



Jones County

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Diary gives glimpse of area life 101 years ago

My grandfather, George Franklin Howard, was a pioneer of Jones county, Iowa. This article is based on the contents of his personal diaries. He began his first diary in 1877, at the age of 22, and kept a daily account until the time of his death in 1908.

No records have been found to indicate where he came from or why he decided to



George
Franklin
Howard

settle in Jones county. I assume that he lived with his sister Ivah. An early entry dated, Sunday, Feb. 25, 1877, read "My Mother died five years ago this evening", and others in May of 1879 relate tales of a trip taken to the west to visit his Father in Walnut, Iowa.

Most of the diaries tell of his early life in and around Clay Mills.

At that time, Clay Mills was an active community located on Farm creek and the Maquoketa river in the 1800s - today only a few broken foundations remain.

In reading my Grandfather's journals, I feel that Clay Mills was like any other town of its size, location and era. He tells of births, deaths, new construction, sporting events such as ball games, shooting matches and social gatherings. Here is his story:

1877

Friday, Jan. 5 (22 years of age today) --

Went to Onslow to day. Mr. S. R. Cook was here this evening and we played eucher until eleven o'clock.

Saturday, Jan. 6 -- I went to Cascade today got home at three o'clock D.B. Beens folks and me all went to Mr. Ecklers & Joseph Orr stayed all night with me.

Sunday, Jan. 7 -- Frank House was here. I went to church today and F. House & Fern Eckler came here after church and spent the evening and the teacher and John Young and Archie Robertson spent the evening.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 -- I put up 28 bushels of oats for Charley to take to Onslow. I went to Onslow today. Tonight is the oyster supper at Mr. Beens. I did not go to the oyster supper.

Thursday, Jan. 11 -- It snowed most all day. Wm Hogeboom and ders was here and Byron Hall was here. I stayed at home most all day. I went up to Toms and Joseph Hannas in the after noon.

Monday, Jan. 15 -- I stayed at home in the fore noon and went to W Orrs Childs Funeral and then went to school in the after noon. It snowed hard all day. Blustering today.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 -- I went to Onslow to day and I came home and went to the School House to a lecture and thare weren't eny. I was at Uncle Hi DuBoises to day.

Thursday, Jan. 18 -- Stayed at home in the fore noon and went to Geo Hannas in the after noon and my pony got a way and went home. Mr. Beens Folks and us spent the evening at Mr. Greens.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 -- I was at Uncle Hi's all night. It was cold to day.

Wednesday, Jan. 24 -- I was to School in the fore noon. I was at home in the after noon. Aunt Fannie was here this after

noon. We all went to Wm Hogebooms this evening.

Thursday, Jan. 25 -- Went to Wm Suttons Sale and went to a Spelling School at the Stone School House in the evening. To day Francis Duke promised to pay Wm Litten \$10.50 that he owed me.

Saturday, Jan. 27 -- I went to Allen Dukes child's funeral to day, got back at three o'clock. Went up to Mr. Butlers & stayed all night. He and me went to Scroggies and Geo Hannas.

Sunday, Jan. 28 -- Pleasant this morning I went to church to day and went up to Mr. Scroggies after church. I got a letter from Jen to day.

Monday, Jan. 29 -- I stayed at home in the fore noon. It is very warm. Went to Onslow in the after noon. Came back and stayed all night with Jo Orr. It is fogy this evening.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 -- It is fogy this morning. I was to Onslow today, came back to Wm Orrs with him and stayed until after supper. It rained to night and then went up to Mr. Scroggies. I stayed all night at Mr. Scroggies.

Thursday, Feb. 1 -- I sawed wood for Charley in the fore noon and we started to go to Farm Crick and the river was so high we could not get thare.

Monday, Feb. 5 -- I went to Clay Mills to day. I was at home in the after noon. James Hall was here to day.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 -- I went to Onslow to day. I left a note of \$10.50 against Francis Duke and H. O. Shike with the Justice of the Piece at H. V. Vandurens for Colection at Onslow Jones Co Iowa.

Thursday, Feb. 8 -- I helped Jim Hall fill his Ice House to day at Clay Mills. Wm Hogeboom and F House and Rill Green was here this evening.

Pioneer continues daily chronicle

Sunday, Feb. 11 -- I went to Wm Ecklers in the fore noon and went to church in the after noon and then I came home and went up to Wm Hogebooms in the evening. Snowed some this evening.

Monday, Feb. 12 -- Pleasant this morning. I was at School in the fore noon. I went to James Moren wood chopping and was at the dance at night.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 -- I went to Onslow to day. I got my money from F Duke to day \$11.44. I paid Wm Litten \$6.80 to day.

Thursday, Feb. 15 -- I went down to Stuff Suttons. I was at School in the fore noon. In the evening Charley McMaster and Stuff and me went to Canton to the Auction. We came back and I stayed all night with Stuff.

Monday, Feb. 19 -- I was at home in the fore noon. Charley went to Monticello with Eb Walker. He took my watch to get it cleaned. I was at School a little while in the fore noon. I was at A. P. Orinsbys to dinner. I was at school all the after noon. I got my watch back to day. I was at Wm Ecklers to a dance to night.

Friday, Feb. 23 -- It snowed some this morning. I was at Home in the fore noon and then I went up to Geo Hannas and Mr. Youngses and then Home. It snowed some all day.

Sunday, Feb. 25 -- My Mother died five years ago this evening. I was at Church to day. S. R. Cook was here this after noon. I was up to Mr. Scroggies to day.

Wednesday, Feb. 28 -- I chopped wood to day for P B down in the timber. I wrote a letter to Father to night.

Thursday, Feb. 29 -- (I have worked five days for P Blackmer \$3.75).

Thursday, March 1 -- I chopped wood and split rails for P. Blackmer.

Friday, March 2 -- There is about 3 inches of snow this morning. I was at Charleys in fore noon and was at School in the afternoon. S. R. Cook was here this Evening.

