

DAVIS COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Davis County Genealogical Society
Fall—1988 - Peggy Arnold, Editor

Vol. VI, No. 3 Bloomfield, Iowa 206 W. Goode St.

REGULAR MEETING: Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Library Basement.

OFFICERS: President: Sue Spilman, 401 Arkansas Ave., Bloomfield, Iowa 52537
Vice Pres: Mary Ellen Redmon, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537
Sec.-Treas. Pat. Howk, R.R. #1, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537
Corrs.Sec. Jerry Greene, 205 W. Arkansas, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537
Librarian: Dorothy Goldizen, R.R. #4, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537

NEWSLETTER: Published quarterly - spring, summer, fall, winter.

Dear Members,

Well, the long hot summer is over and we're into the fall season. Hope you all survived the summer and the cooler weather of fall will put you in the mood to do some research.

The Davis County Fair booth proved successful. It got us several new members and gave our organization some publicity. The winner of the drawing for a one-year membership was Eva Tews. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

In August we had Loren Horton from the Iowa Historical Library, Iowa City, speak to our members. He gave a very interesting and informative talk on grave stone markers. I never knew there were so many symbols and types of markers and that they meant so much.

Members will be working on an Iowa census and on cemeteries in Union and Perry townships. The 1856 Davis County census is ready to type for publication. Hope to have these two projects done by the end of the year.

We do not have all details for the genealogy classes worked out, but hope to have it done in the next couple of weeks. Anyone who signed up at the Davis County Fair will be notified. Classes will be scheduled in October and November to finish before Thanksgiving. Anyone else interested in these classes for Beginning and/or any phase of genealogy, please contact me after October 1. We hope to offer a lot of information at a reasonable cost so that everyone who wishes can be involved. Classes will be held at the Public Library.

I must quit now so that this newsletter can get printed and mailed.

D. Sue Spilman
President

1989 DUES ARE DUE after October 1. \$5.00 for the year.
(Local as well as out-of-county memberships are welcome.)
Send to Pat Howk, P.O. Box 94, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537

HISTORY OF DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA

Compiled by members of the Davis County chapter, IGS
from various sources, both published and original

Davis County is situated in the southern tier of Iowa counties, bordering on the north line of Missouri --- the third county west of the Mississippi River. It is surrounded by the counties of Wapello on the north, Van Buren on the east, Schuyler, MO, on the south and Appanoose on the west. It contains 15 townships in an area of approximately 322,560 acres.

The surface character of Davis County is somewhat irregular, the result of its natural drainage system, although its general surface is level. Every township is traversed by living streams. The Des Moines River crosses the northeast corner, from northwest to southeast, taking about two sections of land.

The general course of the streams north of Bloomfield, the county seat, is from west to east; and that of those south of the center of the county is from northwest to southeast. All fall into the Des Moines and Mississippi Rivers.

The streams which flow through are Loaf Creek, Fox Creek, Wyacondah Creek, Fabius Creek, Carters Creek, Lick Creek and Soap Creek. Of these, Soap Creek is the largest. Its source is in the northeast part of Appanoose County, and it courses its way through the northern tier of townships of Davis County to empty into the Des Moines River in the southeast corner of Wapello County. The next in size and importance is Fox Creek (or river), named for the Fox Indians who used to camp along it. It also begins in Appanoose County, flows easterly through Drakeville, Cleveland, Perry, Union and Prairie Townships, enters Van Buren County and flows in a southeasterly direction through Missouri to a point near Alexandria where it empties into the Mississippi River. Next in size is the Wyacondah. The county is about 711 feet above sea level.

Iowa, in 1832, belonged to the Iowa, Sac and Fox Indians. Their original titles, acquired by the right of possession, were secured by various treaties for a 10-year period, beginning in 1832 and ending in 1842.

