



NEWS IN NOTES

VOL X

ISS: III

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

May-June 1994

AN HEIRLOOM IN THE FAMILY

The person who inclined to boast of his valueable possessions is likely to have the laugh turned upon him on occasions. A wealthy man was once proudly exhibiting to some acquaintances a table which he had bought and which he said was 500 years old.

"That is nothing," said one of the company. "I have in my possession a table which is more than 3,000 years old."
"Three thousand years old" said his host. "That is impossible. Where was it made?"

"Probably in India."

"In India! What kind of a table is it?"

"The multiplication table."

London Tit--Bits

Vinton Eagle Tues. 10 Dec. 1901

THE FAMILY TREE

A brand-new family tree adorns
The home of Croesus Pickles;
With tales of titled ancestors
His fawning friends he tickles.

To all the world that a tree proclaims
Descent from Lord and Lady.
Betwixt the branches and the ground
Of course it's rather shady.

Josephine Coan in Smart Set.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IA
2 SEP 1880
page 1, col: 7
TAX LIST

Delinquent lands and town lots for
the year 1878 and previous years.
(there is land descriptions in the
article)

HALE township 83, range 2.
CHLOE ALDRICH, HENRY ALDRICH, WM
BAKER, L. BASCOM, T. DAWSON, J.L
DAY, JOB ELDRED, E. GARRISON, WM
GORDON, C.H. LANE, H. LEAMMON, WM
MILLER, NELSON MITCHELL, J.W.
REEDE, FRED RICKHOFF, JOS.
SHEDECK, J. SIMPSON, F.D. WEBB.

JACKSON township 84, range 3.
B. BARNHART, EUPHEMIA BARNHART,
C.M. BEAM, J.H. BEAM, J.S.
BENADOM, J.D. BENNETT, DENNIS
BOLEN, J. BYERLY, MATHIAS CASTEEL,
MONROE CASTEEL, JOHN DAWSON, JOHN
DORAN, THOS. ENGLISH, MARY
EVERSON, ANSEN, HAYDEN, C.
HOLLENBECK, D.A. KRAMER, WM LYON,
PATRICK MORRISEY, JACOB PFOUTZ, D.
QUINN, O. STINSON, J.M. STREETER.

MADISON township 84, range 2
ALBERT COLBY, DEBORAH MONROE,
JAMES PIERCE, A.R. THOMAS.

ROME township 83, range 3
U. BARKER, URIAH BARR, L.D. BATES,
M.N. BEEMAN, J. BROWN, T.M. BURCH,
? BURLEIGH, A.C. CARTRIGHT, J.
CLANEY, G. COLBY, J. COLBY, D.
CRAMER, L.G. CRONKHITE, Mrs. D.
CULDICE, J. DALBY, F. DAVIS, J.L.
DAY, N.M. EVERHART, H. FINNEGAN,
A. FITCH, W. HELMER, C. HOTZ,
CATHARINE HOTZ, ? JEFFRIES, ROBT.
JOHNSON, JAS. McFARLING, M. MARCH,
? NICKERSON, J.R. PEASE, ? PERRY,
D. PIPER, T. POOL, G.P. RUMMELL,
GEO. SAUM, E. SAWYER, D. SMITH,
E.E. SMITH, JOS. SOLTS, H.
STEWART, B.A. STILES, GEO.
STIVERS, T. STIVERS, CHAS. TAYLOR,
M. TUCKER, J. VOSBURG, ED WHITE,
S.S. WHITMORE, ? WHITNEY.

TOWN PROPERTY

Fairview Village

Isaac BRUNDIGE, S.B. COLEMAN,
Geo. HALL, Geo. MARKHAM, J.H.
MUNDA, John PARSE, Nelson
PARSE, J.H. SMITH, Ann WARREN,
J.B. WELCH.

OAKLAND

R.N. FOWLER, H. LEHMKUHL.

MARTELLE

R.J. HENNEIGH.