Saturday, March 3 -- It is a snowing this morning. I was up to Tom Greens to day. I stayed all night up to Thomas Green.

Sunday, March 4 -- I was at Church to day. I was up to Mr. Butlers and Mr Scroggies in the after noon. We was at Mr. Beans this Evening.

Thursday, March 8 -- I was at Onslow to day. S. R. Cook was here this Evening. I Shaved to day.

Friday, March 9 -- I was at the last day of School at Victory School House. It was very cold to day. James Carpenter stayed all night and we made Biscuits.

Monday, March 12 -- It is a snowing hard this morning. It has snowed hard most all day. I was at home to day.

Tuesday, March 13 -- Pleasant to day. I was at D. A. Walters Sale to day.

Thursday, March 15 -- I was at Onslow to day. I left my watch with R. Wait to get

fixed (Check 34). S. R. Cook was here this evening. I have been to Onslow Eighteen times this year up to this date.

Friday, March 16 -- It Snowed hard this morning. I was at home all day.

Saturday, March 17 -- I was at home in the fore noon And in the after noon I was up to Mr. Scroggies and Mr. Butlers. St. Patricks day In the Morning. I helped Charley haul some hay.

Sunday, March 18 -- Pleasant this morning. I was at Church to day. It is a snowing this Evening.

Monday, March 19 -- I was Onslow to day. I came home with Jim Carpenter.

Tuesday, March 20 -- I helped Charley to build his Stable.

Wednesday, March 21 -- I helped Charley to clean his house and get ready to move.

Thursday, March 22 -- I helped Charley to move. I was at Church this Evening. Protracted Meeting meeting Comenced this Evening.

Friday, March 23 -- I was at Onslow and I was at Church this Evening.

I am a poor wafaring
Stranger

Heaven is my Home
What thy hand
findeth to do, do it
with all thy might

Mr. A. Araah
Antheonia

Saturday, March 24 -- I helped Lue Buttler to Saw Wood and I went to Church in the Evening. I got a letter from Home Antheonia Araah.

Sunday, March 25 -- Pleasant All day. I was at Church in the day time and in the Evening.

Monday, March 26 -- I received \$2.00 from P Blackmer. I helped Lue Buttler Saw Wood in the after noon. I was up to Short Stop. I was at meeting this Evening. I stayed all night with Lue Buttler.

Tuesday, March 27 -- I helped Lue Butler Saw wood in the fore noon. A. K. Robertson was here this after noon. I was at Church this Evening.

Wednesday, March 28 -- I was at Onslow and came back to Uncle Hi's and I went to Church this Evening with Birt and Alice. I got my Watch to day.

Thursday, March 29 -- Mr. Anthony Araah, Evangelist. I was at Church to day. I was up to Mr. Scroggies in the after noon. I was at Church this Evening. A. Robertson stayed all night with me.

Friday, March 30 -- I was at Church to day. It rained this after noon.

Saturday, March 31 -- I was at Church and I came back to Al Ornsby. I stayed all night with Frank House.

Sunday, April 1 -- I was at Church to day and I went down to Mr. Ecklers and we all went to Church this Evening.

Monday, April 2 -- I was up to Geo Hanna and Mr. Scroggies. I was at Prayer

Meeting this Evening and I got my hair cut.

Tuesday, April 3 -- I was at Al Ornsbys All day with Frank House. I was at Prayer Meeting this Evening and I stayed to F B Halls All night.

Wednesday, April 4 -- It is a raining to day. Eva is here to day. I stayed all night at P Blackmers. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Thursday, April 5 -- I was at P Blackmers and chopped wood for him in the fore noon. I was at Prayer Meeting. I stayed all night with Ed Green.

Friday, April 6 -- I was at P. Blackmers in the fore noon. I was at Jim Halls in the after noon. I was at Prayer Meeting this Evening. I stayed all night with Jim Carpenter.

Saturday, April 7 -- I swept the Church in the fore noon. I was at home in the after noon. F. House was here. I was at Pray Meeting this Evening. I stayed all night. Charley and By Hall went with Pete to help get his cow.

Sunday, April 8 -- I was at Church to day. I stayed all night at P. Blackmers. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Monday, April 9 -- I was at Onslow. I was at Peets to day. I stayed all night there.

Tuesday, April 10 -- I helped Peet to Brake his Colts.

Wednesday, April 11 -- I comenced to work for Pete Blackmer this morning. We Scowererd the plow and planted Potatos to day.

Thursday, April 12 -- I helped to get a load of hay and plowed in the after noon. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Friday, April 13 -- I was a harrowing to day for Charley on Bys Place.

Saturday, April 14 -- I hauled minure all day.

Sunday, April 15 -- I was at Church and I was at Wm Hogelboons and Jo Hanna and Tom Greens and I was at Prayer Meeting this Evening.

Monday, April 16 -- I took up the Pasture Fence to day.

Tuesday, April 17 -- I plowed for Charley Hall all day On Jim's Place.

Wednesday, April 18 -- I Harrowed for Charley Hall. It rained a Little this morning on Jims Place.

Thursday, April 19 -- It rained hard to day. We Oiled the Harness. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Friday, April 20 -- We hauled minure in the fore noon and in the after noon I fixed fence and Pete and Rose went to the Junction.

Saturday, April 21 -- I was a Harrowing for B Hall $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day and then I came home and we hauled minure and fixed fence.

Sunday, April 22 -- I was at Church to day. I was at Geo Hannas and at Prayer Meeting.

Monday, April 23 -- I was a plowing for

Spends \$6.85 on tobacco; decides to quit --

Charley to day On Jims Place.

Tuesday, April 24 -- I was a setting fence posts in the fore noon and in the after noon I was a Harrowing for Charles H's Oats. Charley got a load of lumber for Pete.

Wednesday, April 25 -- I was a setting fence posts in the fore noon and I plowed for Eckler in the after noon.

Thursday, April 26 -- I was a harrowing Corn Stalks and a plowing at home to day. I was at Prayer Meeting this evening.

Friday, April 27 -- It has rained all day. I did not do much of any thing.

