

**JASPER COUNTY GLEANER**  
**Volume 45 Issue 1 MAY 2020**

Announcements . . . . . page 1  
The Kelly Family: New York to Iowa – Early Life in Jasper County . . . . . 2  
Politics 150 Years Ago . . . . . 6  
Not for Me . . . . . 7  
News From Around the County . . . . . 8  
Jasper County in the Great Depression of the 1930s, Part 1. . . . .10  
It's All Relative(s). . . . .19

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Update on our library:**

The Jasper County Annex, where our library is located, has been sold to a company that plans to turn the building into apartments. We do not anticipate having to vacate our current library space until sometime in 2021. We will have more information to share with you in our November Gleaner on our web page. If you plan to visit our library toward the end of this year or in 2021, please consult our home page at <http://iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/> for the most up-to-date information.

For now, our library and our mailing address remain:

Jasper Co. Genealogical Society  
115 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. East – Suite C  
Newton, IA 50208-3241

Please use this address, or our email, when writing to us with research requests, dues payments, or anything else.

Our email address is: email address: [jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com)

Our phone number remains 641-792-1522. We cannot return out-of-area phone calls.

**COVID-19 has affected our library operations:** In March, all county-owned buildings were placed on lock-down, and we were unable to get into our library. Buildings recently reopened on a limited basis. In order to protect our volunteers and patrons, JCGS will remain closed through June. **When we reopen on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be enforcing a limit of 2 patrons in the library at a time. Patrons will be required to wear a mask while in the library and socially distance.** We hope to be able to relax these rules in the future if the number of confirmed cases continues to decline.

If there is a resurgence of the virus in the fall, as many experts are predicting, we may be forced to close the library once again. Should that happen, we will post updates about the closure on our web page (see the next item for the URL). We do not have call forwarding, so if our library is forced to close again, please do not leave a message.

**JCGS Research Services:** The price for basic research is \$12.50 per hour plus the cost of copies. Send your check for a minimum of \$12.50 along with up to 2 surnames and specific info on what info you want us to look for.

**For probate files contact us first, preferably by e-mail.** We will give you a price quote that includes research time, cost of copies (at 20c each) and postage.

## **The Kelly Family: New York to Iowa – Early Life in Jasper County, part 4** **By Dennis M. Kelly (1860-1950)**

*Part three of this manuscript, written in 1937, appeared in the November 2019 Gleaner. The author was 8½ years old when he arrived in Newton with his family in 1869. This final installment begins when the author was seventeen years old (1867-1868).*

*The account published here relates the author's transition from a student in Newton to a teaching career of his own.*

The winter I was seventeen, I decided to attend the school in Newton. The previous winter, we had for our teacher, a middle aged man, a Mr. Loomis. He was a farmer living in our own vicinity. Mr. Loomis was the first real teacher in the school. He knew so many things, and told us so many interesting things, and stories taken from literature and lives of men and women of history that he was an inspiration to all of us. He filled our geography lessons with new life. He opened new trains of thought in our reading lessons; he made study a pleasure, not a task; he was a good man, a good scholar, a kind friend – and he knew boys. It was through the teachings of this man that I was led to try the Newton Schools. Mother encouraged the idea and although father said nothing, I knew now that he was pleased to find me interested in school. That fall after our own corn was picked, I found work with farmers far and near who still had corn in the field. In that way, I earned enough money to pay my tuition and buy the necessary books. Early in December when all the corn was in the crib, I made ready for my new venture. At this time we were living on the recently acquired Fowler place. The home here was a great improvement over the one in which we had been living. It was a one and half story house with lath and plaster – a really comfortable dwelling protected from the winds by a beautiful grove of huge elm trees. Newton was four and one half miles from our place [the western edge of town is now only about 2 miles east of the farm], but a walk of that distance meant nothing to me in those days. Just a time of freedom to think matters over. It was only when the snow was deep and the roads unbroken, which occurred a few times that winter, that walking was anything of a task. I was never tardy even when the roads were blocked.