HALE VILLAGE

Frank DELARM.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA IOWA
page 2 col: 1

ANAMOSA

R.A. ABEL, L.C. ALDRICH, Wm T.
ALLEN, A.S. ATKINSON, Mrs.
Adeline BARNARD, J.H. BARNARD,
Mrs. F.A. BAUM, J.H. BEAM,
Hannah BEARDSLEY, A. BENDER,
E.H. BRANT, Mrs. Maria BRAY,
A.G. BRYAN, N. BOARDMAN, J.
BOWS, M.G. CAUGHLIN, B.
CHAPLAIN, Frank CHAPMAN, E.
CHETWIN, Mrs. Ann CLEVELAND, A.
COM, W.A. CUNNINGHAM, G.M.
DAVIS, Mrs. S. DAVIDSON, H.
DEARBORN, J.C. DIETZ, L.W.
ELLIS, T. ENGLISH, W.A. FINN,
Florence FISHER, L.O. GALE,
John HAYS, M. HELSEY, Mrs. L.
HOLLENBECK, J.J. HUBER, B.
ISABELL, Sam'l JAMISON, M.C.
KEMPSEY, J. KREIGLESTEIN, D.H.
LAMBERSON, Ann E. LEHMANN, Mrs.
Mary LEINEN, J.R. LEMON, E.M.
LITTLEFIELD, G.D. McKAY, F.C.
McKEAN (est), C. MARKHAM, Mrs.
R.A. MARKHAM, S.G. MATSON, P.
MOTT, Mrs. H.T. NEWBERGER, E.S.
NEWMAN, Fred NOWLIN, Mrs.
PALMER, L.N. PERKINS, Robt
PRESTON, Stephen RANDALL, B.H.
REECE, Margaret REITZ, J.P.
RICE, Orrin SAGE, Betsy
NANAMBERG, H. WICHER.

STRAWBERRY HILL

L.J. ADAIR, Mrs. Polly BROWN,
Mrs. E.A. McDANIELS, Wm PORT,
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THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IA
19 AUG 1880
page 3, col: 5

PERSONALS

Mrs. DEISSEROTH, of Milwaukee, and 3 children have been spending 2 weeks with her sister, Mrs. CHAS. CORD. They returned this morning.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IA
19 AUG 1880
page 3, col: 7

DIED

In Cass, Aug. 17, of dysentery, EDNA, daughter of W.C. and M.A. JOSLIN, aged 2 1/2 years. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. BURKHOLDER, and the remains of the darling pet of the household were interred in Riverside cemetery.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IA
19 AUG 1880
page 3, col: 7

On Strawberry Hill, Aug. 18, EDITH C., infant daughter of E.C. ROE, aged 3 days. Mr. E.C. is the brother of ROBERT ROE, and he was on the way with his wife to Colorado, stopping here some 2 months ago.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IA
26 AUG 1880
page 3, col: 2

Mr. PATRICK PERRYMAN, the father of ED and MICHAEL, who were reported last week as having assaulted Mr. M.W. GRAY, tells us our statement of the difficulty was not correct. He says the boys had a little beer and were going home. One is a suitor of Miss. GRAY and wanted to stop and see her. A quarrel ensued in which the school house door was broken. Mr. GRAY advanced upon them with a rail when ED struck him a single

blow over the eye, cutting a gash. PERRYMAN claims that the spams on the part of the were not real--which we doubt. Marshall FRINK was sent out with warrants and arrested the boys. The old gentleman told them he would accompany them to town and pay their fines. One of the boys said he would go and get his coat and hasn't found it yet. The other skipped out into a cornfield and neither has been seen since in this locality.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IA
26 AUG 1880
page 3, col: 3

Langworthy, Aug 23, 1880
Editors Eureka: I have read a Langworthy letter, dated Aug 5th, stating that there has been a feeling stirred up by JOHN JACOBS' petitioning to vacate a road about 3/4 of a mile in length, the writer RUFUS says, running east from Langworthy. The road that JOHN JACOBS petitions for to be vacated starts 80 rods south of Langworthy, thence east about 3/4 of a mile; but JOHN JACOBS petitions for a road starting at Langworthy depot, thence east about 1 7/8 miles to a schoolhouse. All our Wayne township citizens know that there ought to have been a road 20 years ago, and so does RUFUS. He is either misrepresenting the matter to the public on purpose, or he is very ignorant.

