

DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

BLOOMFIELD IOWA

VOLUME XIV 3

1996

JULY AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Davis County Genealogical Society, P O Box 94, Bloomfield Iowa
52537. Regular meetings: Third Thursday of the month , 7:30 PM
Bloomfield Public Library basemant

1996	President: Pat Howk	Treasurer: Alice Huffman
Officers	V Pres.: D. Sue Spilman	Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Goldizen
	Secretary: Lavon Davis	

Dear Members and Friends,

It is fall already and I expect most of us are not ready for it. There are so many things to do in the nice summer time that days just seem to slip away.

We have an offer of a family bible with records and obituaries incuded for families of ATKINS, HALE, HARREL, BAIRD (1823), CARLTON (1825) and PINNELL. If these names appear in your lines please get in touch with Verlee Chambers Dauma, 120 N. Lincoln, Memphis MO 63555: phone 816-465-7066.

We have land patent record for family of Bernard and/or Timothy HARROLD. Please contact us if this is your family. The Great Treasure Hunt of Iowa has sent, through IGS, a packet of papers (marriage certificate, will, insurance papers, pens, etc) for FLETCHER, L J, John Sherman, and William S. Please let us know if this is of interest to you so we can get it to family members.

The Washington Co Genealogical Society is sponsering a Genealogical Fair on Saturday, Sept, 28, 1996 at the Helen Wilson Room at the Washington Public Library. Hours are 10 to 4. It will also be the S.E. Iowa Conference. There will be dispalays and genalogical programs, but specifics were not listed in the notice. Call a friend and pool a ride to enjoy a day with others of like mind.

Last but not least, we need participation at our regular meetings with volunteer work to continue the great work that has been done for the past 25+ yeaaars. If you have any suggestions, criticisms, ideas and etc, you can write to me personally or give me a call. Pat Howk, RR 1 Box 169, Bloomfield IA 52537; phone 515-675-3490 after 7 PM.

Dues for the coming year will be due in October: don't forget.

Until next time

Pat Howk, Pres.

QUERIES

Seek obituary for Gideon LILES, died before 1879, in Davis County Iowa. Family? From Logan County Ohio. Jim Liles, 88 Forsythe RD Nederland CO 80466.

Infor needed on Christopher or Tobias GRIDER and their families. Yvonne Perkins 2167 54th St Lubbock TX 79412-2610

Need info on Isaac MARTIN. Married in Davis Co Iowa 1878 to Margaret McGINNIS. Victoria Gibson 25704 RD 196 Exeter CA 93221

Need info on DAUNCE GIDEON HUGHES MILLER ELLIOTT AND PARKER families of Salt Creek Twp Davis Co Ia. Sherri Golightly 10834 Sage Park Houston TX 77089.

Seek any info on Hiram & Allie MARSH WHITE. West Grove area. Marguerite Metzgas P O Box 6035 95141 Ismert Ln S. Pistol River OR. 97444-1575

Seek info on and present day descendants of Minnie RICHARDSON, born 25 Aug 1872 IL, married 23 Nov 1905 Ottumwa IA to Charley DRURY; Leissa (RICHARDSON) BURNS, born 3 Apr 1876; Eva RICHARDSON, born 20 Mar 1884 IL. In August 1907, Minnie and Leissa lived in Ottumwa IA and Eva lived in Soap Creek Tp., Davis Co. IA. Della M Shafer 181 Western Haysville KS 67060

Seek Info on and present day descendants of Albert J "Jack" SMITH, born Feb 1882, Davis Co., Ia and on Isaac O. SMITH, born 25 Sept 1886 Savannah, Davis Co., IA., married 27 Dec 1908 Ottumwa IA to Lela/lola Atha JESSOP. Della Shafer 181 Western Haysville KS 67060.

Looking for information on Daniel & Mathilda (Thorpe) CRUMRINE family. Both were in Davis County IA in the 1900 census. He age 98 and she age 80. Joy L Burkholder P O Box 245 Greenville CA 95947

Looking for info on Charles & Adaline (Hill) NILES family. He s/o Darius & Leah NILES. She d/o Lucius & Deborah HILL. Joy L Burkholder P O Box 245 Greenville CA 95947.

DECORATION DAY TRAGEDY

Wife of Joseph Richardson Residing North of Belknap, Shot by Ora Sample, Death Ensuing

SAMPLE WAS ARRESTED FRIDAY

Mrs. Joseph Richardson was mortally wounded last Thursday evening about six o'clock, death following a few minutes later, from a gun shot fired by Ora Sample. She was in an adjoining room to escape the danger of a scuffle going on between her husband and Sample for the possession of a shot gun which Sample was endeavoring to use on Richardson. During the fight both barrels of the gun were discharged, the second shot going through the open doorway, striking Mrs. Richardson in the right hip and severing the femoral artery. She bled to death, living only a short time after receiving the wound.

Ora Sample was in Ottumwa on Decoration day and had been drinking. He was accompanied on the homeward trip by John Locker. On the way he remarked to Locker that he intended stopping at Richardson's to settle an old score and that serious trouble might result. Locker got out of the buggy before reaching Richardson's home northwest of Belknap. Sample stopped in front of the house and called to Richardson to come out, but the latter scenting trouble refused the invitation. Sample got out of his rig, went to the south door of the house but failed to force an entrance. The door was fastened with a bar. He went to another door, kicked it in and found Richardson. A shot gun was standing in the corner and Sample rushed for it. Richardson divined his purpose and managed to get hold of the barrel. The two men struggled fiercely for possession of the gun. One barrel was discharged but did no damage to either, and the fight went on. As they passed the door leading to the kitchen where Richardson's wife had taken refuge, the second load was discharged, passing through the open doorway and found lodgement in Mrs. Richardson's thigh. Neighbors hastened to Richardson's home on hearing the gun shots, but Sample had fled. From reports Sample had no liking for Richardson and when drinking was bitter in his comment. His dislike originated over a dispute concerning an account or debt.

The Democrat - Thursday, June 6, 1907

A BRUTAL MURDER

WIFE IS SLAIN BY MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL HUSBAND

WOMAN WATCHED LIFE STRUGGLE

Ora Sample Broke into Joseph Richardson's House and Tragedy Was the Result

Attracted to the front of the house by the noise of a quarrel and the sounds of her husband's voice raised in anger, Mrs. Joseph Richardson groped her way into the living room to stand rooted in terror as she heard two men struggling and cursing a few feet away. A moment later she fell, stricken down by the shot intended for her husband, and within a half hour had bled to death. Ora Sample, who fired the fatal shot, was arrested a short time after and was lodged in jail at Bloomfield Friday to await trial on a charge of murder.

Ora Sample is a man of 28. Joseph Richardson, whom he sought out and threatened to kill is past 75 and the murdered Mrs. Richardson was about the same age. Sample had been in Ottumwa drinking. He left in the afternoon to drive home in company with Will Locker, a neighbor. He is said to have told Locker he was going to have trouble with Richardson.

Arriving at Richardson's home, which is about twelve miles northwest of Bloomfield, Sample called for Richardson to come out from the house. The latter refused. Then, according to the testimony adduced at the coroner's inquest this morning, Sample attempted to break down the front door and enter the house. He failed in this and went to the side door, which he kicked in and entered the house.

Richardson was standing in the room and the men grappled. There was a loaded shot gun hanging on the wall which Sample secured and then they fought around the room, one load being discharged as each fought to wrest the gun from the other.

When the first shot was heard Mrs. Richardson groped her way into the room from the kitchen. Almost totally blind, she could just distinguish two forms locked together fighting about the room. She screamed and stood terror stricken in the doorway. Another moment and the second barrel of the gun was discharged, and Mrs. Richardson fell, the load striking her in the thigh and severing the femoral (sic) artery. She was dead in half an hour.

Three or four years ago obstructions were placed on the Wabash track presumably with designs on wrecking a train. Sample was suspected of this and his neighbors placed the crime at his door, but the prosecuting witnesses left the country and he was then turned loose for want of evidence to convict him.

Sample claims self defense. He asserts that while he was entering Richardson's home the latter fired at him twice, one shot tearing away a portion of his coat. The holes shot in the coat he was wearing at the time he produces in substantiation of his plea. But the state secured evidence at the inquest that the first shot fired, which alarmed Mrs. Richardson and lured her to her death when she attempted to stop the quarrel, blew away this portion of Sample's coat and not until he had forced his way into the Richardson home with threats to kill his enemy.

The Davis County Republican - Thursday, August 29, 1907
HIS HEART WAS BROKEN

Joseph Richardson Died by the Pistol Route Wife's Death Incentive to Deed

Joseph Richardson residing north of Belknap committed suicide Monday morning using a 38 calibre Smith and Wesson pistol, firing a bullet through his heart. He had gone to a spring a short distance from his home to see about water for the stock and while there made an end of his troubles. The deed was premeditated, for in his pocket book was found a note saying that his heart was broken over his wife's death. He was about 68 years of age, a soldier in the civil war and leaves two grown daughters.

Readers of the *REPUBLICAN* will recall the tragedy of his wife's death on Decoration day. Ore Sample is now in jail waiting indictment (sic) by the grandjury and trial for the shooting of Mrs. Richardson. Richardson and Sample were fighting for the possession of a shot gun at the home of the former and during the scuffle the gun was discharged, the load striking Mrs. Richardson in the thigh, severing the femoral artery, from which wound she died shortly afterward. Sample's story of the tragedy is quite the reverse of the one related by Richardson who should have appeared before the grandjury now in session to give evidence. He was the chief witness for the state.

Dr. Heady went to Richardson's home Monday morning held an inquest, the verdict being suicide. Richardson had opened his shirt, placed the muzzle of the pistol against his heart, apparently very deliberate in his preparation. The bullet passed directly through his heart. The pistol shot alarmed friends who were at his home and they hurried to him, evidently suspecting his intention. Richardson was in Bloomfield Saturday but his conversation gave no intimation of suicide.

The Democrat - Thursday, August 29, 1907
JOINS WIFE IN DEATH

Who Had Recently Been Killed by Shot Intended for her Husband

Joseph Richardson, an old resident of this county, shot himself through the heart at his home, four miles northwest of Belknap Monday morning at about seven o'clock dying instantly.

His death removes the last witness to the shooting a few months ago in which Mrs. Richardson was shot down and killed by a bullet intended for her husband for which crime Ora Sample is now being held in the county jail.

Mr. Richardson told his daughter that he was going to see if the stock had water and at about forty rods from the house he fired the shot that ended his troubles on this earth with a thirty-eight caliber revolver. The girl thinking that he was gone to (sic) long commenced looking for him and finally found him some time between eight and nine o'clock.

Mr. Richardson was an old soldier and has lived in Davis county about thirty years.

VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER

Jury Decides Ora Sample Responsible for Death of Mrs. Richardson

Ora Sample is guilty. A verdict of manslaughter was rendered Saturday morning at 10 o'clock by the jury after a night's deliberation. The lawyers finished with the evidence on Friday and argument ended at the night session of the court the same evening. Attorney Ramseyer represented Sample and T. A. Goodson the state.

The case hung on the evidence of Eva Richardson, daughter of the slain woman. She was the only eye witness of the tragedy, her father committing suicide shortly after the death of his wife. Eva Richardson's story concisely stated reads: About 6 o'clock on the evening of Decoration Day Sample and a companion Will Locker, drove up to the Richardson home. Sample called loudly for her father to come out, that he wanted to settle with him, the two men having had trouble over a sale of corn. Her father refused, whereupon Sample went to the front door, pounding and demanding admittance. When told he could not enter he went to the side door, and finding it latched broke the lock and forced an entrance. When Sample entered the room he grappled with her father until finally the two men wrestled to a corner of the room where a shot gun was hanging on the wall. Sample wrenched this from the wall, and attempted to turn it on her father, but the latter kept the gun pointed from him. It was at this juncture that her blind mother, alarmed by the noise of the quarrel, groped her way into the room, only to be shot down when the gun was discharged. Sample then wrested the gun from Richardson and ordered him from the house. As her father ran, Sample fired three shots at him. She ran to a neighbor when her mother was felled, she said, and when she returned in company with others it was to find her mother lying dead in a pool of blood. She adhered rigidly to this story. Efforts to confuse and tangle her in the cross examination failed.

Sample testified in his own behalf and was equally firm in his evidence. The cross examination did not shake his story. He made an excellent witness, considering the circumstances but failed to impress the jury with the truth of his story. His testimony in brief follows: went to the Richardson home without any intent of raising a disturbance, having frequently visited the place, and been in the habit of going in and out of the house at will, denied making any threats or raising any disturbance at the door, but claimed that Richardson shot at him before he entered the house and that the pocket of his coat was torn away and a whisky bottle in the coat pocket was shattered by the shot. The coat and pieces of glass were exhibited in evidence. Sample claims that Richardson had the gun in his possession during the struggle and that when he left the house, Richardson pursued him, firing a revolver at him.

Justice Kelsey, who conducted the preliminary read the evidence of Richardson, who committed suicide just before time to appear before the grand jury. This evidence was practically the same as the daughter's Eva Richardson. Other witnesses were introduced, the large number testifying either as to the character of Sample or Eva Richardson.

The indictment was for murder in the second degree, but the jury, in balloting to determine the degree of crime, decided that manslaughter covered the case. The sentence may be eight years or less or a fine of not more than \$1,000.

Motion was made for a new trial. Argument was postponed until Wednesday.

Sample Gets Four Years

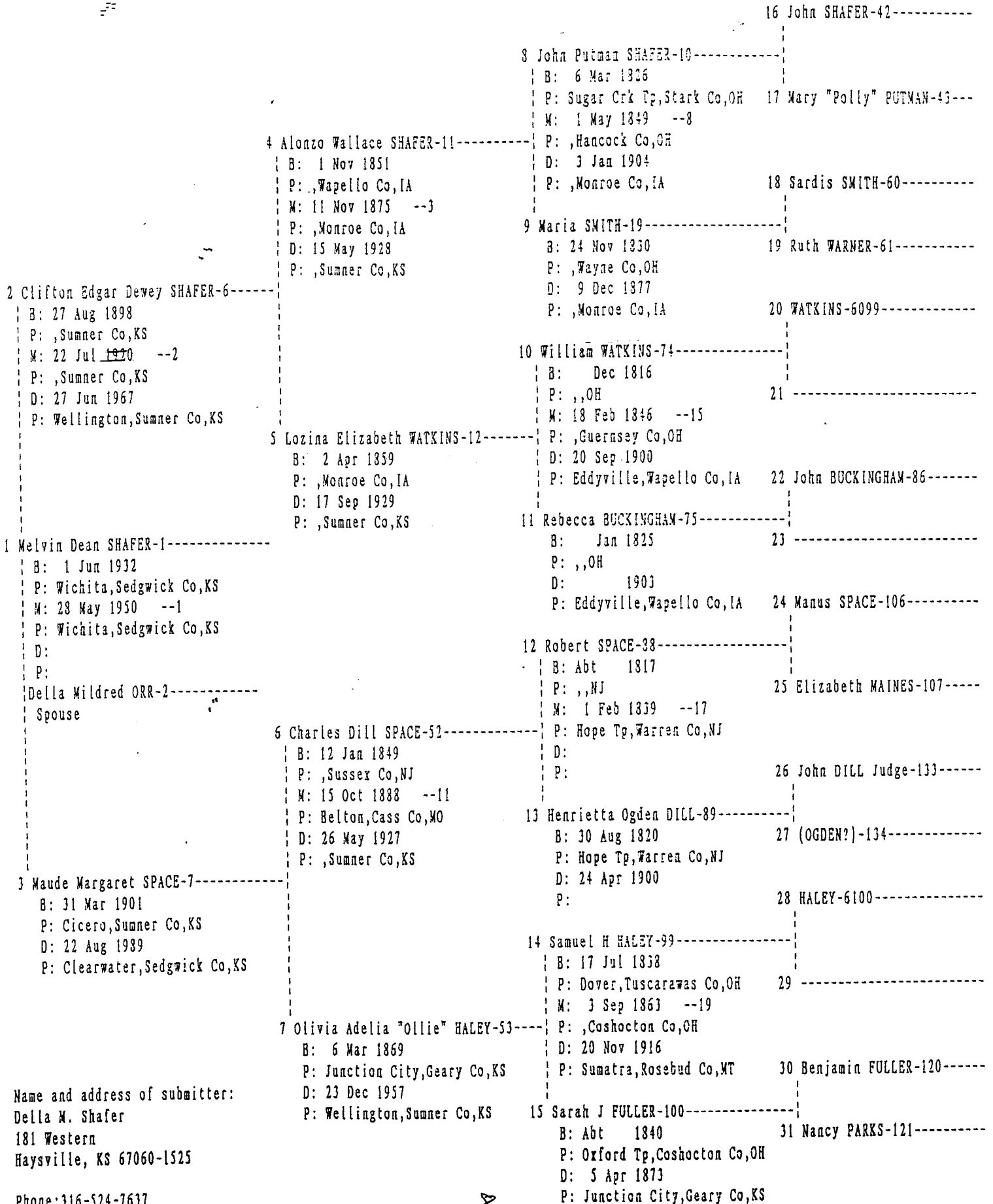
Judge Vermilion heard Attorney Ramseyer last Saturday morning in his argument for a new trial for Ora Sample. Mr. Ramseyer occupied one hour in presenting his reasons and the court gave close attention to his pleading, but did not believe Sample entitled to a new hearing. In fixing sentence at four years in the Ft. Madison prison, Judge Vermilion was lenient. The extreme penalty might have been eight years. The court gave Sample some good advice and in the course of his lecture reviewed the past reputation of the prisoner, summing it up with "you had not one friend to testify for you, all were against you." Sheriff Wilkinson and deputy Rogers took Sample to Ft. Madison Saturday afternoon.

*These articles sent in by Della Shefer
181 Western Hayville Ks, 67060-1525*

PEDIGREE CHART

11 Jul 1996

Chart no. 1



Name and address of submitter:
 Della M. Shafer
 181 Western
 Haysville, KS 67060-1525

Phone: 316-524-7637

THIS IS DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA

A History of Davis County

from

1926-1976

(Every Name Indexed and Last Printed In 1976)

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The old Davis County Courthouse

This book was originally published in 1976 by the TTT Society as a bicentennial project. Great effort was made to bring the history of Davis County, Iowa up to date from the last published county history in 1926.

The book includes articles and stories about businesses, schools, towns and churches in Davis County. A short history of the early history of the county is also included. An interesting area in the book is "Davis County --Agriculture". This includes articles about Century Farms and family farms in the county. It contains many names, dates and interesting tidbits of county history. The last part of the book contains biographical sketches by patrons, in early history books patrons paid a fee for space in the book. This reprint will also include an index that contains every name. The index was not apart of the original book.

The book is 8 1/2 x 11 inches in size, with over 500 pages printed on archival quality, acid free paper. This hardbound edition will have a silk screen cover to resemble the original book. Prepaid orders will be accepted until June 30, 1996 at the price of \$65.00. After July 1, 1996 the book can be purchased for \$75.00 (these prices include tax and shipping & handling). The book will be mailed in late fall or early winter 1996. Only a limited number will be reprinted so get your order in today.

ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ copy (ies) of: **THIS IS DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA**. The price per book is \$65.00 until June 30, 1996. After July 1, 1996 the price is \$75.00.

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