The schoolhouse in Newton was a square, red building on the same site as the present Central [High School] Building [now a Fareway grocery store]. I am not sure as to the number of rooms in this building, but there were not more than ten or twelve. When I presented myself to the school superintendent, a Mr. Steven, he was at a loss to know just where to place me... I was about six feet tall at that time, thin as a snake, and had a home-made hair cut. Then, too, a bit of the brogue still thickened my tongue and decorated many of my words. He asked me a number of questions about myself and my school work, quizzed me a little on my knowledge, and being a school teacher true to type, he asked questions that I couldn't answer. I knew arithmetic and elementary algebra. I had geography, as it was then taught, well in hand. I could spell any word in McGuffey's speller. I could read well enough to know something of what it was all about and I could sometimes read my own writing, but I had never studied either grammar or history and it was in those two subjects that he had me guessing. Mr. Stevens finally decided to send me to the sixth grade teacher. I stayed with her just a day or two and she sent me to the eighth grade. I didn't fit in her [class] either so I was again transplanted. This time to the garden of the ninth grade where I took root, but failed to

flourish. I never did adjust myself to conditions in this school. I was a misfit. In some subject, I was beyond them in understanding, and in others they were far beyond me...

I was never very happy in school. It was a school for the boys and girls of the town. I was from the country and didn't seem to belong. As far as I know there was no other boy from the country attending, at least I never came in touch with one. At the end of a couple of months, I transferred to Hazel Dell Academy, a school conducted by grand old Darius Thomas. Practically all of his pupils were from the country and here I was perfectly happy. Hazel Dell Academy was a notable institution in Jasper County, and did more for education amongst boys and girls of that day than ever can be estimated. Here the pupils worked for a purpose, here they were under the leadership of a man whose dry wit and keen mind and wise counsel made work a joy, and leadership, in life, a worthy goal. In the academy, we were not confined to a grade, but were assigned to classes to which we were adapted. Here I studied elementary physics, advanced algebra, physiology, and grammar. This was my first real experience with grammar and, to tell the truth, the experience was rather sad. The two and one half months at Hazel Dell Academy was really the beginning and the end of my schooling informal grammar. In fact, my only schooling of any kind after this term at Hazel Dell was to Spring terms at the Ames College [now Iowa State University] in 1882 and 1883.

I had to leave Hazel Dell before the end of that term, for the spring work on the farm was in full swing and I was needed there. I never rebelled against farm work. I really enjoyed working in the fields but doing daily chores over and over in the same old way, morning, noon, and night was a task that never appealed to me. I was always groping after something else, but I didn't know just what that something was. One day it was this, and the next day it was something else. I had daydreams, of course, as every boy seems to have but never reached a decision on the course to follow. If in [those] days we had boys' clubs, stock judging, husking contests, soil studies, and dramatic contests, such as the farmers have today, I am quite sure that farming would have been my life's work.

That summer after the harvesting was finished, my friend Ed came to see me one day while I was out in the field at work. He said that he was going to attend a teachers' institute in Newton and wanted me to join him...Four weeks of institute cost but one dollar and by attending and passing the examinations for teaching at the end of that time, we would be granted a certificate to teach. To be a schoolteacher sounded as far beyond my reach as if I were to be a King. However, I agreed to let him know my decision after I talked it over with the family. Work on the farm eases up for a few weeks after harvest, so no objections were raised to my attendance at the county Teacher's Institute. As always, mother encouraged me to make the attempt and even suggested that it would be a fine thing to become a schoolteacher...

When I enrolled the next Monday morning in my first institute, I had no idea of ever being a teacher. Being a teacher was so far beyond my reach that it was ridiculous to even think of such a thing, but it was a chance to get a little schooling at a price within my reach and then, too, I did want to know what it was all about. In that gathering of more than three hundred people, there were old teachers, young teachers, and would be teachers. With but few exceptions they were serious minded, bent on acquiring a better knowledge of the work they were called upon to do. The institute opened a new world to me... At the beginning of [the institute] I had no intention of taking the examination for a [teaching] certificate, but changed my mind after the first week... I wrote the test for a license to teach with but slight hope of winning the now coveted document. I heard

nothing from my venture for some three weeks which convinced me that my attempt was a failure. Then one day when hope was drying, in asking for our mail at the general delivery window of the post office, I was handed an official envelope with my name upon it. I hurried outside the room where no eyes but mine could see, tore open the envelope, and there was a teacher's certificate licensing one Dennis Kelly to teach in the public schools of Jasper County...