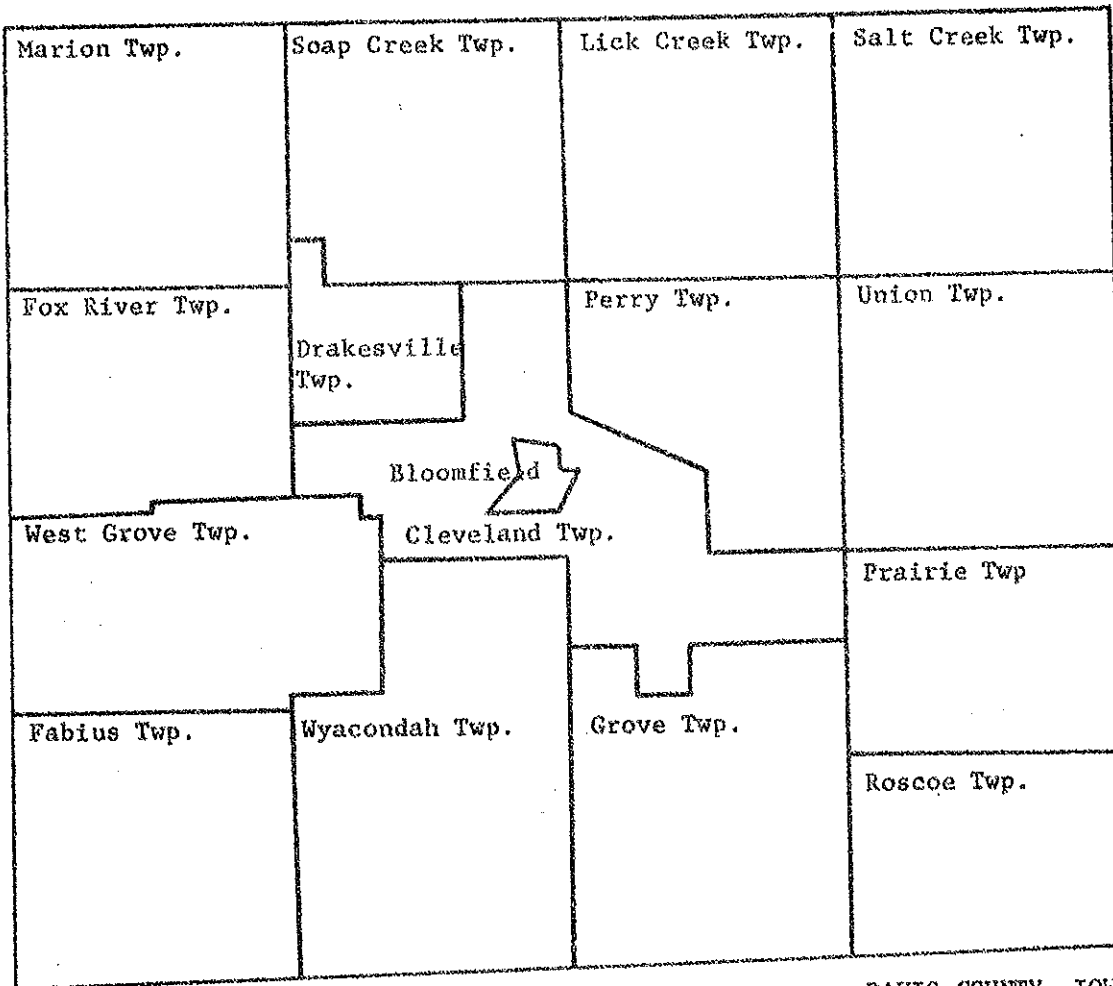
In general, the Iowas were considered non-friendly by the white men; the Sac and Fox, friendly. All camped in the Des Moines River area, and at various times the three tribes battled among themselves.

It was in the northeast part of Soap Creek Township, in Lick Creek Township and in surrounding counties where the Black Hawk War occurred. Here, Chief Black Hawk, whose birth occurred near the mouth of the Rock River in Illinois, won commanding influence over his tribe and the Fox, with whom they were allies, in a great battle with the Iowas. He executed a flank movement and surprised the Iowas in a defenseless position, and massacred almost the entire village. The few who escaped did so by swimming the Des Moines River and taking refuge in the Soap Creek hills in northern Davis County.

At the close of the Black Hawk War, Black Hawk ceded to the United States a strip of territory on the eastern border of Iowa along the Mississippi River from the northern boundary of Missouri to the mouth of the Upper Iowa River, averaging 50 miles in width. Included in this "Black Hawk Purchase" was a narrow strip on what is now the eastern edge of Davis County. The Black Hawk Treaty was signed 21 Sep 1832 and went into effect 1 Jun 1833.

