voice answered "Yes, Sir", he came, hand outstretched toward me, smiling.

Great day in the morning, what was all this? The august Judge picking my father out of the group so happily and then shaking my hand too!

"Young woman, did you have a grandfather by the name of Rev. John Rice who had certain definite ideas of justice?"

STERN MINISTER

Not realizing the emphasis I was putting into it, I answered loudly, "I sure did". The quiet Judge chuckled, and I had the idea he had heard of my stern grandfather who approved of grandsons, but not of granddaughters, and who had never quite forgiven the young upstart country, the U.S.A., for requiring him to go to school before he could be licensed to preach.

He!!, the Rev. John Rice, a Coventor minister in Scotland for so many years before coming here to this God forsaken new country. Really, was there no justice in this land at all?

What in heaven's name was the use of a circuit court judge when he could officiate well enough. In ten minutes, grandfather Rice would have consigned the wrong doers to eternal damnation, hell fire and brimstone without a qualm, and saved the county money beside.

There was just no need to bring in a young judge who didn't look competent anyway. To add insult to injury, since a large, well-stocked still had been raided all the many cases of liquor had been stacked in the Rev. Rice's barn until trial, which had been set by this young whipper snapper judge and it was this story the young judge, now grown old in the law business proceeded to tell.

ABOVE CHORES

Since Grandpa Rice was a minister, he

was known as a man of the cloth, and therefore above menial labor, so it was that Grandma, the two boys and my mother did all of the chores. During the time the whiskey was stored in the barn, however, none of the children were allowed to go into the barn, so Grandma, little but wiry, pitched all the hay for feed and straw for bedding outside the barn to be carried where needed by the three children twice a day.

The day the trial was set, broke so cold one gasped with the first lung full. The day was clear, with heavily frosted windows and a sharp wind that penetrated the extra coats. Long before sunrise, neighbors began arriving, men and boys that is, walking, riding horses, some by sleigh or bobsled, all with extra coats on, and double blankets for the horses. Double amounts of grain were carried, as a feed bonus for the horses noontime meal.

Not one woman came, but two or three did slip by to help Grandma cook dinner for the crowd. These ladies stared straight ahead, passed the barn where the liquor was stored, and made straight for the house. The children were confined for all day in a room on the opposite side of the house from the barn, and were released only for quick needed trips to the small building with the half moon cut in the door.

FULL BARN

A place was reserved for the Judge's team inside the barn, and as many as could be added. The rest tied their horses in the shelter of any building, and double blanketed them against the cold.

Sixteen miles to the southwest in Anamosa, a young judge going to his first big trial, hunckered down under extra robes in a cutter behind a fast trotting team. Judge and driver set out for Scotch Grove, the Judge in deep thought of what his decision would be and the cold driver rarely spoke all the long way. It seemed even longer on the return trip after sunset.

Promptly at 9 a.m., under a pale, heatless sun, the trial began and many witnesses were called and finally the noon recess was proclaimed. The Judge, his driver and as many as could be seated at the long oval table were served plain but good, hot food. The table was cleared and reset four times before all the men had eaten. Then, and only then, the women sa down to have their meal.

After horses were fed, the trial resumed, but it wasn't until 4:30 p.m. the Judge had reached a decision. He decreed that everyone of those confiscated bottles of liquor were to be broken, not just cracked, but broken against the corner of the rock

Wayne township is location of many cemeteries-- (cont. from page 5)

Sinclair, McBeath, Livingstones and so many, many more.

Mrs. Sinclair's history of Scotch Grove tells of the grave of Mr. J. P. Tibbits on a high bluff above Dale's Ford. He ran a mill which was washed away during a flood.

MANY IN WAYNE

In Wayne township there are many cemeteries scattered about and all go back a good many years. In Sec. 1 there is St. John's, or Sand Hill as it is often called.

I guess it is rightly named for they tell us there is part of the cemetery where it is difficult to dig without the ground caving in.

This is an old German settlement. In January, 1864 the church was organized and land purchased for church and cemetery purposes.

The first burial was in January 1864 although the history of the church tells us of the funeral of Mrs. John Jacobs in December, 1863. The Scheers and Hayens, who were in the implement and mercantile

business in Langworthy, are buried here.

Also many who lived in the surrounding area including the Heerens, Mathiessens, Tobiassens, Hankens, Bohlkens, Behrends, Schuetz, Balsters, Ahrnhens, Poppes, Edens, Nulls and Oltmanns. This God's Acre joins the church yard and is well cared for.

Wayne Zion Lutheran church and cemetery are in Sec. 22. In the last few years a new church has been erected and is one of the leading country churches in this area. It has a large congregation and adjoining the church yard is a large and beautiful burying ground.