The next thing, of course was to find a school director willing to take a long chance on my ability to teach his school. My thought was to find a neighborhood where no one knew me or my record in the home school. To this end, I went to see the director of a school in the northwestern part of the county who, I was informed, wanted to have a man teacher for the winter term. This man, a Mr. Hand, looked me over from head to toe with a cold, hard eye... "You go to dances don't you?" "Yes, sir," I answered. "We don't want a teacher in our school who dances," said Mr. Hand...

I heard of no other vacancies although I made many inquiries during the passing days. I was growing discouraged over the prospects when a kind Fate intervened. Brother Bat was director of the home school at this time and the teacher selected for the next term, or some reason...returned her contract. This left the position open for some other applicant. The time for opening school was nearing and as no one appeared, Bat suggested that I might try the job... I knew every pupil in that school intimately. I had been in school myself with most of them. I knew the parents as well as the conditions existing in every home in the district. I knew those who were handicapped, those who were negligent, and those who were ambitious...

I have never been so happy in my life as I was in my work of trying to teach in this school. I hated to see the Saturday intermission come and dreaded the end of the term. I knew nothing about methods of teaching, but put my whole heart into the effort of making these children acquire some learning. This term of school was for three months. My contract was for three months at thirty=five dollars per month. I drew no money until the end of the term. Now with one hundred five dollars in my pocket, I was rich beyond my dreams. I gave mother one hundred dollars of that princely sum to make up the last payment on our farm and with the remaining five in my possession, I had enough to satisfy every desire of the human heart.

Another well-remembered and momentous term of school that I taught in this same district occurred some time later. This was a fall term of two months something new in the arrangement of school terms in our township. It was momentous because a new pupil enrolled: a fifteen year old girl whose name was Anna Hughes. She lived with her widowed mother and a younger brother with the children's grandfather, S. H. DeVaughn, in an adjoining school district. Anna's father, Captain John Hughes, had been a soldier in the Civil War. He was wounded by a mini rifle bullet through the lungs in the Second Battle of Bull Run. The DeVaughns lived in Alexandria, VA during the Civil War. It was here...while recuperating from his wounds in the soldier's hospital, that he met and wooed and won Frances DeVaughn. After this marriage they moved west. Anna, their eldest child, was born in Davenport, IA...[Then] the families moved to a farm in Jasper County where they were living at the time Anna entered my school. Captain Hughes died of tuberculosis induced by the wound received while serving his country as a soldier of the Union. He was a native of Canada...

[Anna Hughes] had black hair, black eyes, a rather shy but attractive smile, and a winning personality...Five years later [1886] we were married...

During the winter of eighty-four, I was teaching for fifty dollars a month. The township paid forty dollars under the school law and the patrons of the district paid me the extra ten dollars from their own pockets just because they wanted someone who would give them a good school. At least that was the argument they gave me. I had been in this school some two months when the County Superintendent of Schools came to see me one day. He drove out from Newton for the sole purpose of getting me a better job. He told me that he had a letter from the secretary of the school board in Prairie City asking him to help them find a teacher for their high school. He wanted me to apply and handed me a letter that recommended me for the position. The following Saturday, I went to Prairie City to look the situation over before applying for the position. I found that the principal of the school, in attempting to correct one of the high school boys the week before, was roundly thrashed by the boy. The principal left town without any farewells and mailed back his resignation. The high school teacher was promoted to the principalship and the vacancy to be filled was due to this promotion. I applied for the job and was elected on the spot. I found a teacher who was acceptable to the Director of my school and was released from my contract with him. The next week I was at work in the Prairie City Schools and definitely launched on a humble career that covered a period of forty-eight years.