In the latter part of August, 1838, Black Hawk, who had continued to make his home in Davis County, was taken very ill with fever. After the Indian medicine men had expended their skills and failed, the old chief sent for his friend, James Jordon, and requested that he send to Fort Edwards near Warsaw, IL, for a white physician. But before noon of that day, 3 Oct 1838, the chief had died.

Before his death, Black Hawk had requested that his friend select a spot for his burial and prepare his burial clothes. He was buried as he requested on a spot where he had held council with the Iowas in section 2 of Salt Creek Township, in a uniform presented to him by President Andrew Jackson. His sword and three silver



DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA

medals, one presented to him by the British government, one by President Madison and one presented by President Jackson, were buried with him.

He was buried 5 Oct 1838 by his family and friends on a farm owned by Jordon on the banks of the Des Moines River. The body was placed on a slab rudely hewn by the Indians and set up in an inclined position, with the feet placed in a shallow ditch and the head elevated about three feet above the ground. This was enclosed by setting two stakes in the ground with a pole across them and slabs with one end resting on the ground and the other on the pole, making a roof which was then neatly sodded over, forming a kind of vault. This was enclosed by a wide picket fence made by digging a trench four feet deep and setting long timbers on end into the trench.

The remains remained undisturbed until July, 1839, when the head was stolen. The following February, the body disappeared. On complaint from Black Hawk's sons, the matter was investigated and the theft traced to a Dr. Turner who lived in Lexington, Van Buren County. He had sent the body and head to Quincy, IL, to be rejoined. At the request of Black Hawk's family, Gov. Lucas asked for their return. The remains then were placed in the territorial archives at Burlington where they later were destroyed by fire, along with other valuable material.

The county first was settled by white emigrants from Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana and southern Illinois. Until 1843, there were few white inhabitants. Exceptions were a few individuals from Missouri and Kentucky along the southern border, on territory at that time claimed by Missouri, and a few squatters in the extreme east portion of the county, on part of the land included in the Black Hawk Purchase.

In 1837, James H. Jordon, cited earlier as a friend of Black Hawk, had established a trading post near a village of the Sac and Fox on the Des Moines River. In 1838, he located permanently in the county at a place subsequently known as Lowaville. Van Caldwell and a few others settled near the same place in 1839 and 1840.

In addition to Chief Black Hawk, Chief Keokuk also had his residence in Davis County, about a mile down the river from that of Black Hawk.

In March of 1842, a post office was established in the county. Originally called Fox, the name later was changed to Stringtown. According to early records, the post office was within the limits of the Black Hawk Purchase. Fernal A. Evans was the first postmaster. A second post office was established in 1844 at the house of Lloyd A. Nelson, called Lewistown. Nelson was postmaster. At that time, a Col. Carpenter had a "claim" two miles southeast of Lewistown which he called Prairie Springs.

By treaty ratified 23 Mar 1843, the Sac and Fox Indians gave up all territorial claims to land in Iowa, and agreed to remove themselves from the state within three years. On 1 May 1843, the portion of Iowa that included Davis County was opened officially for settlement.

Prior to 1844, the county had no political organization of its own, but was attached to Van Buren County for civil purposes. On the 16th of February of that year, the territorial council enacted a law for a county organization from and after the first of March. The same act appointed Charles N. Price of Van Buren County, Thomas Wright of Henry County and John Brown of Lee County as commissioners to locate the county seat. In late spring, 1844, the county seat of Bloomfield was laid out.

Davis County was named in honor of Garret Davis, at the time a representative in Congress from Lexington, KY, and later a U.S. senator.

The Davis County courthouse in Bloomfield was completed in 1878, and during 1976 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

DAVIS COUNTY BIRTHS, 1880

The following are the earliest records of birth; from Book 1, recorded in the office of the clerk of district court, Davis County. They were copied during June of 1977 by Tina Self. The records are arranged here exactly as they appeared in the record book, more or less chronologically.

<u>Name of Infant</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Names of Parents</u>
Jarvis, female	14 Jul 1880	Mary and Racer Jarvis
Barton, Burt Shelton	9 Jul 1880	Mary and Thomas Barton
Andrews, female	9 Jul 1880	Jane and John Andrews
Caton, Roy	10 Jul 1880	Louisa and John Caton
Starr, Frank Weyland	13 Jul 1880	Lucinda and Frederick Starr
Morrow, Gary Burton	15 Jul 1880	Ann and Jesse Morrow
Vaak, Eda May	23 Jul 1880	Augusta and Criston Vaak
Patterson, male	26 Jul 1880	Mizana and Zachary Patterson
Lowenburg, female	26 Jul 1880	Mary and Jacob Lowenburg
Ware, Bartha	28 Jul 1880	Martha and John Ware
Patterson, male	28 Jul 1880	Julia and Jesse Patterson
Kinnick, Aages B	25 Jul 1880	Elcand and Elijah Kinnick
Lamb, male	31 Jul 1880	Ellen and Lezb (sic)
Davis, David William	-- Jul 1880	Henrietta and J.W. Davis
Hill, female	24 Jul 1880	Margaret and James Hill
Russell, male	8 Jul 1880	Ellen and Silas O Russell
Kinman, female	14 Aug 1880	Lizzie and Lincoln Kinman
Hull, Alice May	28 Jul 1880	Nancy and Ezra Hull
Byran, female	-- Aug 1880	Henrietta & Quinn V Bryan
England, Jennie	21 Jul 1880	Lucinda and James England
Herod, female	25 Aug 1880	Sarrah & Wm. Herod
Hill, male	3 Aug 1880	Ada and Frank Hill

To be continued in the winter issue.

NEW BOOKS

Five books have been donated to the Public Library by the Davis County Genealogical Society as reference books. They are:

- Ancestry's Guide to Research
- Computer Genealogy
- Old Kentucky Entries & Deeds
- How to Climb Your Family Tree
- U.S. County History Catalog

New books for the Davis County Genealogical Society library room are:

- The Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Census - 1790-1920.
- The Library, "A Guide to the LDS Family History Library," Salt Lake City.
- Wapello Co., Ia., Book I - Deaths - July 1880 - Dec. 1892.
- Wapello Co., Ia., Books II & III - Delayed Births -

Donations received from:

Verle Arnold, Appanoose County, Ia., Union, Wells, & Washington township cemeteries.

- Newsletters from Carroll Co., Md.
- 1860 Census & newsletters from Marion Co., Il.
- 1776 census state of Md.
- Newsletters Perry Co., Oh.

Vera McMains, \$20.00 for new books and these books:

- Pennsylvania Colony, Vol. I - Passengers & Ships, Sheppard.
- Directory of Scottish Settlers in N.A. - 1625-1825, Dobson.
- Key to Southern Pedigrees, Crozier 1978.
- English Estates of American Colonists, Calldham 1980.
- Immigrant Ancestors, Virkus.
- King's Mountain Men, K.K. White 1977.
- List of Emigrants to America from Liverpool-1697-1707.
- Locating Your Immigrant Ancestors, Neagles 1975.
- History of Washington Co., Va - 1871 reprint 1987.
- Virginia Wills Before 1799, Clemens.
- Virginia Wills & Administration - 1800.
- Master Index to Virginia Surveys & Grants 1774-1791.
- Immigrants to America Appearing in English Records 1607-1976, Smith.
- Emigrants to Pennsylvania - 1611 - 1819.

Carol McKee - First Census of Pennsylvania - 1790.

Alice Huffman - Southeastern Kentucky - 1820 Census.

Sue Spilman - The Huguenots, Douglas.

Jerry Greene - Americans from Sweden, Benson & Hedin.

Dorothy Goldizen - Two Irish Genealogical Society books; Va. Marriages 1700-1850; two boxes of Germanic Genealogy Magazines.

Esther Henderson - News stories about the Monroe Co. Cemeteries from Albia paper.

There have been many more donations, but I do not have a list of these at the present time. The Society thanks all who have given materials.

Exerpts from the Albia UNION REPUBLIC, April through July 7, 1988, issues.