History of Wayne Zion, sometimes referred to as Wayne Center, says the first burial there was that of Heinrich Zimmerman, who died Aug. 3, 1873. This is a hard-working German settlement where the people take pride in thier surroundings.

One finds pretty much the same names as at the St. John's cemetery, along with Helgens, Weers, Siebels, Toenjes, Dirks,

Husmanns, Folkerts, Rickels, Landherr, Harms, Stutt, Osterkamp, Holst, Riekens, Dannemans and other names familiar in that area.

EVERGREEN

In Sec. 13 on the east side of the road, near what is called the Mary Heiken farm, is an old and almost forgotten burial plot referred to as "East Wayne", although some call it "Evergreen".

It is said to have been started June 5, 1876, but the grave of Tjede Heyen Behrends says born Dec. 12, 1820, d. May 24, 1870.

Many of these are written in German and are Hinrich, Schoon, Morton, Eilers, John and Gretke Hayen, Hinrich and Gesche Maria Jacobs, Matilda Moore, W. J. Elise, and Alma Zimmerman. One stone we could not read.

Across the road, on the west side, in Sec. 14 is one they told us was called the "Kiburz" cemetery, but why, I don't know. It is also said there was a church here

Watches carefully until all bottles are broken--

Foundation of the barn until the smashed glass and liquid were all on the icy ground.

WATCHFUL EYE

To make sure his orders were followed, the Judge himself leaned against the barnyard gate, and watched the proceedings until everything was done as ordered. At random he would point to men in the crowd and order them to help.

Dad told me, "the looks on some of those men's faces as bottle after bottle was slammed against stone was something to see". To any young boy it was hard to understand how big burly men did as the Judge asked without one word of protest.

Some men watched dismally as the edict was carried out, while others glanced sideways to see how "the Reverend" took it.

Just as the custom today, where no one leaves a gathering or occasion where the President of the U.S. is present until after he does, no one left the barn until the tired Judge and his driver climbed once again in the cutter and drove off through the willow lined lane, heading out into a sharp north-west wind for the journey back to Anamosa.

It had been a long day, but as soon as Judge and driver were gone, everyone else left at once.

Grandpa came striding into the kitchen, said one word "chores", then went to try and warm himself as Grandma and the three children struggled into extra coats and headed outdoors. The children went first, but were back almost immediately, eyes big and round with awe, but with a

trace of fright.

FUNNY ANIMALS

One cried out, "Something awful is the matter with the cows, pigs, chickens and horses. They can't stand up and are lying right on the ice real still like. What will we do?"

Without a word, Grandma went back with the children. No need to tell Grandpa, he'd just be upset and Grandma had her own ideas what might be the matter. Sure enough, horses, cows, pigs and chickens were strewn all over the big barnyard, and all were completely stoned -- dead to the world -- but all appearing to be happy about it.

After much pulling and shoving, the children and Grandma got them off the icy ground and into shelter to sleep it off. Then the day's work was done.

As the story unfolded, men and women crowded around the Judge and a roll of uninhibited laughter spun around the teller as he, too, with tears of laughter rolling down his cheeks, missed nothing in telling it.

Outside, as the gale of laughter reached the waiting attorneys in the hall, they were more and more puzzled, for it was well past nine o'clock now, and while they knew there was also a clock in the room with the Judge, they hadn't the nerve to interrupt, for this Judge could be quite formidable, even though his size was against him.

COURT TIME

Suddenly however the Judge did notice the clock at 9:30, and quickly turning at the

door said, "Good morning ladies and gentlemen, You Don and Miss Sinclair", then he vanished out the door, into the hall, and with rapid strides headed for the courtroom. The two attorneys followed, like the tail of a kite.

Such an unusual occurrence in a neighborhood couldn't possibly remain a secret, and for weeks group conversations would stop if Rev. Rice appeared, but many a smile followed him as he passed by.

"Reverend Rice's stock dead drunk?" Impossible, but true. But back to the courthouse.

In a few minutes jurors were summoned to the courtroom, some still smiling, and then suddenly sobering, as while standing, we saw a slight white haired Judge engulfed in a ponderous black robe come through a door with not a smile even in his eyes.

Here was a man of justice, starting a day of serious work, and don't anyone forget it. Gone was the story telling time, the laughter and the ease given to newcomers to court. There was justice to be meted out and nobody knew it better than those of us who had laughed with this gentleman minutes before. There was no laughter now.

God Bless our little Judge, who for a few minutes laughed with us, not at us. There were few people that can separate the difference of that now days.

I never saw the Judge again alive, and I could not make myself attend his funeral. Once, briefly, he was my friend as well as my Dad's, and from that time I carry the most fond of memories.

Diphtheria takes its toll in 1878--

years ago. A soldier, 20 years old Perry A. Himebaugh, the son of A. P. and M. Himebaugh, died Feb. 12, 1864 and is buried here.