Rufus seems to find fault with the buildings that have been moved on JOHN JACOBS' farm, but let Rufus wait til they are finished, and they may be better buildings than Rufus ever lived in.

Rufus seems to find fault with those that are doing business

(continued from page)
and are industrious--says that the Germans are taking possession of surrounding farms, but they generally pay for what they buy.

It appears that Rufus would like to be a little king, so the people would have to consult with him before they did business, but we can not honor Rufus as a king. Rufus King fell from the throne long ago. Rufus says they had better surrender. If Rufus don't know any more than to misrepresent matters to the public, he had better surrender. N.N.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IOWA
26 AUG 1880

page 3; col: 4

A SAD EVENT. Last Friday afternoon the community was shocked to hear that Mr. J.H. BARNARD's youngest son OSCAR had been drowned in the Wapsi, near Joslin's Ford. He and his brother FRED, ROBBIE YOUNT and JOHNNIE PECK went down the river plugging. They concluded to go into the water and were engaged in hunting clams when FRED BARNARD stepped off into a hole. His companions were some distance away, but Oscar ran to his brother's assistance. Neither could swim and both were apparently drowning when ROBBIE YOUNT, only 10 years of age and the onlyboy in the party who could swim, boldly went to the rescue. Seizing Fred by one wrist he succeeded, after a most heroic effort, in dragging him to shore in a helpless condition. Oscar went down and Robbie was so exhausted he could do nothing for him. The boys came home as fast as they could and gave the alarm. A number of persons repaired to the scene of the accident as speedily as possible, but it was an hour before the body was recovered, Mr. J.W. CURTTRIGHT finding it in about 8 feet of water. Of course

ther was no hope of resuscitation.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IOWA
26 AUG 1880

page 3; col: 7

MARRIED

THOMAS NIBLO of Richland, to JENNIE E. BRUSH, of Wayne. On 19 Aug 1880.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IOWA
26 AUG 1880

DIED

OSCAR F. BARNARD, youngest son of JOHN H. and EMILY BARNARD, agd 10 years and 4 months.

Twenty years ago Deacon barnard and his wife lost their first child, and since that time 4 others. Five are spared to them. Five are dwelling on this side the river of time; five have crossed to higher and more disirable shore.

Miss. E.C. HART, daughter of A.L. and CYNTHIA HART, died on 19 Aug 1880, in Buffalo township Linn county, aged 23 years.

Born 9 Sep 1857, not far from the place she died.

THE EUREKA
ANAMOSA, IOWA
26 AUG 1880

page 3; col: 6

PERSONALS

Mrs. GEORGE LAMSON, formerly of Anamosa, is making a brief stay with her old friends in Maquoketa and Anamosa. She intends to return to Garner, Hancock county, tomorrow.

THE MONTICELLO EXPRESS
MONTICELLO, IA
29 JAN 1880

OXFORD JUNCTION, IA

Oxford Junction is on the northeast bank of the Wapsi 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 all 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 supplying both lines. North of the union depot is a second coal house, 24 x 96, with seven huge buckets, for the use of both lines.

It is said that this \$24 note cost Bob in attorney fees, and all other costs incident to the litigation, more than \$1,400.

After Bob Johnson had been indicted, in addition to Charley Wheeler he employed Colonel Isaac M. Preston, who was then a distinguished advocate of the bar in Linn county, to defend him. First, they moved to set aside the indictment on the ground that it was illegally drawn and that the grand jury was improperly empaneled.

While this motion was pending one of Bob Johnson's barns was burned, and going out of his house one morning he found upon his horse block a piece of rope tied into a hangman's noose. In addition, tied to the noose was a note which read somewhat as follows: "You had better try your case on the indictment as found or you had better go West, or you will get this, the same as Hiram Roberts did."

Now Bob Johnson knew the significance of all this, and particularly of the allusion to Hiram Roberts. Hiram Roberts was a notorious horse thief and counterfeiter who was captured by, or rather who surrendered to, a Cedar county mob in 1857, under the promise that he would be taken into court and accorded an impartial trial. The mob did not keep faith with Roberts, but instead took him to the Walnut Grove community, tried him by a jury selected from the mob, found him guilty, as was to be expected, and forthwith hanged him in a barn.

Bob Johnson decided, then and there, that he did not want to be tried in that particular county.

Mr. Wheeler relates the following:

"Colonel Preston, who it seemed to me used to have misgivings as to whether Bob Johnson was guilty or innocent, said to me in substance:

'How big is Bob's bond?' And I told him it was \$1,500. He said, 'Who is on it?' And I told him old George Fall (Saum), Bob's father-in-law. 'Well,' he says, 'now, Charley, of course Bob is innocent, but I guess you better tell him he better leave the country.' It was a terrible shock to me. I was filled with vinegar in place of knowledge, and I believed just as religiously then as I believe now that Bob was innocent, and for a great lawyer like Colonel Preston to tell me I better tell Bob to jump his bond, was something of a shock to me. But I was under orders, and so that night I took Bob out for a walk. It was in Anamosa, and we walked down into the woods where the penitentiary now stands. It was not there then. And after going all around by Robin Hood's barn, I finally told Bob that the Colonel and I . . . thought he had better . . . under the circumstances . . . jump his bond and leave the country."

Wheeler later declared he would never forget Bob Johnson's reaction to the suggestion.

"We were walking side by side. Bob stopped, and I stopped. He took me by the shoulder, and turned me facing him. He looked to me as high as the second joint of a liberty pole. He looked like an infuriated lion, and he says,

'Boy, I never stole the John Foreman calves, and by God, I will go to the penitentiary from off my doorstep before I will ever jump my bond.' And from that day, during all the years that followed, and up to this day, I have never doubted that he told me the truth."

Well, the court finally sustained the motion to set aside the indictment and continued the case so that it might be submitted to the succeeding grand jury, and at the next term of court it was submitted and that grand jury returned another indictment.

Bob Johnson's attorneys, thereupon, by reason of the unusual publicity, notoriety, and apparent feeling of prejudice that existed in that county, moved for a change of venue. The court sustained this motion and transferred the case from Jones to Cedar county.

At the next term of the court

down in Cedar county the case came up for trial. Bob Johnson stood before the bar of justice, before a jury of his peers, charged with the theft of John Foreman's calves. He was vigorously prosecuted by the state's attorney and as ably defended by his own attorneys — Colonel Preston and Charley Wheeler.

Hung Jury

After the testimony had been concluded, the arguments of the counsel made, and the instructions of the court given, the case was submitted to the jury, which, after long deliberation, finally stood 11 to 1 for acquittal. They could not agree and so the court dismissed the jury, continuing the case until a succeeding term of the court.

Now I should like to relate here the substance of a very interesting conversation I happened to engage in one day with Frank Johnson, the son of Bob Johnson. Frank said to me: "You know, one day after that first trial down in Cedar county, father happened to meet Peter Onstott on the street and Onstott said to father:

"Bob I am glad they didn't convict you. You weren't guilty. You never stole John Foreman calves. Those Foreman calves were in Potter's herd before you got there that day because I was there when you came and I saw them."

"Bob then said: 'Why, Peter, if you knew all of this, why didn't you come forward and defend me?' Peter Onstott replied: 'I tell you, Bob, it was because I was afraid. These men in this Anti-Horse Thief Association heard that I knew something about your case and they came to me, and told me that if I knew when I was well off I had better keep out of it, otherwise, I would get into trouble and so I was afraid to say anything about it.'"

Bob's son added: "You know, father recalled that when he got down to the Porter Hill that day there was a man there talking to Potter. He didn't pay any attention to the circumstances then, for it did not impress him as being of any particular importance, and afterward, although he tried and tried, he could not remember who the

man was—until Peter Onstott told him."

Acquittal

And so, when the case came up for trial again in Cedar county, Peter Onstott was on hand and he gave his testimony, and after the conclusion of the testimony in this second trial the jury quickly and unanimously acquitted Bob Johnson of the theft of the John Foreman calves. This concluded the second chapter of the story.

Had Bob Johnson been accused and prosecuted in the ordinary course of the law, the third chapter of this story never could have been told. It could not have happened. For that law which makes it the civic duty of a citizen who knows of a crime being committed to appear before the grand jury and give his testimony exercises extreme diligence in the protection of such a citizen.

But Bob Johnson felt that he had not been so accused and so prosecuted. He believed that the men who made up the Anti-Horse Thief Association had been actuated by malice, by a determination to destroy him, to deprive him of his good name, and to drive him out of the country. He, therefore, began the third case of the series. He brought a suit for damages, charging conspiracy and malicious prosecution, against seven of his neighbors who were members of the Anti-Horse Thief Association and who had been most active in his prosecution.

This malicious prosecution damage case, the third chapter in our drama, is ordinarily referred to as the Jones County Calf Case. These three cases lasted almost a quarter of a century. It was in the circuit courts all over Eastern Iowa. Eleven different jury trials were held, verdicts were set aside, appealed and reversed, and this was the most important case of the three.

During these court proceedings those who were concerned got so "riled" that some of them carried guns. At one time the case had as many as 130 witnesses. According to Attorney Wheeler:

"I tried to get Bob to quit. I told him he had been acquitted in the criminal case, but he always insisted, as he said, 'I want my character back!' And I always said, 'You got it back when you were acquitted.' And Bob said, 'No. They claim that they had reasonable and probable cause for having me indicted and I will try it with them until I will convince everybody in this country that they had no cause whatever.'"

So Wheeler and Johnson kept on and on. Well, they would try this malicious prosecution case, and Bob would always get a verdict from the jury, but either the court would set the verdict

Smith, Figure in Calf Case, Never Found

aside on account of some irregularity or technicality, or if the court let it stand, then Bob's enemies, with their combined resources would appeal it to the supreme court.

Final Trial

Finally, Bob was bankrupt; the court battle had kept him that way for many years. Between terms of court he would go home and work very hard to get the money to try his lawsuit again. Then Bob Johnson's foes would take it to the supreme court, where it would be picked to pieces and reversed. But there

was always enough left so that the case could be tried again.

Finally, after the lapse of many years, came the last trial up in Waterloo. The Honorable Horace Boies, who afterwards became one of Iowa's most distinguished governors, and who had been the attorney for Bob's opponents for many years, was making his final jury plea. As Wheeler recalls:

"Old Horace had made an argument that made me cold. He just chilled me with the force of his argument the whole length of my spine. Bob sat right next to me. He saw that Horace was going to sit down, and he leaned over to me, and he said, 'Charley, tell them I don't care whether they give me a cent or a million dollars. What I want is my character back!' And again Bob Johnson got a verdict from the jury."

Naturally, the query now arises as to why so much litigation? Why all of these trials spreading over so many years? It might be stated that litigation of this character had been rather rare in Iowa. Many of the opinions rendered by the supreme court of Iowa in this case blazed a new legal trail in determining the application of law to actions of this character. The case brought forth decisions which stood for the guidance of the courts, not only in this state but in other states as well. It also might well be pointed out that the burden of proof was upon Bob Johnson alone and single-handed to prove that the seven men who were instrumental in prosecuting him were motivated by malice and that a conspiracy did actually exist.

This was something that was most difficult to establish. The various trials were filled with errors in the wrongful admission of testimony and of erroneous instructions to the jury by the trial courts, for apparently the attorneys were imbued more with a determination to obtain favorable verdicts than they were to abide by established rules of law.

As this case came before the Iowa supreme court on its various appeals the court pointed out, so far as it consistently could, that in the event the case came to trial again, certain procedures should be followed, particularly a procedure to separate the questions of law from the questions

Cont.

of fact

The court also directed that the jury be instructed to determine certain specific questions of fact, and to facilitate this, interrogatories were submitted to the jury for its answers. In the final trial in Waterloo, Bob's opposing attorneys submitted some 28 different interrogatories.

Bob's attorneys submitted only two, and the second one they submitted to the jury in substance was something like this: "Did these men who were instrumental in having Bob Johnson prosecuted, when they went to the district attorney and told their story, and when they appeared before the grand jury and gave their testimony

and gave their testimony (upon the strength of which Bob Johnson was indicted) did these men themselves believe that Bob Johnson was guilty?" To this interrogatory the jury answered "No."

When this verdict was appealed, the supreme court referred to this interrogatory and to the jury's answer, and commented that if these men themselves did not actually believe Bob Johnson to be guilty, then they could not have acted in good faith. Therefore, in the opinion of court, Bob Johnson was entitled to the relief he sought, and the verdict affirmed. Here then, was the vindication Bob Johnson had sought over all of these years. And so he "got his character back."

Bankrupt

Bob was only 37 years old when John Foreman's calves were stolen. When he was through with all this trials, the anxiety of the years and the weight of a quarter of a century had bowed him. He was bankrupt, and all of his debts were barred under the statute of limitations. But he returned to Jones county, the county where he had been indicted, and he went to work. He entered the real estate business, since it was a business which required little capital. He engaged in it at a propitious time, for it was a period when men were selling their rich farms over in Illinois at fabulous prices and coming into Iowa to buy equally as good or better land for half. The Iowa farmers, in turn, were pushing westward out into the Dakotas.

So Bob did well. He had many clients, for people believed in him. He saved his money, and he it said to his everlasting credit that he paid every dollar that he owed.

When Johnson had his debts

fairly well paid up he went down to see his lawyer. His wallet was pretty thin. Over all of these years of litigation Bob had borrowed varying sums from Wheeler. According to Wheeler:

"I was just as much interested as Bob was, and so it had run along until Bob said he owed me about fifteen hundred dollars for borrowed money, and he had been earning money and paying his other creditors, and we sat down on the floor as all thieves do, to divide the loaves and fishes,



CHARLES WHEELER

and Bob didn't have any loaves and fishes except a spavined stallion—a cheap horse, and spavined—and one hundred and thirty dollars. So he handed them over to me and said that he would pay me the balance as he got it. And I said, 'Bob, I have been a thousand times repaid. I didn't have any clients; I didn't have anything to do when you came to me 25 years ago, and I have made an acquaintanceship, and that has done me good, and you don't owe me another dollar.' And so we shook hands and looked the other way, and Bob went back to Anamosa."

Elected Mayor

The story has an ending not inappropriate to the sacrifice which it records. For in time the people of Anamosa, the town where he had been indicted many years before for grand larceny, conferred upon him the highest mark of confidence that was within their power to bestow. They elected him mayor of the town in 1909. He worked hard and served the town well, for he was just as diligent in the performance of his official duties as he had been in all his other affairs.

Personally, I am inclined to agree with Attorney Wheeler's remarks about the Calf Case before the Iowa State Bar Association in 1920.

"You men are all lawyers. Let me ask you some questions. . . . Who was the man, Smith? The other side always claimed there wasn't any Smith; that he was a mythical Smith, and that Bob lied when he said he bought the four dark colored calves of Smith; and they always referred to him as 'the shadowy Smith.' And before I leave that question I want to say . . . that the evidence disclosed, beyond a reasonable doubt, that there was a Smith; that he was unquestionably present in Coppess & Derr's store that day that he sold these calves to Bob Johnson. Bob searched the earth for him, but he could not find him, and so our enemies always referred to him as 'the mythical Smith.'

"Another question, gentlemen: It is sure John Foreman's calves, light colored calves, were stolen. That is sure. We admitted that. Who stole them? Not Bob Johnson. Not Smith. Because Foreman's calves were light colored (those) that he lost and found out in Greene county. The Smith calves were dark colored. Who stole John Foreman's light calves? . . . Was it Potter? Bob always claimed it was. I make no claim. He is dead."

In Wheeler's own description of Bob Johnson we see a tribute to the dogged persistence of this man.

"He was as tall and straight as a lance. He had long tawny hair. . . . He had a full tawny beard. He had smiling gray eyes. His hair and his beard made Bob look like a lion, and that is what he was. He was one of those rare men whose courage mounts and grows, and mounts with adversity, and during all those years that the trial judges were setting aside our verdicts, and the supreme court was setting aside our judgments, during all of those years old Bob was just the same. He never weakened, never gave up. As I have said, he would say, 'That's all right, Charley; that's all right, I am going to have my character back,' and he got it."

With his name cleared, his debts paid, and the honor and respect of his friends known through the county, Bob Johnson walked the streets of his beloved community with his head erect. Everyone respected the "old lion of the calf case."

And one day he walked to his modest home, greeted his faithful wife Mary Ann (who had stood by his side through all the trials), and moved to an easy chair in her kitchen. Seated there, his proud head dropped, "the first time he ever dropped his head in his life," and Bob Johnson was dead.

The minister who had received Bob into the church, the Rev. Dean C. Dutton, came all the way from Kansas City at his own expense that he might pay tribute to the worth and example of such a life.

On that day the business of the town was suspended as he was laid away in beautiful Riverside cemetery there in Anamosa—where high on an eminence one may stand and gaze westward toward the setting sun, and see almost at his feet the sparkle of glittering sunlight on the waters of the two rivers, the Wapsipicon and the Buffalo.

Here the rivers join to continue their journey to the boundless and eternal sea. They sing his unending requiem and lull him to peaceful rest, for there—close to and yet a little apart from the scene of his long, long conflict and his final victory—he sleeps.

* * * * *

C.R. Man Keeps Story of Case Alive

A retired Cedar Rapids business executive has been largely responsible for the modern-day attention given to the famous Jones County Calf Case.

That man is Jasper H. Ramsey, 1733 Second avenue SE, author of the story on the famed legal battle which appears in the current issue of *The Palimpsest*, official publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and is reprinted in this issue of *The Gazette*.

Mr. Ramsey, himself a native of Jones county, was born there in 1874—the year the case began its long, drawn-out course through the courts of Iowa.

His interest in the matter became a practical one when he handled some of the papers connected with the case during his 11 years in the office of the clerk of the district court of Jones county.

Mr. Ramsey was deputy clerk of court five years before being elected clerk, himself. He served in that elective office for three terms or six years.

In 1924 Mr. Ramsey came to Cedar Rapids; became vice-president of the Metropolitan Supply Company, an office he held until five years ago. He is still secretary of the company.



—Gazette photo.

JASPER H. RAMSEY of Cedar Rapids with his personal, leather-bound history of "The Jones County Calf Case".

Back in 1931, when the Chamber of Commerce organized its Speakers bureau, Mr. Ramsey was enlisted to tell the story of the Calf Case.

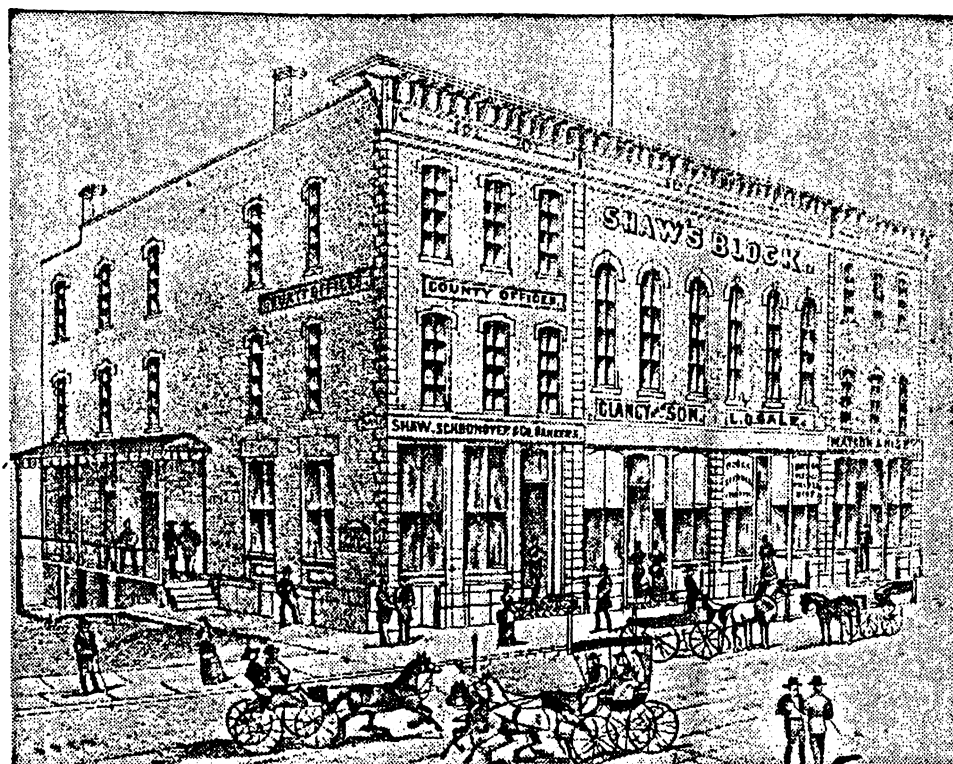
From that year until 1952, he told the story 35 times to luncheon clubs and other groups in many Eastern Iowa communities including Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Marion, Belle Plaine, Tipton, Independence, Hopkinton, Mt. Vernon, Durant, Anamosa, Delhi, Strawberry Point and Olin.

His last public-meeting telling of the story came last November when he was honored by Crescent lodge of Cedar Rapids on the occasion of his 50-year anniversary as a Mason.

Among those who heard the Cedar Rapids man at that time was Dr. William J. Peterson, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa. After the re-

and prepare it for publication in *The Palimpsest*.

"It is really quite a story," Mr. Ramsey says today. "Its impact was felt far beyond the confines of either Jones county or the state of Iowa. Back in 1938 *The New York Times* published an editorial on 'integrity'. The editorial was based on—"The Jones County Calf Case'."



OLD JONES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

QUERY

WISH TO CONTACT DESCENDENTS OF RALEIGH L. SHOOP AND BERTHA PEARL GRAFFT WHO MARRIED 1908 JONES CO IA. I HAVE A SHAVING KIT THAT BELONGED TO A SHOOP ANCESTOR WHO FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR. BERTHA PEARL GRAFFT'S MOTHER WAS A GILMORE. I WILL GLADLY SHARE MY GILMORE HISTORY WITH ANYONE INTERESTED. WIN WOOD 5953 BROKEN ARROW ST SIMI VALLEY CA 93063-5715

Reprint of *History of Jones County* available

SALEM, MASS—"History of Jones County, Past & Present, edited by R.M. Corbit, has been reprinted by Higginson Book Company, a publisher of American local history. This 2-volume set, originally published in 1910, had been unavailable until recently.

"History of Jones County" covers the social and civic development of the area

from its first exploration and settlement. Volume I includes chapters on early pioneers; geology and topography; the county in the Civil War; agriculture and business; the establishment and progress of schools, churches and professions; and more. In addition, separate sections are devoted to the townships and their individual histories. Volume II consists of biographical sketches

and portraits of noteworthy county residents.

This new reprint, which is 740+662 pages long, is a facsimile edition, hardbound in high-quality buckram with the title stamped on the spine in gold. It is available by mail from Higginson Book Company, 14N Derby Square, Salem, Massachusetts, 01970, for \$69.50 per volume, or \$119 for the set, plus \$4.50 each for shipping.

Onalee Arnold - Speaker - Family History Society
May Meeting - May 17, 1994 - Jones Co. Gen. Center
7 P.M. 209 W. Main - Anamosa, Ia.

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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