*EDITOR'S NOTE:*

*Obituaries in both the Waterloo Courier and Webster City, Apr. 19, 1950, stated that Dennis M. Kelly later served as principal at Prairie City. He then went Colfax as Superintendent of Schools for several years before leaving Jasper County for the superintendent's job in Corning, IA. From 1896-1907 he was superintendent at Cedar Falls followed by thirteen years spent at Webster City (1908-1921). He returned to Colfax for ten years, where he closed out his career in education. The Kellys moved back to Cedar Falls, where he worked for a time in the insurance business.*

*Mr. Kelly also wrote poetry and was a lecturer on the Chautauqua circuit around the turn of the century.*

*He was survived by a son, Dr. Dennis H. Kelly, of Des Moines, and three daughters: Katharine Kelly and Mrs. Will Casey, both of Cedar Falls, and Mrs. Robert Cunningham of Park Ridge, IL.*

*Mrs. Kelly preceded her husband in death in Jan. 1939.*

---

If you have ancestors who owned, or worked in, a business building in downtown Newton in the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this might interest you:

Newton Main Street's Design Committee and Sign Pro have used historic photos of the business and factory district to create "wraps" to cover the seven large traffic signal utility boxes along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in the downtown. Check Newton Main Street's Facebook page for photos of the first two wraps and an interview posted on June 11<sup>th</sup> by Jon Dunwell.

## Politics 150 Years Ago

The 2020 election race promises to be a contentious affair at the state and national levels. In 1870 there were only three incorporated towns in Jasper County, but plenty of hotly contested races at the local level in Jasper County.

From the 1878 *History of Jasper County, Iowa*, we find the following candidates being victorious of local elections of 1870 in Jasper County:

In **Monroe**, which was incorporated in 1868, W. L. LeFever, mayor, and M.K. Campbell, recorder, were among the town's first elected officials who began serving on Dec. 31, 1868. In 1870 the only reported winners were: J. Kipp, mayor and Willett Howard, recorder. Presumably all the other elected officials continued to serve in their positions in 1870. They included:

William Johnson, treasurer                      John I. Nichols, marshal  
L. M. Shaw, Seth Dixon, J. B. Bennington, John Morrison, & A. S. Ellwood, trustees

Results of the **Newton** election, held May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1870:

J. A. Hammer, mayor                              L. B. Westbrook, recorder  
A. J. Osborn, treasurer                              W. C. Hough, assessor  
J. A. Garrett, M. A. Hammer, J. A. Wilson, C. Connelly, M. A. Blanchard & J. J. Vaughan, city councilmen

**Prairie City's** first Council meeting was held in Oct. 1868. The elected officials at that time were:

Sidney Williams, mayor                              C. Head, recorder  
J. W. Hammond, \_\_\_\_\_ Dustin, E. Adkins, H. H. Kirtland, & H. J. Hills, trustees

In Sept. 1870, whether by election or appointment, W. G. Clements succeeded A. H. Kirtland as recorder. In the Nov. 10, 1870 edition of the *Prairie City Gleaner & Herald* the councilmen were listed as B. F. Worden, T. J. Reigart, J. S. Raymond, H. L. McGinitie, and D. C. Gifford, councilmen. The election date was not specified.

The town of **Baxter** was not incorporated until 1894.

**Colfax** did not have municipal elections until 1875.

**Kellogg** did not officially become a town until 1874.

**Lynnville's** first elections as a municipality occurred in 1875.

**Mingo** was platted in 1884

**Sully** was not incorporated until 1882.

Despite **Vandalia** having been "laid out" in 1851 (or 1853, depending on the source) and having nearly 500 residents by 1865, the 1878 history book did not mention any elections being held, and it has never been listed as a town in the federal census. This village" was apparently never formally incorporated.

The items below were taken from the *Prairie City Gleaner and Herald*, 25 June, 1870. Prior to its sale in Sept. 1870, the *Prairie City Gleaner & Herald* was a Republican-leaning paper, so these may have been from the Republican conventions.