On one marker there are the names of three children of the King family, who died of diphtheria in October, 1878 within 16 days of each other.

Also in that small plot are a Barnhill infant, Ruth and Elizabeth Davis, Henry Edzards, George and Little Charlie Matthews (1864 and 1868) Joseph Murphy, the infant son of George and Rebecca Keniston Schoonover, a daughter and son of Wm. and Leah Scott, Emma Shaffer, and a broken stone with Elizabeth L. ?.

It has been said these cemeteries have been in danger of being plowed up.

FOUR HORN

Another old cemetery in Wayne in Sec. 24 just down the road and not far from the last two is what is called the "United Presbyterian", also sometimes called the "Four Horn" because of the shape of its spire. The church has been gone for several years.

Joseph Garrison and James Nelson, veterans of the War of 1812, are buried here. Many of these in this God's Acre were born in Scotland, the Livingstones, William Aitken, John Brown, the Halls and the Milnes. The oldest tombstones date back to 1863. The Milnes were ancestors of Mrs. Delco Yount and the Brays and built some of the early bridges in this area. Other names found here are McBrides, Moncrief, Overly, Ross, Robertson, Albertson, etc.

In Sec. 34 at the edge of Amber is a well cared for burying ground. Here we find the Hartmans, Grays, Belknaps, Ruhes, Simmons, Lincolns, Preas, Fousts, Sanfords, Steenhoeks, Hildenbrandts and other who lived in and around Amber or "Blue Cut" area.

In the newspapers in early days the Amber news was called "Blue Cuttings". The earliest burial we found here was in 1858 on up to the present time.

HISTORICAL SITE

In Sec. 36 of Wayne township we have

Edinburg, which is near to our historical site, and the burial place of several of those hardy pioneers who made the perilous journey down the Red River Valley.

The first burial there was that of John Livingston, the son of D. and A. Livingston, who made the journey on a raft with his aged mother, who was no longer able to stand the jolting of the ox cart. He died in 1841 at the age of 21 yrs.

Ann Livingston, the wife of Donald Livingston, is buried there and possibly Donald Livingston as there is a footstone with D. L. on it and also one with L. L. Also Susan McBeath, the wife of D. McBeath, and their daughter Zerelda.

Sutherlands buried at Edinburg are Alexander, who died in 1846, his wife Jane and their daughters Isabella and Elspy, and William A. These were all in the party who came down from Pembina.

It is said that at one time the cemetery was much larger. It has been badly neglected in the past and several foot stones and broken tombstones are piled around the base of a tree.

Other names here are Sanford, Bailey, Cook, Foust, Franklin and Davis. Courthouse records tell of others who were buried at Edinburg, but we could find no tombstones for them.

Courthouse records also tell of a good many who were buried at the "Poor House cemetery". We never were able to find anything definite on the location of this cemetery.

Those dates were between the years 1881 and 1896. Some of the names were Faust, Evans, Nelson, Concett, Malone, Rearrick, McGowan, Schlimmer, McIneery and a child - no name.

ONLY A RECORD

The Burr Oak cemetery was in Sec. 29. It is said to have been moved. Courthouse records tells of these being buried there: Howard Snyder, Mary M. Ruhe, Adelbert W. Hayes, Luke Perryman, a son of Richard Hayes, George Iosta and Loren Soper. These were from 1872 to 1896.

A short distance south and west of Langworthy in Sec. 7 is a good sized

cemetery that is practically filled. There were at least 150 burials there. I've found no records telling how this cemetery was started.

One of the early burials was in 1856. It was Jane Ann Scrivens who froze to death at the age of 16 years. She was with the Wade family when they became lost in a blinding snow storm which came up suddenly as they were on their way home from Monticello.

Other burials are several of the Batchelder family. John Batchelder ran the creamery at Langworthy several years.

Other family names in that area were the Millers, Darrows, Cooks, Bates, Worsters, Perrines, Ackermans, Albertson, Davis, Guilfords, Dunnings, Hall, Hutchings, Spencer, and Smith.

(Continued next issue)

To continue giving you interesting reading in future issues of the Jones County Historical Review, it will be necessary that we receive material from those having knowledge of Jones county history.

Articles of interest need not be of early Jones county. While these are the articles we of today most enjoy, those to follow us, 50 to 100 years or more, will appreciate that we have put to print today what happened both yesteryear and today.

We would like to have the various schools within the county become involved in Jones county's Historical Society and museum.

Perhaps one of the schools has a group of students who would like to take over and begin our "Iowa Prairie grass plot". We have an acre of ground for this.

We also need a history of all the schools and their locations in Jones county from 1840 up to the present. Any school group want to volunteer on this?

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