"Each cemetery in the county most likely has a story behind it," says Sarah Hindman, corresponding secretary Monroe Co. Genealogical Society, "some have endured over the years while others have been lost." This genealogical society held a meeting with Monroe Co. township trustees to inform the trustees what their options are concerning cemeteries and to find out if the trustees were taking any responsibility for the cemeteries. The genealogical society may form its own cemetery association to take care of those cemeteries in the county that have fallen into ruin after years of neglect. It should be determined if the cemeteries are public or private. One can check the land records at the county recorder's office to make certain that some old family burial plots have been separated from the original plot of land and are not owned by the present landowner.--Clipping sent by Esther Henderson, Albia, Ia.

Centerville, Appanoose County--"It is too bad when we get people from out of the state complaining about the condition of our cemeteries when tax money has been set aside for the purpose of cleaning up and maintaining all cemeteries. All the township clerks have to do is to apply for the money. Each township clerk should make a tour and decide what needs to be done and the cost. The trustee should then apply for the funds. I would like to see bids let for more than just mowing cemeteries. Caretakers should monitor that stones are set up, fences repaired, etc. How sad that the early settler who came to this county and endured hardship finds his or her resting place has been destroyed. How would you like to go to another state looking for a grave of your great grandparents and find the cemetery replaced by a plowed field or simply destroyed for no apparent reason. Would you be upset?"--Loretta Crow, president Appanoose Co. G.S., Sept. 2, 1988, Ad-Express Iowegian, Centerville, Ia.

Davis Co. G.S. has these same conditions, any suggestions on how to deal with these conditions!! members?

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FALL CONFERENCE

October 15 & 16, 1988, Jimmy Dent Walker, main speaker, is well known throughout the country as an authority on National Archives. If you are Irish, Ed O'Day, professor of History at SIU, will present a session. Want to use a computer for genealogy? Brian Harney, a computer specialist from Kentucky, will present two sessions. Quaker records needed? Beginning research for Kentucky records, American Indian research--there will be exhibits by booksellers and genealogical societies. Pre-registration on or before Oct. 5, 1988. Send to ISGS Fall Conference, c/o Va. Hart, P.O. Box 92, Pleasant Hill, Il. 62366.

NEW LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE ABOUT DAVIS COUNTY--

These are available through the Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, Iowa 50322.

	<u>Price</u>
626 Davis Co. Cemeteries--Cleveland Twp, (Except I.O.O.F.) 22 pages	?
(Bloomfield South Cem, Gammack, Davies, Pollard, Sullivan Farm Cems.)	
427 Davis Co., Cemeteries--Drakesville Twp., Drakesville & Lester Cems.	\$3.00
427 Davis Co., Cemeteries--West Grove Twp., West Grove, Bethel, Catholic, John, Mt. Moriah, Bell, Evergreen, Shinn Cems.)	?
554 Davis Co., Index of 1860 County Census	\$6.00
555 Davis Co., 1860 Co. Census, Part I (pp 1-97)	\$10.00
556 Davis Co., 1860 Co. Census, Part II (pp98-193)	\$9.50
557 Davis Co., 1860 Co. Census, Part III (pp194-284)	\$9.50
427 Davis Co., 1850 Co. Census	\$17.50

Iowa residents please add 4% sales tax. Postage and handling charges are as follows: up to \$5.00 add \$.50; \$5.00 to \$10.00 add \$1.00; \$10.00 to \$20.00 add \$1.50; \$20.00 and up add \$2.00.

If you have a male ancestor who was a member of a secret society, you may find his records useful to you.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES--Organized in 1898, Headquarters: 2401 W. Wisconsin, Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS--Founded in 1868, Office 2750 Lake View Dr., Chicago, IL 60614.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS--Founded in 1882, Office: Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT.

LOYAL ORDER OF THE MOOSE--Founded in 1888, Moosehart, IL 60539.

SUPREME LODGE, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS--Founded in 1864, Office: Room 201, Phyhian Building, 47 North Grant St., Stockton, CA 95202.

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREE MASONRY--Founded in 1813, Office: 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington, MA 02173.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS--Founded in 1819, Office: Sovereign Grant Lodge, IOOF, 422 No. Trade St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101.--IGS, 1988.