Saturday, April 28 -- It rained to day. I built fence a little while to day.

Sunday, May 6 -- Pleasant this morning. I was at Church to day at Prayer Meeting. There was a good meny joined the Church to day Presbyterians.

Monday, May 7 -- It is a raining this morning. I sold my tobacco to Frank House 20cts. I have spent \$6.85 for tobacco up to this date for tis year I have quit a useing tobacco to night.

Wednesday, May 9 -- I was a Harrowing the Brakeing to day. Pete went to Onslow with Jim Hall.

Thursday, May 10 -- I Harrowed the brakeing all day. Pete Comenced to plant corn to day. I was at Prayer Meeting. I had chew of tobacco to night. Charley helped Pete to plant corn in the after noon till dark.

Sunday, May 13 -- I was at Church. There was a few Baptized. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Tuesday, May 15 -- I was a building fence in the fore noon. Pete and Rose planted the Sugar Cane I in the afternoon I plowed.

Saturday, May 19 -- I finished the plowing and I marked out in the after noon and Pete and Charley planted from three o'clock.

Monday, May 21 -- We was a planting corn a little while in the morning and hauled two loads of rails and Pete went down to Mr. Ecklers for a load of hay. I plowed in the hog pasture in the after noon.

Tuesday, May 22 -- I was a plowing in the hog pasture in the fore noon. I got it all plowed By Hall was a plowing for Charley On D Beens. I was at Prayer Meeting at Aaron Frenches.

Wednesday, May 23 -- We finished planting the hog pasture this morning and then I went down to D. B. By Hall helped us $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day. Lyman helped us $\frac{1}{2}$ of a day.

Thursday, May 24 -- I planted Musk-mellons and built a cow yard fence and chopped wood. Pete and Charley finished planting corn on D Beens and was a harrowing down to Hannah Jenkins in the after noon. I was at Prayer Meeting at the Church.

Friday, May 25 -- I was splitting rails down in the timber. Pete and Charley was a harrowing down to Hannah Jenkins in the fore noon.

Saturday, May 26 -- I was up to Monticelo

to day. I came back and stayed at night with F. House.

Tuesday, May 29 -- I helped to clean the Church. I was at Prayer Meeting at Aaron Frenches.

Wednesday, May 30 -- I was at Onslow and Wyoming with Pete to day.

Thursday, May 31 -- I was at work for John Orr building fence. I was at Prayer Meeting to night.

Friday, June 1 -- I was a building fence for John Orr. Willie Orr was a helping me. I was at meeting to night.

June, June 3 -- I was at Church to day. There was a good meny Baptized. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Tuesday, June 5 -- We finished the fence at 3 o'clock and came home and went to Aaron Frenches to a Prayer Meeting - 120 rod of fence for John Orr.

Wednesday, June 6 -- I went to Clay Mills in the morning helped Charley to make a hog pasture and to get his hogs up here.

Thursday, June 7 -- I helped Byron Hall to build fence to day and then went to Prayer Meeting in the Evening - 80 rd of Fence.

Friday, June 8 -- It has rained all day. I was to Charleys all day. I have been to Meeting 66 times up to this date.

Saturday, June 9 -- Pleasant this morning. Went to the Caves to day had a good time.

Saturday, June 16 -- I was at work for J Orr. I was at Camp Meeting to night.

Monday, June 18 -- It rained to day. I did not work.

Tuesday, June 19 -- I worked $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day.

Wednesday, June 20 -- I worked all day.

Monday, June 25 -- I trained this fore noon. I was at Tom Greens. I was a howing corn for J Orr in the after noon.

Wednesday, June 27 -- I was a laying flooring.

Thursday, June 28 -- I plowed corn for Edd Hart.

Friday, June 29 -- I laid floor all day.

Saturday, June 30 -- I worked to day for John Orr 16 days.

Sunday, July 1 -- I got five dollars from P. Blackmer. I was at Church to day this evening.

Tuesday, July 3 -- I worked $\frac{1}{2}$ day - I was at Onslow.

Wednesday, July 4 -- At Wyoming to day.

Thursday, July 5 -- I came to Onslow on the hack and then came home and then I went to Onslow again came back with a Livery. I was at Prayer Meeting.

Sunday, July 8 -- I was at John Fadleys wife's funeral and Sunday School and at the Graveyard and at Prayer Meeting in the Eve.

Monday, July 9 -- I was at Clay Mills in the fore noon and Onslow in the after noon.

Tuesday, July 10 -- I was at the Creamery in the morning and at Mr. Ecklers and at School in the after noon and Mr. Scroggies and Geo Hannas. I was out

all night.

Thursday, July 12 -- I was at Home in the fore noon. In the after noon I was at School and was at Prayer Meeting.

Friday, July 13 -- I was binding Rye for John Orr to day. Finished work for John Orr \$11.00 I got.

Tuesday, July 17 -- I Comenced to work for Wm Eckler in Haying this morning one day.

Friday, July 20 -- Haying $\frac{1}{2}$ day - three days & $\frac{1}{2}$ - I was at Onslow to day. Tobacco \$8.85.

Saturday, July 21 -- 45 ft from the ground - Harvest I was a binding Wheet to day - one day.

Tuesday, July 24 -- Shocked Wheet in the morning bound Barley the rest of the day - three days Harvest.

Friday, July 27 -- I was a mowing clover in the fore noon. In the after noon I pitched hay.

Saturday, July 28 -- Haying this after noon - five days haying.

Monday, July 30 -- At Onslow to day. Wm Hogeboon paid me \$7.45.

Tuesday, July 31 -- I helped S. T. Carpenter bind oats in the fore noon and I helped Wm Eckler bind oats - rain.

Wednesday, Aug. 1 -- I went a fishing in the fore noon, bound Oats in the after noon. Warm to day.

Saturday, Aug. 4 -- Shocked and Bound Oats to day - $7\frac{1}{4}$ days harvest ended. I was at D. B. Beens this Evening. Haying 5 and Harvest $7\frac{1}{4}$ \$19 $\frac{1}{2}$. Finished work for Wm Eckler.

