



**NEWS**

**T**

**NOTES**

VOL X

ISS: I

JONES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 174 ANAMOSA, IA 52205

Jan Feb 1994

OFFICERS FOR 1994

- JoAnn Walters - President
- Joyce Wells - Vice President
- Joann Wilkin - Secretary
- LaVerta Langenberg- Treasurer
- LaVerta Langenberg- Corresponding Secretary

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**St. Joseph Parish — Stone City**

*Wed 6-25-86 @na JE*

The St. Joseph Church of Stone City is stationed on a ridge in "Grant Wood Country" as a striking monument to the faith of the people of this quarry community, both past and present.

The first settlers were ministered to by priests as early as 1870. Continuous service to the people of the area has been provided by more than 35 priests over the past 116 years.

The first Masses were offered in private homes until the size of the congregation required a larger building. Part of Columbia Hall was used until 1913, when the community built the present church where the First Mass was celebrated in March of 1914.

Since 1914, many people have gathered in the historical stone edifice to offer praise to God — joining each other in times of joy and sadness — always with God as their center of strength and the Eucharist as their nourishment for daily living.

The stained glass windows were imported from Munich, Germany. Altars are of imported Italian white Carrara marble. In 1973, the present altar of sacrifice, made of native quarry rock was installed. Original stations of the cross and candlesticks are still a part of the church furniture. Beautification of the Church Hall, built in 1943, was done in 1985 and 1986. The church proper was restored in 1986.

More important than the beautiful church and appointments is the intensity of the parish family — to worship together and to support each other in living out Christian values through our weekly reminders of God's gift of life — as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries each Sunday, monthly socials after Mass on the first Sunday of each month, weekly prayer-scripture study group meetings, weekly devotions and pot luck socials during Lent and many other opportunities to do volunteer work together.

The youth of the parish are offered the extension of their religious education beyond the family through the opportunities provided by St. Patrick's of Anamosa, through the sacrifice of their parents and the generosity of the rest of the parish family who support the education fund.

The future of the church family always depends upon the

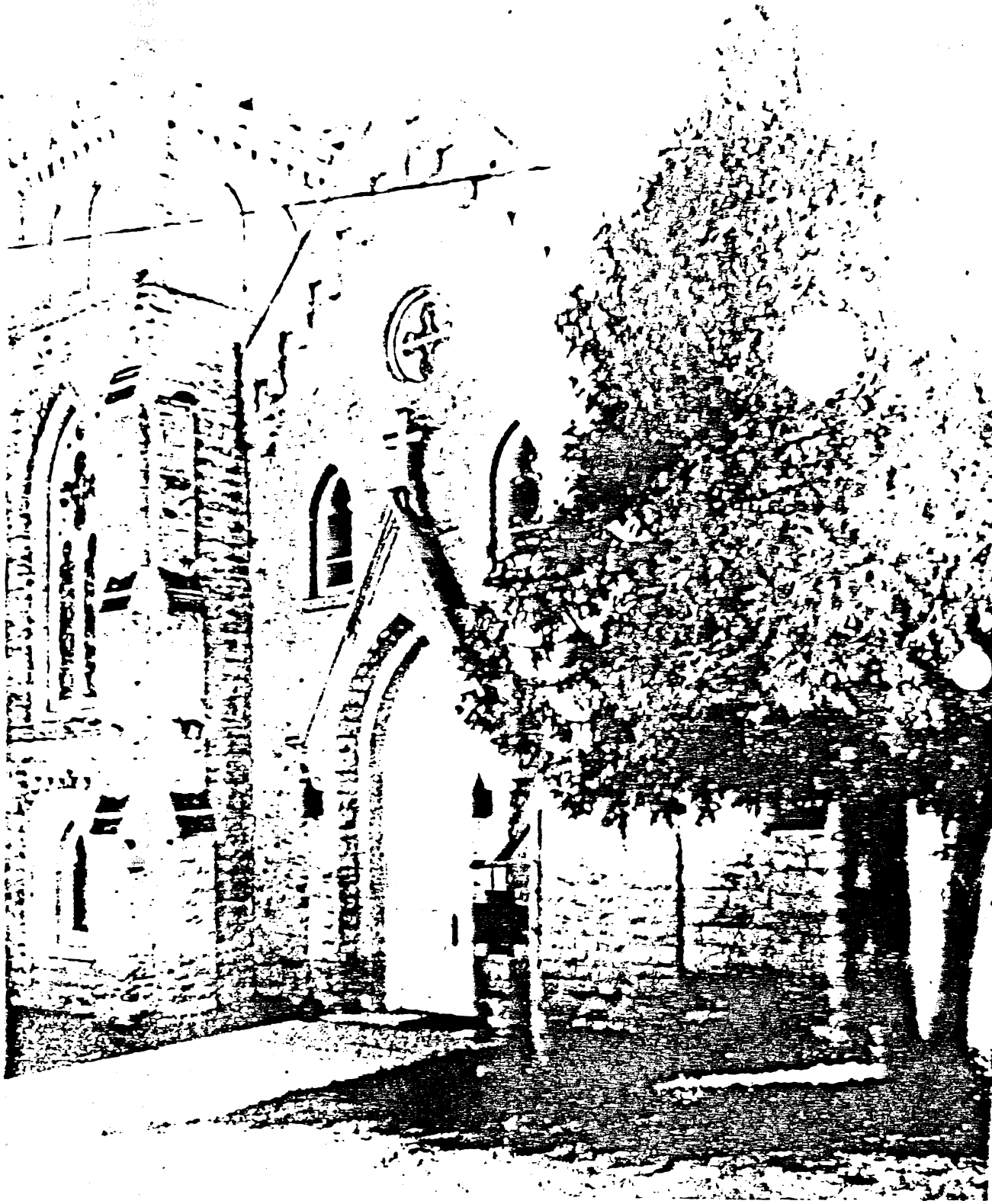
prayer, hard work and generosity of the present adult members and the education and example given to the future adult members.