ABOUT OUR DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Davis County Genealogical Society library is housed in the basement of the Davis County Public Library in Bloomfield. It is open from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. week days, Saturday from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., and closed on Sunday.

Information people can find there includes:

- Vital records - births, deaths, marriages, obituaries, land records.
- Cemetery records--Davis County and some Wapello and Appanoose counties.
- Family Genealogies.
- Census county Federal records
- Census county State records-microfilm-1856, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915 & 1925.
- County histories-two indexed and one part indexed. (1886, 1924, 1876.)
- Pedigree charts of members.
- Various magazines and quarterlies. (Genealogy Helpers, etc.)
- Newsletters from Davis County and several other counties in Iowa.
- Information on other counties of Iowa and other states.
- Many record books on other counties of Iowa and other states.
- Original land entries, Davis County.
- How to books on genealogy - beginning and advanced.
- More and more--misc., Civil War records, etc.

Our society was formed in 1974 with 6 charter members. At the end of the 1974 year there were 29 members. We now have 87 members. For the last 14 years members have been busy preserving county records and purchasing or receiving donated books and records. Members volunteer their time to gather and record genealogy information. Many members volunteer to help visitors research in our library room.

The genealogy library room is for use of its members and others seeking genealogy information. It is open during regular library hours. Its service is for the convenience of anyone working on a family history. This summer over 66 people from all over the United States--Calif., Az., Colo. Ohio, Va., Md., Tx, and KS are a few of the far away visitors. The number of times the local members visited the room were not counted.

If you want to or know someone who wants to start his family "His-tree"
--talk to family members, check the family Bible, then the next step is to visit your county genealogical society. Seek their help.

The Davis County Genealogical Society is offering a set of Beginning Genealogy Classes in October and November (to finish before Thanksgiving). There is a small charge. Lessons are to be held in the Public Library--Special instructors--Guest speakers--Lots and lots of help. If you know of anyone who is interested call Sue Spilman or Pat Howk.

The Davis County Public Library receives "The Genealogy Helper," a bi-monthly magazine. Be sure to read it and make use of its helps.

Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently.

"Life holds more meaning when the past ties into the present. When this happens, one gains assurance that the present will also tie into the future."

If you would like help in removing a picture from a magnetic photo album, try lifting a corner and then aim a blast of warm air from a hair dryer underneath the picture.

A wealthy man spent \$25,000 in connection with his genealogy. He paid \$5,000 to have it researched and then another \$20,000 to have it hushed up.

Q U E R I E S

CALDWELL--Kenneth Hamilton is seeking Laura E. CALDWELL who married John HAMMOND.

OSBORN----Info needed on Anna Kriegh OSBORN believed to have been born in Davis County. She married Dr. James OSBORN.

ARRINGTON--Linda Stout Bourner requesting info on Joel ARRINGTON.

RAMA--Lynda Lawrence requests info on Saraketta Louise (Cunningham) RAMA.

EVANS-----Info needed on John & Catherine SWALLEY EVANS, at home of John SWALLEY 9 Dec. 1856, by Richard E. Houston, 9917 Lydia, Kansas City, Ks. 64131.

If you have information on any of the above, sent to Pat Howk, P.O. Box 94, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537.

Speakers at our last few meetings have been:

Darrell Kerby - Researching an elusive family ancestor.

Jerry Greene - Review of the book The Library, a book that contains info on every state and most countries of the world.

Barbar Root, Ottumwa--Daughters of the American Revolution.

Loren Horton, Iowa Genealogical Society, Iowa City--How to visit a cemetery and learn history.

Next meeting October 20, 1988 at 7:00 P.M. in the basement of Public Library.

All members and friends welcome.

Today we received our first copy of the JEFFERSON COUNTY G.S. NEWSLETTER,

"Try Fairfield First." You have the wrong address for Davis County.

Your editor is open to suggestions as to what you would like to have published in the upcoming editions of our newsletters. Send suggestions, please.

DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

206 West Goode St. or P.O. Box 94

Bloomfield, Iowa 52537

To:

Sue Spilman

401 Arkansas Ave.

Bloomfield, Ia.

52537