Wednesday, Aug. 8 -- I was a working in the hay down to James Halls in the fore noon. I was up to Stuff Suttons in the after. I was up to Mrs. Orrs in the evening.

Thursday, Aug. 9 -- I was at Home in the fore noon. In the after noon I was down to Stuff Suttons. The boys comenced to thrash.

Sunday, Aug. 12 -- O. E. Aldrich Preached to day. I was at meeting this after noon at Rice. I was at Prayer Meeting this Evening.

Monday, Aug. 13 -- I was down to Wm Ecklers this morning. Settled Harvest. He gave me \$19.50 - A. R. Robertson \$8.90 - \$28.40. I stayed all night at Wm Hogelboons. I paid Litten and Hall \$9.65.

Tuesday, Aug. 14 -- I started for DeWitt his morning. I was at Welton in the fore noon. I comenced to stack gran for S. P. Lambertson.

Wednesday, Aug. 15 -- I was a stacking Wheet - $1\frac{1}{2}$ day.

Thursday, Aug. 16 -- Finished stacking wheet and stacked some oats.

Friday, Aug. 17 -- Stacked oats all day.

Saturday, Aug. 18 -- I was a stacking oats $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day. We was down to Welton this Evening.

Sunday, Aug. 19 -- I was at De Witt Iowa to day.

Monday, Aug. 20 -- I was a stacking oats

Fall of the year is cane harvesting time --

in the fore noon and in the after noon I was at Shian. I took the train for Jones Co. I stayed all night to Onslow and was at the dance at Charleys McCorinies. I stayed all night at the Hotel. Finished work for S. P. Lambertson.

Tuesday, Aug. 21 -- I went home with Geo Sutton to dinner. It rained to day. I stayed all night with him.

Sunday, Aug. 26 -- I was up to Cascade to day. I was at Church this Eve.

Monday, Aug. 27 -- I commenced to By Halls to stack oats and it rained and I went to Onslow. I have been to Onslow 32 times up to this date.

Tuesday, Aug. 28 -- I was down to the Creamery to day. I stayed all night at Tom Greens. It rained all day.

Wednesday, Aug. 29 -- I was at Onslow to day. I came home with Stuff Sutton. I was up to Mr. Scroggies.

Friday, Aug. 31 -- Helping Charley to thrash. I was down to Ecklers this Eve to practice singing for picnic.

Monday, Sept. 3 -- I was up to J Orrs in the fore noon and at R. Youngs. Ernest Simmons stole his trunk out of the house.

Tuesday, Sept. 4 -- Begun to work for D. B. Been this morning. Making Molasses - Been and Co 1 day.

Wednesday, Sept. 5 -- Been and Company 2 days. No. of gallons to day 41.

Thursday, Sept. 6 -- I was at Clay Mills in the fore noon and in the after noon I was a grinding Cain - 28 gal - 3 days.

Saturday, Sept. 8 -- I was at Monticello to day. Bob Snyders Cain to day 22 gal 5 days. Been and Co. 24.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 -- I was at Onslow to day. I was sick to day. I did not work. 26 gal.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 -- I was at the Sunday School Picnic today. I was at Mr. Butler this Eve.

Thursday, Sept. 13 -- I was a grinding Cane to day; Kelleys Cane 15 gal.; P. Blackmer 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ gal; 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ days.

Monday, Sept. 24 -- I was a working to day. I run 3 jobs to day. A. D. Lynds and Janes McCievers and Jery Supple, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ days; A.D.L. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; J. McC 32 J.S. 17.

Friday, Sept. 28 -- I ground S. N. Lamberts cane, 44 gal., 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ days; I was up to Amesos to a dance.

Saturday, Sept. 29 -- I was grinding John Morans Cane and Wm Culigans, J. M. 38 gallons, Wm Culigans 4 gal, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ days. Finished Work. I finished Work to day 846 gal. I received \$200 from D. B. Bean.

Tuesday, Oct. 2 -- I was down to D. B. Beans to day. I helped Charley to cut his Buck Wheat.

Wednesday, Oct. 3 -- I was down to the cane mill to day; 933 gallons up to this date.

Friday, Oct. 5 -- I was at R. Greens a thrashing all day.

Saturday, Oct. 6 -- I was at Onslow and Wyoming and Oxford Junction and Lost

Nation. I stayed all night at Onslow.

Monday, Oct. 8 -- I traded coats with Stuff Sutton. I got \$1.50 to boot. I was up to Mr. Scroggies this fore noon. I was down to J. D. Barnhills and Onslow to day.

Wednesday, Oct. 10 -- I was at Onslow to day. I rode home with Birt Dubois. Onslow 37 times.

Thursday, Oct. 11 -- Charley has gone with a eviction for Tom Gates. I was at a law suit to day at J. D. Barnhills. Sarah Camp Beat in the Suit.

Friday, Oct. 12 -- It rained this fore noon. I was down to D Beans. He gave me \$4.50. I helped Charley to pick a load of corn.

Tuesday, Oct. 16 -- I was a helping Charley to haul hay to day.

Wednesday, Oct. 17 -- I was helping Charley to cut some saw logs down to Farm Crick.

Thursday, Oct. 18 -- I was down to the timber to day.

Saturday, Oct. 20 -- It is a raining to day. I helped Charley to get a load of corn and to shut his hogs up.

Sunday, Oct. 21 -- I was at church to day. Rev. C. F. Mushgrove was at Meeting this Eve.

Monday, Oct. 22 -- I comenced to work for Frank House a gathering corn. We went to Onslow in the fore noon. I picked in the after noon $\frac{1}{2}$ day.

Friday, Oct. 26 -- Picked corn all day, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.

Monday, Oct. 29 -- I husked corn all day.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 -- Helped to fix corn crib in the fore noon. In the after noon I husked corn. I was to Denisons.

Wednesday, Oct. 31 -- Husked Corn to day 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ days. I was to Dell Butlers to a dance.

Thursday, Nov. 1 -- It is a snowing a little this morning. It snowed all day.

Friday, Nov. 2 -- I helped Charley to bank up the house.

Sunday, Nov. 4 -- I was at D. B. Beans in the fore noon, then I went to Sunday School and Meeting then came home. It is a snowing this evening. Rev. John Rice Preached to day.

Monday, Nov. 5 -- Cold this morning some snow. I was up to Center Junction for Pete Blackmer. I was at Birts to dinner.

Wednesday, Nov. 7 -- Husked corn all day. It snows hard this Evening.

Thursday, Nov. 8 -- It snows to day.

Friday, Nov. 9 -- I got \$200 from Frank House. I was at Onslow. Onslow 41.

Sunday, Nov. 11 -- I was at church to day and Sunday School, Rev. O. E. Aldrich. I got \$6.00 from John Orr.

Wednesday, Nov. 14 -- I was at home in the fore noon and then helped James Hall to butcher hogs.

Thursday, Nov. 15 -- I was at Onslow to day.

Sunday, Nov. 18 -- I let Frank House have \$1.00 this morning. I was at Church in the day time and in the Eve.

Wednesday, Nov. 21 -- It rained to day. was over to Onslow with D. B. Bean. I got a pair of boots. Onslow 43.

Thursday, Nov. 22 -- Husked Corn all day.

Friday, Nov. 23 -- Husked corn $\frac{1}{2}$ day. Finished Franks corn. Helped B Hall.

Saturday, Nov. 24 -- Picked corn for Hall to day 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ day. I was at Prayer Meeting this evening. I have husked corn 20 days this fall.

Sunday, Nov. 25 -- I was at Church to day, Rev. D. B. Anderson. Prayer Meeting this Eve. Raining to night.

Monday, Nov. 26 -- It is a raining this morning. I was up to Mr. Andersons this after noon. Mudy to day.

Tuesday, Nov. 27 -- It is a snowing this morning. I stayed all night at D. B. Beans. Winter Begun to day.

Wednesday, Nov. 28 -- I was up to R Greens in the fore noon. I spent the Evening at Mr. Andersons. It has snowed all day. Blustering.

Thursday, Nov. 29 -- Cold and Blustering. I was up to Mr Scroggies in the fore noon. Thanksgiving day. I was up to Mr Anderson in the after noon. I stayed all night thare.

Friday, Nov. 30 -- Snowing this morning. I helped Charley to make a shed. I was up to Mr Chattertons to practice for the S Concert the 7th 77.

Saturday, Dec. 1 -- Snowing a little this morning. I helped Charley to husk corn this fore noon. I was up to Mrs Orrs to a Prayer Meeting.

Monday, Dec. 3 -- I was to John Orr in the fore noon. I got \$5.00 from him. I picked corn in the after noon for B Hall. He finished to night. School Begun to day. I received \$11.00. Lyman stayed all night.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 -- I helped Charley to finish husking corn to day. I was down to Mr Butlers this Evening. I husked corn 22 days this year.

Thursday, Dec. 6 -- Lue Butler and me built the stage for the Sunday School Entertainment. I was at the Church this Evening.

Friday, Dec. 7 -- I was at home most all day. I was at the Sunday School Entertainment had a good time. I was down to Mr Butlers in the after noon and at Meeting this Eve.

Saturday, Dec. 8 -- Helped Allen Chatterton to sweep the church this fore noon. I was at D B Beans. I was at Mr Butlers in the after noon. I was at meeting in the Evening. I received \$1.00 from F. House to day.

Sunday, Dec. 9 -- I was at Meeting to day I got \$2.00 from F. House.

Monday, Dec. 10 -- I went to Clay Mills with Charley Hall and helped him to chop a load of wood. Pleasant to day.

Tuesday, Dec. 11 -- Pleasant to day. I was over to Onslow to day.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 -- I was at Onslow to

Only few days recorded in 1878--

lay. I went with Ed Green. I was up to Mr. Scroggies this evening. Onslow 45 times this year.

Thursday, Dec. 13 -- I was helping Charley Hall to make a barn for Anderson in the fore noon. In the after noon I was at School.

Friday, Dec. 14 -- I was to Mr. Butlers in the fore noon and part of the after noon and then I came home and stayed there. I was to Meeting at the Union Church this Evening.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 -- I was down to John Palmers. We went after a Christmas tree.

Friday, Dec. 21 -- I was at home in the fore noon. I was at School in the after noon. Frank House gave me \$1.75.

Saturday, Dec. 22 -- I was at home most all day. I was up to Scroggies in the after noon for a while.

Sunday, Dec. 23 -- I was at Meeting to day. Bell & Stuff was married to day.

Monday, Dec. 24 -- I was helping to arrange the Christmas Tree Christmas Eve.

Tuesday, Dec. 25 -- I was over to Onslow to day. I was at home in the Eavening It is muddy and Misty. The girls was here to night and Frank House. Onslow 46 times.

Wednesday, Dec. 26 -- I was at D B Beans and Tom Greens and Bob Youngs and Geo Hanna and A Scroggies and at home. Eva Hall and Emma Roberts was here in the evening and Frank House and Jo and Will Orr and James and Robt Scroggies.

Thursday, Dec. 27 -- I was down to James Halls and D B Beans and came home and went up to Mr. Andersons and from there Frank House and Eva Hall and Emma Roberts and my self went to writing school. Pleasant but muddy.

Friday, Dec. 28 -- I was at home all day. It is muddy and misty. I was up to Mr Andersons in the evening. I was at Mr Butlers in the evening.

Saturday, Dec. 29 -- I was at home in the fore noon. Emma Roberts was here to. I was stayed all night to D Beans all night. Onslow 47 times.

Sunday, Dec. 30 -- I was at Sunday School came home. Frank House and me went up to Byron Halls. We was up to Mr Andersons in the evening. The ground froze up last night. For Tobacco this year \$14.10.

Monday, Dec. 31 -- Pleasant this morning. I was at Onslow to day. I came home with Birt Dubois and stayed. Pa will be here tomorrow. The ground is froze up hard.

1878

Although the diaries were kept for 31 years, the better part of one year is missing . . . 1878. Here are my Grandfather's only accounts of that year.

6-7 -- I quit work for James Hall.

6-25 -- I was a fishing to day down to

Charleys.

7-11 -- Thursday, Commenced work for Wm Eckler ¼ day.

7-12 -- Friday, W E ¾ day.

7-13 -- Wm E 1 day.

7-15 -- Monday, I was at Clay Mills - Harvest ½ day.

7-16 and 7-17 -- Harvest.

7-18 -- Thursday, Harvest 1 day - up to Petes.

7-19 -- Friday, I was over to Onslow to day.

7-20 -- Saturday, I was over to Onslow in the fore noon Harvest ½ day.

7-22 -- Monday, Harvest 1 day.

7-23 -- Tuesday, Harvest 1 day. Finished 6 days harvest.

7-24 -- Wednesday, I was at home in the fore noon at Clay Mills in the after noon.

7-25 -- Haying ¾ day.

7-26 -- It rained to day - Haying - I was at Clay Mills.

7-27 -- Saturday, I was at Mr. Ecklers in the fore noon - at Onslow to the Horse Race.

7-29 -- thru 8-3 -- Haying.

8-4 -- Emma Walters died to day.

8-5 -- I was at the funeral to day.

8-6 thru 8-12 -- Haying and Stacking.

Seems unusual, doesn't it, that a man who kep such an accurate account of his life, would almost completely ignore a full year. As you've already read, 1877, was very complete and you'll see as I have, that the remaining 29 years are also. Well, we'll never know why it was not recorded as the other years were so we'll continue from here.

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Jones County Hist. Review

Box 124

Monticello, Iowa 52310

Founder of Bowen's Prairie was first settler in county

The following article has been submitted by George Burrichter, R. R. 3, Monticello, who lives in the exact area of Bowen's Prairie. Having lived there for quite a number of years, George's knowledge of Bowen's Prairie is undoubtedly unsurpassed.

Bowen's Prairie, Richland Twp., Jones county, Iowa.

It was in the year 1835 that a young man named Hugh Bowen, a bachelor, came to what is now known as Richland township in northern Jones county, Iowa.

Hugh Bowen has been given the honor of being the FIRST white settler in Jones county. In that same year four others, J. Flinn, Mose Collins, Joshua Johnson and Alfred Weatherford, also came to the vicinity. The settlement was named after Mr. Bowen and was called Bowen's Prairie.

The prairie was surveyed in 1837, with the first census taken in 1839. The first white child born here was Eva Johnson. Rev. John Gillham of the Methodist faith held the first religious services here in 1838. The first school house was built in 1840, and this building was also used for religious education services and court hearings.

The military road, now U.S. 151, was laid out in 1842. The first death in the vicinity was that of Alfred Denison, a six-year-old-boy, who was lost in a prairie storm on April 24, 1838. Mr. Bowen built the first barn here in 1841. R. A. Rynerson set out the first nursery on the prairie in 1845.

A post office was established in 1849 and continued in use until 1902. The village was platted by Harriet and Otis Whittemore in 1854 and was then called "Bowen". Barrett Whittemore was known as the schoolmaster of Bowen, and was the first teacher of the first school in Jones county. In 1858 he was elected Jones county superintendent.

The first college in this area was called "Bowen Collegiate Institute", but was located to the northwest and later became known as Lenox college of Hopkinton in Delaware county.

By the year 1875, when growth of the village seemed to have come to a standstill, the village had a Congregational and a Methodist church, post office, store, blacksmith, cheese factory, and 12 houses. The first temperance society of Jones county was organized in 1844. Mr. Bowen was the first sheriff. He moved to Denver, Colo. and died in 1869.

Indian story wins short story contest prize; only one entry but worthy of prize money

Readers will recall that last February the Historical Society contacted all school districts in the area with the request that students be encouraged to submit material to the "Review". In order to make it meaningful in more ways than one, the Society set up a contest, offering cash prizes to the winners.

The stories must have been factual, of any historical incident or human event which pertained to Jones county. First prize was \$25, second, \$20, third, \$15 and fourth through 12th, \$5 each. The panel of judges was the editors of Monticello Express, Anamosa Newspapers and Times.

Alas and alack -- we had but one entry, so we were able to award but first prize only.

We feel, however, that had there been enough entries to award all the prizes, the entry by Kim Dirks, Route 1, Center Jct., a student in the Midland system, would still have taken first prize. Here is the story submitted by Kim. Beside winning first prize, we give this student a big round of applause.

This story has been told to me many times by my grandfather W. G. Benischek, and provides an interesting insight on the customs of the various Indian tribes that roamed Iowa in the late 1800s. This took place in Oxford township, about six miles northeast of Oxford Junction.

Indian tribes continued to wander throughout Iowa after the cessation of their hostilities toward the white settlers.

They would travel by horse and wagon in small groups, and lived off the land. Occasionally, some would hire out to work as laborers, or do some horse trading, but most were content to simply exist by hunting and fishing. The band would camp in skin tents near a creek or spring, stay about two weeks, and then move on.

As a child, my great-grandfather, Chris Benischek, lived on a wooded farm near Oxford Junction with his parents, John and Maria, six brothers and a sister. In the fall of 1891, one of these Indian bands camped near a spring surrounded by limestone bluffs on his father's farm. After the Indians had left, Chris and the other children went to explore the campsite to see if the occupants had left anything behind. As they were looking around, the children peered into a small cave. They saw something moving in the darkness, and became frightened and ran home to get their father.

John teased the children about seeing things, but went to the cave, and crawled in with a lantern. In the back of the cave sat an old squaw, who was ill and had been left to die. John brought her out, and he and the children carried her up to the cabin and put her by the fire. Maria had them kill an old hen and made chicken soup for the old woman. Under Maria's constant care, the squaw soon regained her health.

The old woman stayed with them the rest of the winter. The family had trouble communicating with their guest, since she

knew no English, and had to use sign language. But the squaw taught them some Indian words, and helped Maria with the household chores. When spring arrived, the same band that had abandoned the squaw passed through the area and camped on the Benischek farm. When the Indians moved on, the old woman left with them. The family never heard from her again.

Gives more information on railroads

1688 Roll Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050
October 14, 1977

Mr. C. L. Norlin
Jones County Historical Society
323 No. Chestnut Street
Monticello, Iowa 52310

Dear Mr. Norlin:

I have read each issue of the Review with great interest and I would like to add to the article on railroads in Vol. 3 No. 3 1977.

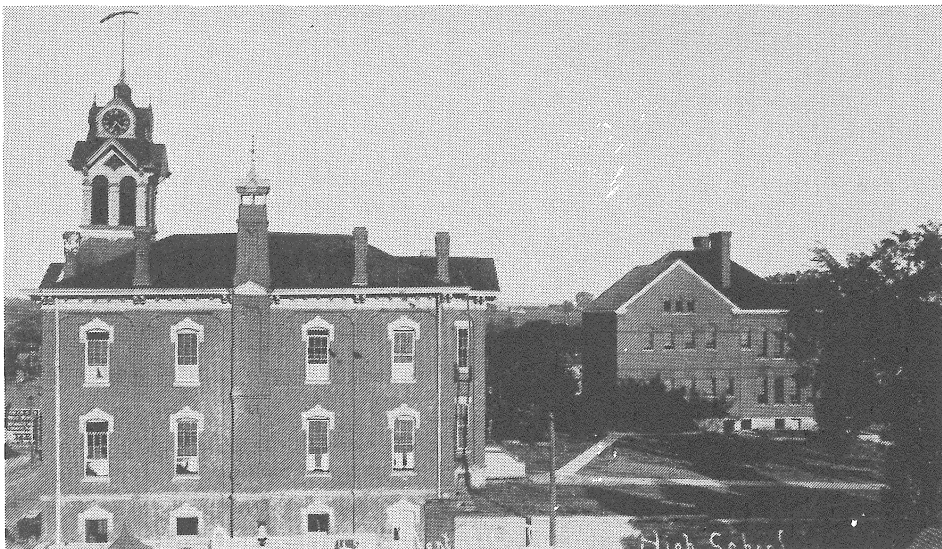
I have an annual ticket given to my grandfather M. M. Moulton, who was an attorney for the railroad, by the Davenport and St. Paul Railroad. It was issued "Until December 31st 1874 unless otherwise ordered" and it was signed by Geo. W. French.

Principal stations noted on the back of the pass are Davenport, Eldridge, Wheatland, Oxford, Wyoming, Centre Junction, Monticello, Hopkinton, Delhi, Delaware Centre, Greeley, Fayette, DeWitt, Delmar Junction, Maquoketa, (all of Iowa) and Rock Island Illinois.

In a small pamphlet, 5½ x 8½, and folded three ways showing "A Few Facts for Monticello and Jones County, Iowa" published by M. M. Moulton, Commissioner of Immigration, 1878, it is noted also that the Chicago, Iowa, and Nebraska Narrow Gauge Railway was about to open.

My compliments to you and the work you are doing with the Society.

Very truly yours
Montgomery Moulton



THIS VIEW from a postcard dated 1906 shows the old opera house and high school building in Monticello. The opera house has been replaced by the Monticello Community building. The high school building still stands and is now the Masonic temple. (Photo courtesy of Rex Schaeffer of Rochester, N. Y.).

President's message

Dear Reader:

The Society members are excited about the reprint of Jones county's 1879 history. You will find an explanation of the "Reprint" and how to order elsewhere in this issue. We urge you not to let this opportunity slip by, for there will be no second chance to obtain a copy after the drive is finished and the printing completed.

The original of this reprint, "History of Jones County Iowa, 1879" is so rare that a copy purchased from a professional book-finder cost \$60 and was in pretty sad condition. It was complete however, but took four years to find, and finally was located in the Tama, Iowa area.

The reprint has an added feature. The original had no index, and it was necessary to read the book from cover to cover, to locate the names of those mentioned in this first printing. Society members took many hours to cover this book and index every name mentioned, listing the pages on which they could be found.

Much to our amazement, this numbered almost 8,000 entries. Every word, every picture found in the original, plus this index, will be found in the reprint. It is a beautiful addition to every library, and as stated is a hardbound issue. The low price of only \$22.75 plus 69 cents tax, is made possible only through the efforts of the Society, and the fact members volunteered time.

DON'T miss ordering your copy. You won't have a second chance. Copies of the INDEX will be located at all Jones county banks, savings and loan associations, public libraries and the bank in Cascade for those wishing to examine.

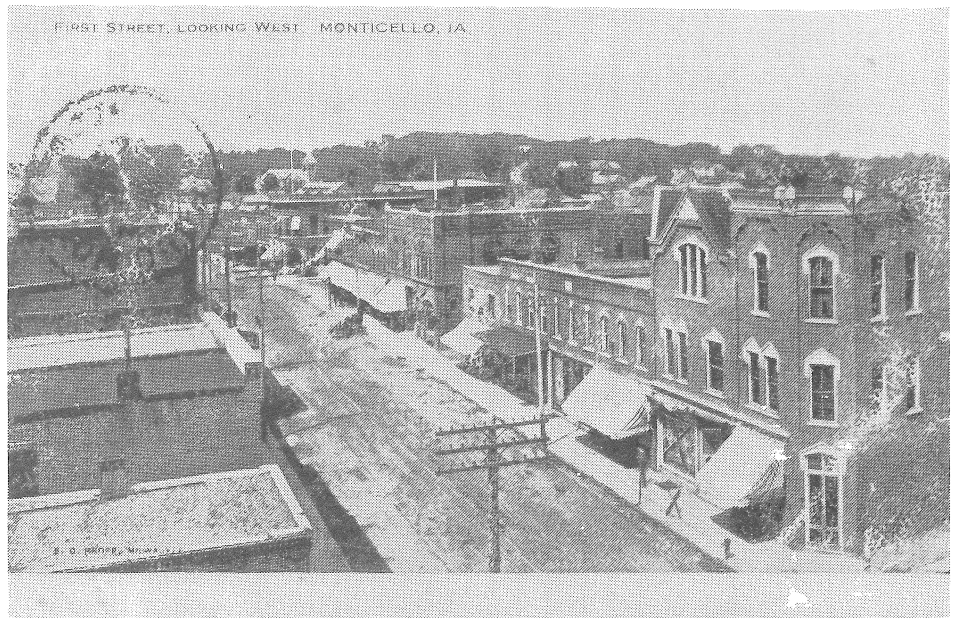
Our next issue will begin a serialization on the "Peet" family that settled in Jones county in the Anamosa area. It will also contain events of interest taking place during the 1800s.

My apologies for not starting the Farwell series in this issue as promised last time. Look for it in a future issue.

Gus Norlin, president

Franklin's granddaughter submits lead story

The lead story in this issue has been submitted by Janet (Bickford) Brandt, 2730 Central Ave., Bettendorf, Ia., who is the granddaughter of George Franklin Howard. The diary will continue in later issues of the Review.



THIS VIEW of First street in Monticello (looking west) is from a postcard of the early 1900s. A number of postcards were sent to C. L. Norlin, president of the Jones county Historical society, by Rex Schaeffer of Rochester, N. Y. All the postcards were postmarked between 1905 and 1910 and were mailed to G. G. Schaeffer or Herman Schaeffer at Polo or Liberty, Mo. Others will appear in future issues of the "Review".

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or to any of the officers: C. L. Norlin, Joe Messerli, Bill Corbin, Monticello; Anna Brickley, Anamosa; or

Area I: Edwin Freese, Scotch Grove
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Area II: Wilma Merfeld, Monticello
Leota King, Monticello
Bob Goodyear, Monticello

Area III: Jo Russell, Anamosa
Margie Lacock, Anamosa
Katherine Doolittle, Anamosa

Orders will be filled during November 1978.

Iowa Historical Society seeks records of Jones county

Dear Reader:

The Iowa Historical Society records center has made a request of the Jones County Historical Society. They are trying to determine if some historical documents are still in existence. They do not want these records. They only want to know if they are still in private hands and in the community of Jones county.

These documents were last reported in a historic records survey in the late 1930s. We will list those known to exist at that time and the name of the person or family in possession. The names of some people in possession of some of these records has been lost.

If you are aware that these records do yet exist both the Jones County Historical Society, and the Iowa State Historical Society would appreciate knowing. You may contact the Jones County Historical Society, Box 124, Monticello, Iowa 52310. If you wish this information kept confidential for any reason, rest assured it will be. There is no monetary value to these records, but they are priceless from the historic viewpoint.

ANAMOSA

(1) The Joshua A. Hartman Collection. 1847 (1862-1865) Sixty pieces, arranged by subject. Personal correspondence; memoranda and dates of family births, marriages, deaths; social notes of persons prominent in the locality; genealogical memoranda; business activities; one certificate of enlistment of Richard McDaniels, Company E, Thirty-first Regiment Volunteers; names of Company E, Thirty-first Regiment Volunteers wounded, transferred, deserted, officers, discharge, engagements; names of Jones county women who made the flag carried by Company E, Thirty-first Regiment Volunteers, to the field of battle.

(2) Lewis D. Osborne collection, 1776-1938. 118 pieces, arranged chronologically. Personal correspondence; diaries; family history; history of first women's club in Jones county, 1850; memoranda on family births, marriages, deaths; local business and commercial history.

(3) Brigadier General W. T. Shaw collection, 1754 (1862-1907) 1908. Fifty pieces. Partially arranged by subject. Civil and Mexican War correspondence; notes and articles on General Shaw's business activities; personal family correspondence; memoranda on banking trends.

(4) Eleanor Strawman collection, 1876-1938. 1,108 pieces, arranged by subject. Articles on the history of Jones county and Anamosa; notes on civic affairs, agriculture, D.A.R., Red Cross, education; memoranda on family births, marriages, deaths; songs and verses written by Mrs. Strawman, and other miscellaneous items.

(5) Charles A. Sutherland collection.

1813-1918. Twenty-five pieces, arranged by subject. Historical memoranda on Jones county, agriculture, Mississippi river navigation, religion, education, and civic affairs; articles on the Scotch Grove Trail and Red River settlers; one manuscript on the Scotch Grove church Jubilee.

Names known to have held these records late 1930s are as follows:

1. Mrs. Joshua A. Hartman, 203 E. First St., Anamosa
2. Mrs. Genevieve Osborne Braum, 118 So. Sales St., Anamosa
3. Mrs. Fanny Dutton, 200 E. First St., Anamosa.
4. Eleanor Strawman, 114 South Booth St., Anamosa
5. Mr. Charles A. Sutherland, 802 West Main St., Anamosa.

While we are on the subject of old records collections, and attempting to locate them, we have also had an inquiry from a Government agency seeking help

as follows.

During the days of WPA, many public buildings were erected under this department. Many federal buildings were also built at this time, among them post offices around the country. Most of these federal buildings were adorned on the interior with murals and these paintings were usually the work of itinerant, unknown, but very gifted people.

Three of these panel murals adorn the post office in Monticello. The works have been signed by William C. Palmer. These were painted at the time the post office building was constructed in late 1930s. The inquiry has been received. Who was the man? Is he living or dead. Where is he, if living? Where was he from? Does anyone remember him.

If you have any information concerning this man (his murals have been declared a real work of art) please contact the Jones County Historical Society.



THIS EARLY day view of Monticello looks east on First street. The photo was taken from a series of postcards submitted to the Historical Society by Rex Schaeffer of Rochester, N. Y.

Jones County Historical Review
Monticello, Iowa 52310

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