Mass is celebrated each Sunday at 8 a.m. and the parish family always welcomes guests to join in Stone City's praise of the Lord.

Father Ken Gehling



Father Ken Gehling



St. Joseph Parish - Stone City

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WHITE	WILL F.	28	OCT	1880	0	0
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WOODARD	WALKER H.	8	JAN	1880	3	7
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<sup>1940.</sup>  
**Early Fairview  
 Pioneer Dead**

Cicero Percival Aldrich, 93, one of Jones county's oldest citizens and the last surviving pioneer resident of Fairview, died at 10 p. m. Tuesday. Funeral services are to be held at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon at the Fairview church, with the Rev. L. C. Smith officiating. Interment will be in Wicox cemetery.

Born in Ohio, he came west to Wisconsin and in 1868 moved to Iowa, spending his first night in Fairview on New Year's eve of that year. He worked for some time for Senator Green in the stone quarries at Stone City but most of his life was spent as a farmer in Fairview.

Mr. Aldrich liked to recall the days when the old military road saw heavy traffic in farm wagons on the way to Dubuque with grain for market, and when stage coaches made daily trips.

At that time Fairview was a much more thriving city than Anamosa, with two hotels and many stores and houses. He watched the decline of his native village with genuine sadness.

Surviving is his daughter, Mrs. George Cusher, with whom he lived, five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

**Mrs. Minnie Fink Dies**

Mrs. Minnie Fink, 71, of Cedar Rapids, died at her home at 7 a. m., Tuesday following a brief illness. Mrs. Fink was born in Jones county, May 21, 1879. She lived on a farm six miles northeast of Lisbon until 1918 when she and her son Nelson moved to Lisbon. A year and a half later they moved to Cedar Rapids. Mr. Fink died in 1917. Surviving are a son, Nelson Fink, and a sister, Mrs. Tena Melton, both of Cedar Rapids.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Beatty chapel, Cedar Rapids, Thursday afternoon. Burial will be at the Lisbon cemetery.

*May 23-1950*

**OBITUARY. 1909**

Charles William Breed, son of Amos and Eliza Breed, was born in Chenango county, New York, Oct. 3, 1837. Removed to Iowa in 1851, locating in Jones county and resided in this vicinity until the time of his death. He had four half brothers and sisters, and nine own brothers and sisters. Those who survive him are L. H. Breed, Norfolk, Neb.; Mrs. James Chapin, Perry, Iowa; John R. Breed, Anamosa, Iowa.

He was married to Rachel A. Porter November 24, 1859. There were four children, one infant dying in 1862; Matthew P. Breed died September 18, 1897; M. Breed, who lives in Des Moines, and Mrs. F. E. Ormsby, of Cedar Rapids. There are six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

He united with the Church of Christ at Fairview in 1864, in a meeting held by J. W. Ingram and J. N. Smith. He was one of the charter members of the Christian church at Martelle, and for 40 years held the office of deacon.

His health began to give way about one year ago, gradually failing. He was confined to his bed ten days and on July 5, 1909, passed away at his residence in Martelle, Iowa.

Services were held at the residence on July 7, conducted by Rev. Post. The Masonic Lodge, of which he was a member, had the concluding services at the grave.

**MISS MARY ALSIN  
 AND NELSON FINK WED.**

At the Little Brown church at Nashua Monday occurred the wedding of Miss Mary Alsin, 213 Seventh street SE, daughter of Mrs. W. W. Gray of Anamosa, and Nelson Fink, son of Mrs. Minnie Fink, 409 Twenty-second street SE. The single ring ceremony was performed by the Rev. William Kent, pastor of the church.

The bride wore a traveling ensemble of dubonnet wool crepe with matching accessories. After the ceremony the couple left for a motor trip to Minneapolis and Chicago. They will be at home after Oct. 15 at 409 Twenty-second street SE.

The bride is a registered nurse, being a graduate of Mercy hospital school for nurses at Anamosa, and for the last several years has been registered in Cedar Rapids. Mr. Fink, a graduate of the Cedar Rapids Business college, is an engraver with the Tru-Engravers.

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**ARMSTRONG-HORNBECK 1938  
 FAMILY HOLD REUNION**

The Armstrong-Hornbeck reunion was held in the Butler park Sunday, June 21, Seventy-four members being present. The new officers are: president, Leo Armstrong; vice president, Clelland Port; secretary and treasurer, Merle Peet. Those attending were: Mrs. Jennie McConaughy, Mrs. Evelyn Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Peet and daughter Merle, Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Gordan and Mary Jane, Ralph Joyce and Carmon Sue, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shotwell and daughter, Shirley, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Claire Armstrong and daughter, Zella, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Armstrong and daughter, Avis, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sivers and Thomas and Laverta, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Strothers, Dale, Darlene, Louis and Richard all of Martelle. Mr. and Mrs. Emmerson Shotwell and daughter, Alma and Miss Lydia Bisho of Mt. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Armstrong of Marion, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Armstrong and daughter, Jean and two grandsons of Ames. Mrs. Angeline Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Morland Colony and Gordon, Eleanor Mae, Frank and Marion of West Liberty. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hood and sons, Milford and Milan, Miss Lydia Hood, Mr. and Mrs. John Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Clelland Port, Roland, Nathan, Zereta and Margaret Maree, Mr. and Mrs. DeVer Port and Margaret, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Perkins, and Miss Fern Wetzel all of Springville. Talks were given by Leo Armstrong, Gene Armstrong, Lon Armstrong, Henry Hood and Mrs. Angeline Gordon.

**Former Resident Is  
 Buried At Lisbon**

Nelson Fink, former resident of the White Oak community, passed away Sunday, Nov. 25, 1962, at his home in Cedar Rapids. He was the son of George and Minnie Fink, who lived northeast of Lisbon until the departure of his father in 1917. Nelson and his mother moved to Lisbon for a few years. In the early 1920's they moved to the Cedar Rapids home where he lived until his death.

He was employed at the Tru Art Engravers for a number of years. Surviving are number of cousins. Burial was in the Lisbon cemetery.

File 6 1955 P. 14  
Oxford Mirror

# Oxford Junction Cemetery Gets Fence As Memorial

OXFORD JUNCTION, La. — A steel fence in memorial to the Vit Blizek family has been erected across the front of the Mayflower cemetery here.

Mrs. Elizabeth Brackney, Baton Rouge, La., daughter of the late Blizek, erected the 1,264 foot fence as a memorial to her parents and brother buried there.

The fence will be four feet high with light colored brick pillars supporting the two large and four small gates. The pillars are built on cement bases of brick to match Mrs. Brackney's home in Louisiana.

The pillars have a bronze plaque built into them with "Mayflower cemetery fence, donated in memory of the Vit Blizek family."

Vit Blizek came to the United States from Czechoslovakia when he was 16, and settled in a large Bohemian settlement near Oxford Junction. He was born June 15, 1863.

He found employment on farms near here and married Ana Wosoba of Oxford Junction. They had two daughters and a son. The daughter Elsie died when 16 years old and her mother soon afterwards.

The other daughter Elizabeth married Lester Brackney and they operated a manufacturing business in Baton Rouge until his death several years ago.

The son, Antone, attended the State University of Iowa and for a time worked in an Iowa City bank. He was a law graduate and a member of the bar. He was also in government service for awhile as a member of the internal revenue department. He lived in New York while in this work but traveled a great deal abroad.

Vit Blizek was a farmer until 1902 when he retired and with his family moved to Oxford Junction. He invested in land stocks and bonds and became a wealthy man.

During the depression of the 1930's both Antone and his father suffered great financial losses. Antone came from New York to live with his father who died in 1943 when 80 years old.

Antone was an experienced financier and managed to gather a fortune again before he died January 25, 1949 of a heart attack in a Los Angeles hotel. He was 70 years old.

Mrs. Brackney is presenting funds to the Methodist church here to buy a new electric Hammond organ in memory of her brother Antone. He had been a worker in the church until his death.



This fancy steel fence on the north side of the Mayflower cemetery in Oxford Junction was given to the cemetery by Mrs. Elizabeth Brackney in memory of her parents and brother buried there. The fence is four feet high and 1,264 feet

long. Mrs. Brackney's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Vit Blizek and her brother's name was Antone. Blizek came to Oxford Junction from Czechoslovakia in about 1869. (Morning Democrat photos.)

## Maeme Pasha Shows Plaque



Maeme Pasha, treasurer of the Oxford Junction Cemetery Association since 1939, shows the plaque memorializing the Vit Blizek family on the gate of the new fence for Mayflower cemetery. The fence was given by Mrs. Elizabeth Brackney, Baton Rouge, La., a daughter of Blizek. The plaque reads "Mayflower Cemetery Fence, Donated in Memory of the Vit Blizek family." Miss Pasha and Mrs. Brackney have been friends since childhood.

## Death Of Mrs. Robert Melton.

Mrs. Robert Melton died at the Duane Zimmerman home last Thursday evening about seven o'clock, her death being rather unexpected although she had not enjoyed good health for some months. The funeral was held Saturday afternoon at the Zimmerman home, Rev. W. T. McCandless, of the Presbyterian church, conducting the services. Interment was made at the local cemetery.

Mrs. Melton was the third child of Duane and Susan Zimmerman and was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, January 28, 1844. Her marriage to Robert Melton occurred August 16, 1863, and to them five children were born, one, a son, having preceded her in death in December 1899. The remaining children are George, Roy and Ora, and Mrs. Len Hines of this place; ten grand and three great grand children, her father, Duane Zimmerman, two brothers and four sisters also survive.

Mrs. Melton lived a life of unremitting toil and sacrifice for the benefit of those near and dear to her. She was a regular and consistent student of her bible and reading that sacred book brought her great consolation and fortitude.

OXFORD JUNCTION

A Running Sketch of a Growing Town

(By Our Special Correspondent)

The growth and prosperity of the energetic young towns that dot the fertile prairies of Iowa are the truest evidences of the advance which the State, as a whole, is making yearly in material wealth and industrial greatness. And this is especially true of an agricultural State like Iowa, where the towns depend almost entirely upon the industrial and agricultural products of the soil for maintenance. As illustrating this proposition, we would specially mention the town whose name heads this article.

Oxford Junction is on the northeast bank of the Wapsia River, near the center of Oxford township, Jones county, and at the crossing of the Davenport and Sabula line of the M & C Railroad. The town is by no means an old one, having been platted in 1871 by John Bryan, who is still a resident of the town, and one of the most energetic and influential of its citizens. He is at present largely engaged in the livestock and grain business. Soon after the first platting of the town, Mr. Bryan laid out a second addition, and about the same time George Wilson swelled the proportions of the embryo metropolis with another addition. The town now contains 800 (?) inhabitants, with every prospect of doubling it within the next year or two. It has received a new impetus by the location of the C.M. & St.P. machine shops at that point.

Supt. Flanigan purchased 200 acres of land contiguous to the town, and last fall the machine shops were removed from Eldridge Junction to Oxford. The buildings erected by the Railroad Company, though of wood, are substantially built, and evidently intended to be permanent. The first of these buildings is a large wood repairing or carpenter shop, where all kinds of wood work required by the Company is done. The dimensions of the building are 50 x 100 feet. Through it runs a double track for the convenience of cars undergoing repair. It is supplied with first class machinery, and a large force of men are constantly employed within its walls.

The next building of importance is the blacksmith shop, 36 x 50. In this is a steam trip hammer of immense size, and a crane operated by an engine especially used to operate the two. In addition to these, three forges are in constant operation.

The third building is the general machine shop, 50 x 100 feet. Here is located the blower which furnishes the wind through underground pipes for the forges in the blacksmith shop. In this shop are four engine lathes, two drilling machines, and two planers. The next is the engine room, in which stands the 80 horse power stationary engine, which furnishes the power for all the machinery to the other shops, excepting the trip hammer in the blacksmith shop, which, as I have said, has a special engine of its own.

The last, but by no means least, of the principal buildings, is the engine house, a roomy, substantial structure, 100 x 110, containing seven stalls for engines, all of which are occupied nightly.

An immense water tank supplies the water for the round house and machine shops.

Of the lesser buildings, are the shop, coal house, sand house and others. Here is kept also the huge snow plow for the convenience of the three roads.

Near the union depot is the telegraph office and the train dispatchers headquarters. At the intersection of the two lines is another large water tank with an opening on two sides for suppling both lines. North of the union depot is a second coal house, 24 x 96, with seven huge buckets, for the use of both line of road. The Company, since the



location of the machine shops at this point, have laid one mile and a quarter of track. Two Y's are already down and another will be surveyed and put down in the spring.

Having devoted so much space to the railroad feature of the town, I shall necessarily be brief at this time in what I say of the town itself. The business of Oxford Junction is mainly represented by the following:

3 general stores, 1 hardware store, 1 grocery, 1 tin shop, 1 drug store, 1 coal yard, 1 restuarant, 1 harness shop, 3 ware houses, 3 (?) wagon shops, 2 meat markets, 3 saloons, 2 lumber yards, blacksmith shops, 3 boot and shoe shops, express office, post office, telegraph office, school house and church.

Last, but not least, in a young and enterprising town, is the newspaper, the Mirror. A bright, newsy, attractive little sheet, which will undoubtedly figure largely in the future development of the town. The editor, Mr. Crouch, is a young man, full of energy and an honorable ambition to succeed in his chosen profession. His office is small, but everything in it is bright and new; and his power press and jobber, on which his paper is also printed, is the largest press of the kind in the county, being a Star half medium.

There are other features of the town which I should be glad to specially notice, but having already outrun my original intent as to space, I will leave them until my next visit. I regard Oxford Junction as the most promising town in the southern part of the county. It is surrounded by a splendid farming country; has excellent water privileges, and is certain to make rapid growth.

## 1994 Dues ARE NOW PAYABLE

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1910 JONES COUNTY HISTORY VOLUME II INDEX of NAMES  
\*\*\* \$6.00 p & h included

JONES COUNTY CEMETERY MAP  
\*\*\* \$2.30 p & h included

JONES COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DUES  
\*\* \$10.00 per year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE\ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

JUST ARRIVED FOR THE BOOKSHELF COURTESY OF MR ARTHUR GLICK 1915 PEBBLE BEACH  
RD LAS CRUCES NM 88011 --- A GLICK FAMILY HISTORY AND ALLIED FAMILIES OF BEEMAN  
AND BROWN 1993 BY ARTHUR J GLICK.

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A CORRECTION ON THE CEMETERY NAMES. NORTH MADISON PIONEER SHOULD READ NORTH MADIS-  
ON PIONEER CEMETERY.

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IF ANYONE HAS ARTICLES THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN OUR NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND THEM  
TO US. THANKS!!!!

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OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 15 1994 AT THE RESOURCE CENTER  
209 W MAIN ANAMOSA IA 7:00 P.M.

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JONES COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 174  
ANAMOSA, IA 52205

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