Jasper County Convention delegated elected to attend the Congressional Convention:

J. A. Garret (of Newton)	C. W. Israel (residence unknown)
G(eorge) B. Hogin (of Newton)	Thos. Arthur (of Newton)
G. M. Wilson (of Clear Creek Twp.?)	J. R. Zollinger (of Newton)
C. D. Conwell (of Independence Twp.)	D. G. Winchell (Des Moines Twp.)
R. W. Chapin (residence unknown)	J. H. Tait (of Malaka Twp.)
A. K. Campbell (of Newton)	Thos. Vannatta (of Newton Twp.)
David Edmundson (of Newton)	M. Greenleaf (residence unknown)

Delegates from Jasper County at the Circuit Judicial Convention at Pella, 21 June, 1870:

Geo. B. Hogin (of Newton)	Theophilus Bethel (of Fairview Twp.)
G. T. Anderson (of Newton)	Wm. Hawk (of Newton; county sheriff 1870)
David Ryan (of Newton)	F(rank) S. Campbell (of Newton)
I. A. Hammer (of Colfax?)	A. K. Campbell (of Newton)
J. W. Deweese (of Prairie City)	Robert Ryan (of Newton)
Sidney Williams (of Fairview Twp.)	Chauncy Howard (of Newton)

*NOTE: All twelve delegates voted for S. N. Lindley of Jasper County over J. B. Morris. Lindley got the nomination. Mayor S. G. Smith, of Jasper County was nominated for District Attorney.*

---

In a few short lines, the following poem gives a good overview of the life of the lives of our pioneer ancestors. It was written by Ruth Shook and published in the Chariton County, MO Newsletter, April 1989.

### NOT FOR ME

When we were living those "good old days"  
They didn't seem so good.  
We read by the light of a Kerosene lamp  
And heated our homes with wood.  
We carried water up the hill  
To wash with, cook, and scrub.  
And we took our baths behind the stove  
In a galvanized laundry tub.

I still can smell the old lye soap  
And feel the sting and hurt  
When some of it got in my eyes,  
But it really got the dirt.  
We slept on cornhusk mattresses –  
Sometimes three in a bed.  
If you were late you got the foot;  
The early ones took the head.

We waded snow, and ice, and mud  
To get to the "seat of learning"  
With a potbellied stove that froze our backs  
While our fronts were nearly burning.  
We drank from a cup by a water pail  
On a bench where the teacher put it;  
And whatever ailment any kid had,  
The rest were sure to get it.

In winter you milked in a drafty barn  
While the wind whistled through the cracks;  
And the swirling snow, while you were inside,  
Filled up your fresh-made tracks.  
A little house at the end of a patch  
Half-hidden with brush and weeds,  
In summers' heat and winters' cold  
Served other family needs.

Now you may look with envious eyes  
To these times – if you are 20.  
But I've been through those "good old days"  
And once, my friend, is plenty!

## News From Around the County

Published in *The Newton Record*, March 1 and March 8, 1895

### From Sully (Friday, March 1):

- Miss Jessie Rickman, who has been teaching school south of Sully, returned to her home in Newton on Monday.
- Mr. and Mrs. Will Talbot, of Sigourney, spent a few days with Mr. Talbot's father at Sully.
- John Croy Jr. was at Chicago last week to see his father, who is there under medical treatment.

### From Metz (Friday, March 1):

- Frank Climer and Myrtle Greenleaf were married Wednesday [Feb. 27].
- Mr. Marsh and wife, of Ohio, have moved into the house with Mr. Chas. Walker.
- There is a good deal of sickness in this neighborhood. Sam Clement is sick. Geo. Chapman and family are all sick. Frank Hardenbrook and family are better.

### In February District Court (Friday, March 1):

- Estate of Timothy Sullivan. The will of Timothy Sullivan, deceased, was contested but afterwards the contestants withdrew their motion and the will was admitted to probate... Timothy Sullivan in open court declined to accept the trust of will. Adam Kling appointed administrator.
- Guardianship of Harry Ritter, minor – Final – Approved and... guardian discharged.
- Reports of administrators were approved and the administrators discharged for the following estates: Isaiah I. Dodge; W. C. Parvin; and J. M. Kennedy.
- Henry Gross vs. G. W. Brown – Trial to jury. Verdict returned for the plaintiff for \$3,500. Judgment on the verdict for \$3,500 and costs.
- Mary E. Platt vs. George Marsh – Trial begun to jury but case settled during trial and judgment accordingly.
- John V. Yowell vs. L. C. Carpenter. Settled and costs paid. (no further information provided).
- State of Iowa vs. George Cowman – Plea of guilty – fined \$50 and costs paid.
- State of Iowa vs. Wm. Shephard – Plea of guilty - fined \$50 and costs paid.
- State of Iowa vs. B. F. Morris - Plea of guilty - fined \$50 and costs paid.
- State of Iowa vs. Charles Offill - Plea of guilty - fined \$50 and costs paid.
- State of Iowa vs. Thomas Stevenson - Plead guilty and fined one dollar and costs of prosecution.
- State vs. E. Ewing - Plead guilt and sentenced to penitentiary at Ft. Madison at hard labor and costs of prosecution.

### From Newton & vicinity (Friday, March 8):

- Mrs. A. M. Carl invited a number of friends to a 6:00 tea Saturday evening in honor of Mr. Carl's 34<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Miss Cora Long has resumed her work among her music scholars down the Central [sic; is this a reference to Newton's Central High School?]. Miss Long is very popular with her scholars.
- Frank Thomas is the new clerk at the Lambert House [hotel].
- D. H. Reinking shipped his household goods yesterday to Clarence, Iowa. Mr. Reinking expects to leave for the same place in a week or ten days.

- Rasmussen & Martin have the contract and are now busy at work on a house on the farm of T. W. Hough, eight miles southeast of town.
- J. M. Rayburn, J. B. Eyerly and several others are going to attend the reunion which is to be held at the battlefield of Shiloh the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Jacob Trotter has sold his home, known as the Longfellow place, to L. M. Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow has rented his farm and with his family will move to town.
- Dr. A. B. Palmer goes to Iowa City tomorrow to attend commencement exercises of the Dental Dept. of the State University. His brother, C. A. Palmer, is one of the graduates.
- Dwight Van Gleson goes to Ft. Worth, TX, tomorrow to take charge of a branch office of the W. I. Price & Co.'s installment house of Kansas City.
- The friends of genial Elmer Graham, day clerk at the Churchill [Hotel], sympathize with him in the loss of his father, who died Wednesday [Feb. 27] evening at Wapello.
- W. O. McElroy will visit his sister, who lives near Columbus, [OH].
- W. H. Shaw and family arrived in [Newton] the first of the week from their former home at Flint IA. They are moving onto B. Battles' farm, four miles northwest of the city.
- D. L. Burnett is taking a week's vacation from his duties as engineer on the Monroe branch and is visiting with friends at Davenport and Rock Island.
- After spending the winter with her brother Will and family in Toledo, OH, Miss Mary Richards returned home last Sunday.
- Rev. S. J. Huffman...will attend the wedding of his brother, L. S. Huffman, who is to be married at Ogden, IA, next Wednesday evening to Miss Jennie Neel.
- Mrs. James Richmond died Wednesday afternoon at her home in this city after a protracted illness. The deceased was in her 74<sup>th</sup> year and was the mother of a large family...the remains were taken to a cemetery near Baxter for burial.
- Miss Kittie Matthews took the flyer Tuesday for St. Cloud, MN, where she will make an extended visit with her sister, Mrs. Daisy Jennings. Wednesday evening [will be] the first anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jennings.
- Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Allen spent Sunday at Grinnell with their daughter, Mrs. Harry Ritter.
- C. L. Connelly went to Chicago to spend a few days with his daughter, Mrs. J. A. Kelly.
- Miss Madge Douglas went to Grinnell Saturday evening to spend a few days with her sister, Mrs. E. G. Paine.
- S. P. Goodier shipped two car loads of household goods, farm implements, etc., to Everly, IA, near which place Mr. Goodier and family will make their home hereafter. Mr. Goodier has been a resident of this county for a number of years.
- John Dickson shipped his household goods Monday to Creston, IA, near which place he has purchased a farm and where, with his family, he will reside in the future. Business the past winter, previous to that time he was engaged in farming, five miles southeast of Kellogg.
- Campbell & Vanatta is a new real estate firm that will open up for business in a few days, in the office of J. W. Allfree. I. E. Campbell is from Kellogg, where he was in the real estate business...previous[ly] he was engaged in farming, five miles southeast of Kellogg. The Junior member, C. F. Vanatta, is a young man of integrity and ability. He has an acquaintance all over the county.
- The old home of Elias Moffitt, two miles west of town, will in the spring be replaced by a fine new residence with all the modern improvements and conveniences...The new [home] will yield to 'Lias and Irena those real comforts of life which long years of toll have earned for them.
- Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Lawrence...left for their new home at Commerce, Polk County.
- Gene Errett has gone to Boone to take the position of clerk in the Butler House.

## Jasper County in the Great Depression of the 1930s, part 1

by Rita Reinheimer

*When I began researching this article, in the summer of 2019, the thought that I could soon be living through a Great Depression never occurred to me. And yet, nine months later, the COVID-19 pandemic has plunged our country into its most serious recession since the 1930s. In early May of 2020, unemployment in the country stood at 14.7%, the highest level since the Great Depression. Many of our citizens are struggling to pay their rent or mortgages, and they worry about having enough food to feed their family. Food banks and soup kitchens across the state are stretched to the limit trying to help the overwhelming number of individuals who are experiencing food insecurity. In other words, many residents of Jasper County are suffering economically, physically, and/or emotionally, much as our ancestors did in the 1930s.*

*The article below will deal with the bank closures that affected life in Jasper County during the Great Depression. Unfortunately, with libraries closed since mid-March, my research was cut short before I was able to get full details about every bank that closed and about the corrective measures that had to be taken before they were allowed to reopen without restrictions. However, the information I have been able to gather should give readers a fair idea of the economic problems and uncertainties Jasper County citizens faced during the banking crisis.*

*Part 2 of this story, which will appear in the November Gleaner, will focus more on Jasper County residents' day-to-day lives in the early 1930s.*

---

The U. S. economy had been slowly worsening throughout much of the 1920s, but it was the Stock Market Crash that took place over the six-day period of Oct. 24-29, 1929, that plunged our country into the Great Depression. Over the next few years an estimated 9,000 banks across the country failed and countless Americans lost part, or all, of their life's savings. The website [thegreatdepression.com](http://thegreatdepression.com) revealed that in 1933 alone more than 140 billion dollars in bank deposits were lost.

The effect of events surrounding the Stock Market Crash was felt almost immediately in Jasper County. On October 31, 1929, the *Colfax Tribune* reported that the Maytag Company had ordered all of its employees to move to Newton, in an effort to improve what it called "efficiency in the factory." Employees living out of town reported having difficulty finding suitable housing in Newton, where rents were much higher. Those who owned houses in other parts of the county faced the dilemma of possibly losing their jobs if they failed to comply with the order or experiencing further economic hardships if they sold their houses at a loss or could not find a buyer. To date, no evidence has been found to show that the Maytag Company ever enforced its order to move.

As the Depression worsened, many depositors across the county began pulling part, or all, of their money from the banks. As word spread throughout a community that people were withdrawing their savings, others soon followed suit. Remember the angry "run" on the Bedford Falls bank in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*? Based on what I have read, there probably was a lot of truth in the way it was depicted in the movie. The website [History.com](http://History.com) reports four waves of banking panics across the country: these occurred in the fall of 1930, spring and fall of 1931, and again in the fall of 1932.

An article on [encyclopedia.com](http://encyclopedia.com) reported that by 1933 nearly 40% of America's banks had failed or been forced to merge with other banks, and about 90% of failed banks were small institutions with few assets. By national standards, Jasper County's banks in

the 1930s could have been described as small, locally-owned institutions with relatively few assets, and a number of our banks closed their doors at one time or another.

Iowa had a set procedure for dealing with a closed bank. As soon as a bank failed to open for business, it surrendered its charter and was taken over by the state's Dept. of Banking and Finance. A "receiver" from the Department was appointed to deal with the bank's business and work out a plan for repaying its depositors and creditors.

An article in the *Pella Chronicle* on Oct. 22, 1931, quoted T. H. Klein, an attorney and the assistant cashier at the failed Security State Bank in Pella, who stated that a new bank could eventually be created [or *reorganized*] in the same building by the stockholders. Klein explained that under state law "double the liability" could be assessed against stockholders. The newspaper provided an example: "If a man has \$500 invested, the state can assess him an additional \$500." The newspaper also stressed that just because a person was assessed did not mean he would actually have the ability to pay.

As part of the reorganization process the bank's shareholders would have to raise a certain amount of capital, based on its deposits and liabilities, and 100% of the bank's depositors would have to sign a waiver agreeing to leave a certain percentage of their money in the bank for a specified period of time. The entire process of raising money and collecting depositors' signatures could take a year or more to complete. Until then the bank could only operate in a limited capacity.

### **Bank Failures: The Domino Effect**

In Jasper County the banking crisis hit its peak in the fall of 1931. The first bank closure in the county appears to have occurred on Sept. 19, when the **Citizens State Bank of Colfax** shut its doors. A news article announcing the closure stated that "after the receiver who is appointed has familiarized himself with the details of the bank, the doors will be opened and all depositors or those having business with the bank may call and secure information regarding the liquidating of the institution." At the time, the bank reported assets of \$50,000 in capital stock and a surplus of \$10,000; deposits [considered "liabilities" on a banking ledger] were nearly \$246,000. By November 5, 1934, depositors had received dividends amounting to 17% on their original deposits. This bank never reopened, and whether depositors ever received more dividends is unknown.

Following the failure of the bank at Colfax, closures of other banks in the county quickly followed. **Newton's First National Bank**, located on the north side of the "Square," failed to open for business on October 6, 1931. Officers at the time of the closure were: A. H. Bergman, president; L. A. Russell, vice president and cashier; and other directors, W. H. Jasper, H. C. Korf, F. H. Bergman, M. G. Addicks, and Wesley McClary.

*Identified as stockholders in the bank, and therefore liable for contributing a part of the capital to be raised, were Minnie Achtemeier, M. G. Addicks, H. B. Allfree, Blanche Allfree, W. C. Bergman estate, A. H. Bergman, F. H. Bergman, Mrs. Minnie Benjamin, Edna S. Betts, H. E. Berhenke, Gertrude B. Davis, Emma F. Dobbs, Charles Griebeling estate, Emma Wettstein, Bertha Graham, W. H. Jasper, Ella V. Eberhard, F. V. Jasper, J. B. Kerr, H. C. Korf, Patience E. W. Korf, Wilhelmina Korf,*

*L. B. Maytag, Wesley McClary, Eudora McGregor estate, C. B. Ritter, L. A. Russell, and John P. Ramer.*

*In order to reorganize and eventually reopen, this bank had to raise \$100,000 as capital stock, which was done in a week, and every depositor of the failed bank had to waive a certain amount of the money s/he had on deposit, with the bank giving promissory notes and mortgages to reimburse the depositors for their waivers.*

*During its reorganization the First National Bank of Newton adopted the name of **Newton National Bank**. In January 1932, it was still in the process of collecting signatures on waivers from all of the original bank depositors, a process that took much longer than had been anticipated because of problems contacting out-of-area depositors. The reorganized bank officially reopened in its same location on March 30, 1932, and seems to have functioned normally after that date.*

*At its annual meeting in January 1934 the board of directors announced it would pay stockholders a dividend of \$2.50 per share. H. C. McCardell was re-elected president and O. L. Karsten was re-elected cashier.*

The **Reasnor Savings Bank** failed to open for business on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1931. The only bank in the town of Reasnor, it had about \$100,000 in deposits. William Kirkpatrick was the bank president, and H. A. Linder was cashier. By November 1933 the depositors had been repaid 35% of the money in their accounts.

October 16, 1931, brought the closure of the **Sully State Bank** at Sully. A. C. Boat was the bank president, and L. H. Macy, the bank's cashier. Stockholders who would be assessed were: Emmet Awtry, W. C. Bergman estate, B. R. Benjamin, A. C. Boat, Gysbert Blom, Fred W. Castorf, Susie Castorf, Lou Etta Conover, W. T. Conover, Tunis H. Klein, H. E. De Reus, Alida C. Dieleman, D. J. Eberhart, