

# Davis County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume XI, No. 2

Spring 1993

---

Davis County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 94, Bloomfield, IA 52537  
REGULAR MEETINGS: Third Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm, Library basement

---

1993. Officers	President: Sue Spilman Vice-President: Jerry Greene Secretary: Alice Huffman	Treasurer: Verle Arnold Corresponding Secretary: Darrell Kerby
-------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------

---

Dear Members,

Here it is in the middle of April and it's still cold and rainy in Iowa. Now we're waiting for the great floods of '93. Hope I'm just kidding and the weather will return to normal.

The society is applying for grant money again this year. Last year our application was denied. We have decided to apply for money to purchase a microfilm reader-printer. Our historical preservation projects will be: reprinting the 1976 Davis County History Book, with an index included; reprinting the 1895 and 1912 Davis County Atlases into one book; and ordering more 1882 Davis County History Books. The grant application has to be sent in by June 1, 1993 and if approved, we will be notified in October 1993. From November 1993 to November 1994 is the term of the grant. That means we have one year to sell the books we reprint and to purchase the reader-printer. At present we have about \$2500 toward the purchase of the reader-printer. It will cost around \$6200-6500 for the equipment. So, as you can see, even with grant money we still need to raise more money. Anyone wishing to donate to this project is encouraged to do so. Send donations to Davis County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 94, Bloomfield, IA 52537. All help, money and volunteer hours, is always appreciated by the society. Thank you to those who have already contributed in some way.

Another way we have started using to raise money for the society is to charge for research done by the society. In November 1992 it was decided to charge \$6.00 per hour for research, excluding copies or postage. We get so many requests and have a limited group, or usually one individual, who does this research. The money raised will be used for additional new materials for the library.

If any member has suggestions for the newsletter or a comment about the society please let us know. We can't help our membership if we don't know what they want.

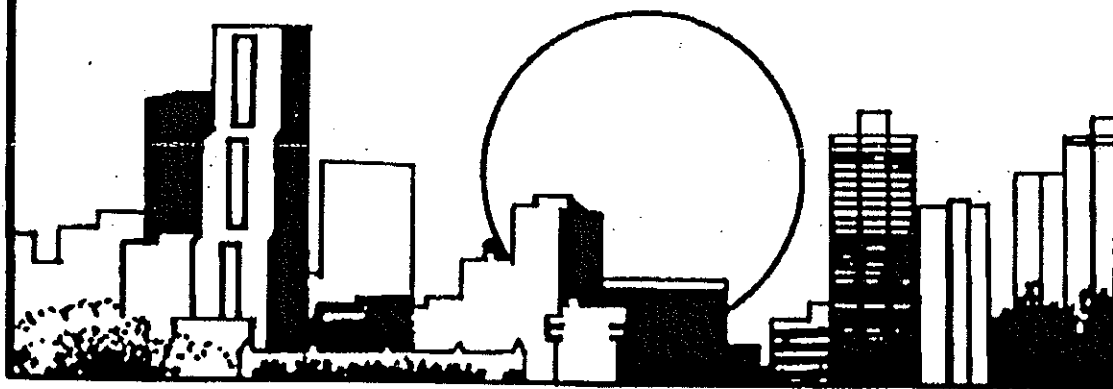
Have a good summer researching.  
D. Sue Spilman, President

# Iowa Genealogical Society

**Open House  
and  
Dedication  
Sunday  
April 25, 1993  
2 - 4 PM**

**Dedication & Ribbon Cutting  
2:30 PM**

**Refreshments**



Iowa Genealogical Society is proud to announce the recent expansion of our facilities. The additional 660 square feet is used for the library, workroom and a new classroom. The classroom may also be used for additional room for researchers on days of high library usage or for special projects.

Please join us for our open house and refreshments at 2 to 4 PM and for the dedication and ribbon cutting at 2:30 PM on Sunday, April 25, in Suite 145 of the Lew Clarkson building at 6000 Douglas in Des Moines.

See you there.

Odds and ends about Davis County, Iowa (from 1882 History of Davis County, Iowa)—continued from the Winter issue

LICK CREEK TOWNSHIP—(pp. 592-3)

The first birth was Thomas Wooden born in the fall of 1844, son Ranson and Elizabeth Wooden. He was drowned in the Mississippi at Burlington when three years old.

First death was Mother Jones, mother of Michael Jones, who died in 1844 and was buried on Soap Creek, north of Floris, in Peytons burying ground.

First regular physician was Dr. Phelps, who came from Agency City in 1844 and died in Texas.

The first minister was Rev. Gibson, a Methodist circuit rider, who traveled around preaching in private houses.

First school was taught by Polly Throckmorton, in Jerry Starks' shop, in 1846, it was a subscription school with eight scholars. First school was built on section 29 in 1847 by Jerry Stark, costing \$300.00.

First weaving of cloth done by Mrs. Lottie Stark and Mrs. Wooden.

First marriage was between M.H. Rullman and Sally Harp in the fall of 1844.

First female child was to Mike Jones in 1844.

MARION TOWNSHIP—(pp.593-4)

First marriage was between Whilliam Shelton and Miss Melissa Lowe.

First birth was Jesse, son of Samuel and Ruth Robb, and the first female child was Annie, daughter of Orange and Lydia Bailey.

First death was Mrs. Bailey

First physician was Dr. Holiday, from Missouri.

First ministers wer Rev. Ockerman and Rev. Purse.

First school was taught by Harriet Grout, with 25 pupils. It was a subscription school.

First school house was built by volunteer labor, in the fall of 1844, on the claim of George Moots.

The first spinning of flax was done by Mary Moots.

PERRY TOWNSHIP—(pp.594-5)

The first house of worship in the county was built in this township. It was owned by the Presbyterian denomination.

First marriage was between A.C. Brewster and Nancy Dilliner, February, 1844.

First male child was Allen Macy, son of Riley Macy.

First female child was Nancy Williamson, daughter of A.D. Williamson.

First death was that of a colored woman who came here with Samuel Evans, having formerly been his slave.

The first physician was William McK. Findley, from Ohio, who afterwards died in Bloomfield.

The first minister was Rev. Ewing, Prebyterian, who afterwards died in Winterset.

The first school was taught in the fall of 1845, in a log house on the farm of Andrew Leach. by David Frosythe. 20 pupils, Subscription school, \$1.50 per pupil. This was also first school-house.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP—(pp.595-6)

First settler was Z.S. Bryant in 1839. The first frame house built in Davis County was built near his cabin on the same section and is still standing(1882).

First female child was Clarissa Fountain.

The first death was William Hardesty, who died in the spring of 1842.

First Preacher was Rev. Kirkpatrick, a Methodist minister, who preached in the cabin of William Hardesty, in 1839 or 40.

First marriage was between James Gleason and Miss Sarah Downing.

First birth was W.H. Craven, son of B.W. and Nancy Craven, nee Tracey, and born December 18, 1842.

First physician was William R. Wallace, M.D. from Milton. He was probably the first Mason in the county.

First school in the township was a subscription school, taught by Simeon Fountain. Taught in a log house, near where Wilson Jones resides.

A. Cochran was the first justice of the peace.

First weaving of cloth was done, among others by Mrs. Mary Evans.

THE CIVIL WAR ARTICLE  
Extracted from:  
*"Tenting Tonight" The Soldiers Life*

## Women Who Wore the Blue and the Gray

Not all of the soldiers who fought in the blue and the gray were men. Adventure-seeking women — perhaps as many as several hundred — disguised themselves as males and took up arms. Although the true identity of most was quickly discovered, some managed to sustain the deception for months and even years.

Sara Edmonds, a Canadian immigrant who joined the 2nd Michigan Infantry in 1861 under the name of Frank Thompson, was a master of disguise. In her account of her war experiences, she related that General George B. McClellan employed her as a spy during the Peninsular Campaign in 1862 — completely unaware of Private Thompson's true identity. For her first mission, she blackened her face with silver nitrate, covered her hair with a wig and slipped behind Confederate lines at Yorktown dressed as a young male slave.

On other occasions Edmonds posed as a female slave, a dry-goods clerk and a Confederate infantryman, infiltrating enemy lines 11 times in all without detection. In 1863 she contracted malaria, and rather than submit to a medical examination that might reveal her gender, she deserted and resumed civilian life as a woman. Not until 1883 did she confess her secret life as a soldier.

Even more remarkable was the career of Jennie Hodgers, an Irish woman who enlisted under the alias of Albert Cashier in the 95th Illinois Volunteers. Described by a fellow soldier as "the smallest man in the company," she fought at Vicksburg, in the Red River Campaign and at Nashville before being mustered out in 1865. After the War, she kept her masculine identity and even collected a soldier's pension. Not until 1911, when an automobile accident forced her hospitalization for surgery, was her true identity uncovered. When the Bureau of Pensions convened hearings to determine whether to continue her government stipend, her wartime comrades testified in her behalf. The board ruled that Hodgers was indeed a veteran, entitled to all the benefits thereof.



Frances Clalin, who adopted a masculine identity in order to fight with the Federals in Missouri, appears in feminine dress and in the uniform of a state militia cavalryman.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 12, 1993

Bavarian Inn

5220 N.E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa

The GERMAN INTEREST GROUP of the IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
is pleased to present as our speaker

MARALYN A. WELLAUER

recognized authority on German research

"Tools for German Research"

PROGRAM

MORNING

AFTERNOON

8:00 - 9:00	Registration	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and Announcements	1:15 - 2:30	Tracing the Pedigree of a Pre-1850 German Ancestor
9:15 - 10:30	Tracing the Midwestern Germans	2:30 - 2:45	Break and Browse
10:30 - 10:45	Break and Browse	2:45 - 4:00	Seldom Used Keys to Success in German Research
10:45 - 12:00	Emigration and Immigration: Routes and Records	4:00 - 4:10	Door Prize and Closing

Lunch will be prepared by the Bavarian Haus Restaurant  
(available by advance reservation for \$8.00)

(::SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY :: Sunday, June 13 :: SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY::)  
( The Iowa Genealogical Society Library will be open )  
( from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for use by Conference Attendees )

Mail registration to Eunice Smith, Registrar  
3395 E. Broadway  
Des Moines, Iowa 50317  
515-265-1525

REGISTRATION FORM - GERMAN CONFERENCE 1993  
(please print or type)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I will be using  
the IGS library  
on Sunday.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

YES NO

Please list the cities or provinces in Germany in which you have an interest.

FEES:	Preregistration by May 28, 1993	\$14.50	_____
	Registration after May 28, 1993	\$17.00	_____
	Lunch (optional)	8.00	_____
		Total	_____

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO FIRST 175 REGISTRANTS

1993 SOUTHEAST IOWA GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE  
 SATURDAY, MAY 1  
 hosted by  
 Old Fort Genealogical Society

THE NORTH LEE COUNTY HISTORIC CENTER  
 On the River Front, 10th & Avenue H  
 Fort Madison, Iowa

- 8:00-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:10 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10-10:10 Courthouse Research  
Ted Sloane of Davenport
- 10:10-10:30 Break and Browse
- 10:30-11:00 The Half Breed Tract  
Jerry Sloat of Fort Madison
- 11:00-12:00 New England Research  
Alice Sloane of Davenport
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch: Served at the Historical Center IF you  
PRE-register; brown bag; visit local eateries
- 1:30-2:30 When You Find an Indian Princess  
Betty McKray, Margee Bonney, Pete Seaba
- 2:30-2:45 Break and Browse
- 2:45-4:15 Your Photographic Collection  
Kathryn Burkett, Carthage, Ill.

Please let us know in advance if your society would like to have a FREE exhibit table.

#####

ADVANCE REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 15

\_\_\_\_\_ Early-bird Registration - \$4  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Reservation - \$4  
 (Registration at the door - \$6)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your pre-registration to: Old Fort Genealogical Society,  
 PO Box 1, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627

The following genealogical societies are members of the Southeast Iowa Genealogical Conference:  
 Old Fort, South Lee County, Van Buren County, Davis County, Henry County, and Des Moines County.



## GATEWAY TO THE PAST



*A Conference For The Nation's Genealogists  
St. Louis, Missouri  
5-7 August 1993*

Dear fellow genealogists,

Many of you joined us in Phoenix this past August and enjoyed our very successful conference there. We enjoyed meeting many of you and sharing in the camaraderie created when so many genealogists gather in the same place at the same time. The 14th annual Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, to be co-hosted by the Missouri State Genealogical Association, will be held in St. Louis, 5-7 August 1993. A pre-conference workshop dealing with society issues will be held on 4 August 1993. The conference will prove to be another marvelous opportunity for you to advance your genealogical knowledge, and have a great deal of fun in the process.

A national-level genealogical conference is an exhilarating experience! If you haven't yet attended one, here is your chance. Come and join us as we enhance our skills, further our knowledge of resources, advance our understanding of methodology, and last but certainly not least, share our obsession in chasing elusive ancestors with others who are equally obsessed.

Once again this conference will feature sessions for every skill level (beginner through professional) on virtually every aspect of genealogy including ethnic and foreign research, regional/state research, computers, society management, methodology, resources and more. The exhibit hall will be packed with vendors displaying the latest in books, forms, computer software and various genealogical services.

Would you like to know more about the conference? Would you like to see a complete listing of the sessions? The complete information and registration packets will be mailed early in 1993 to those who have requested them. To get your name on the list simply return the request slip below to the FGS office. We'll see that you get your registration packet just as soon as it's off the press.

Plan now to meet us in St. Louis!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors  
Federation of Genealogical Societies

Permission is granted for the duplication of this page for any purpose.



Gateway to the Past  
Federation of Genealogical Societies  
Post Office Box 3385  
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip





# ORMANVILLE

Life on the  
Iowa Frontier, 1850-1900



Silvano A. Wueschner

*St. Andrew's Press*  
*new offering*

available March 25, 1993

## Ormanville: Life on the Iowa

Silvano Wueschner  
1993 Paper 204 pages

ISBN: 0-9636151-0-6 \$12.95

*...a good piece of work...especially in mining the county records - a valuable source not often used - Malcolm Rohrbough, University of Iowa.*

Ormanville is an in-depth study of life on the Iowa frontier that provides a glimpse of Americana essentially the way it was. A readable and stimulating work, it examines the evolution of the Ormanville community, the pattern of settlement, its growth and development, the relationships that existed, and why the community eventually dispersed. This work is based on oral history, public records, family histories, news accounts, and photographic evidence.

### Contents:

- The People and the Land
- Millers and Sawyers
- Farmers
- The Ormanville Community
- Justice on the Frontier
- Medicine on the Frontier
- Preachers and Teachers
- The Community Comes Full Circle

## ORDER FORM

ORMANVILLE ISBN: 0-9636151-0-6 \$12.95

Mail order to:  
St. Andrew's Press  
RR 2 Box 258  
Ottumwa, Ia. 52501-9644

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Total Order \_\_\_\_\_

Sales Tax \_\_\_\_\_  
(IA address add 5%)

Shipping and  
handling \_\_\_\_\_

(Add \$2.00 for the first book  
and \$0.75 for each additional  
book. Allow 2-3 weeks for  
delivery)

Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

In order to better coordinate work among researchers, we are asking you to detach (or photocopy) this section and return it to the Society. These will be kept on file in the library and published once a year in the Newsletter. If you need more room, please feel free to use an additional sheet of paper.

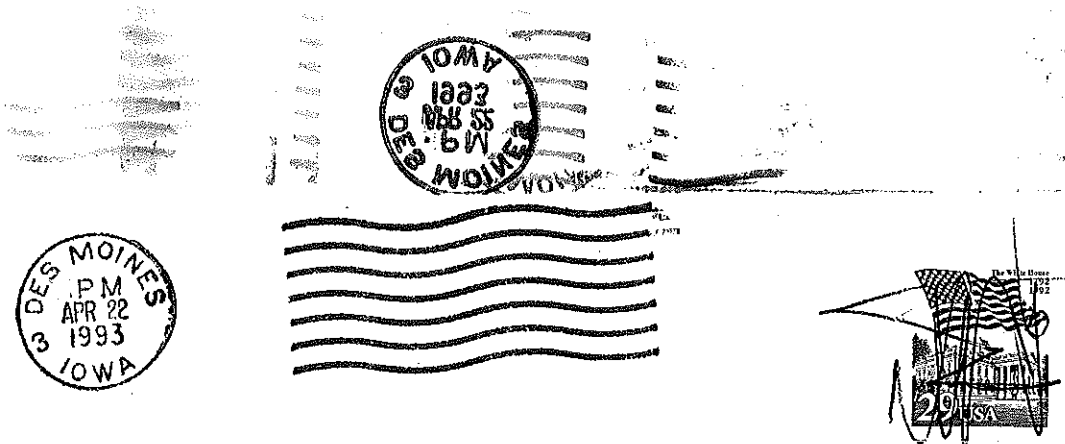
SURNAMES BEING SEARCHED

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



DAVIS CO. GEN SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 94  
BLOOMFIELD IA 52537

Jerry Greene  
205 W. Arkansas  
Bloomfield IA. 52537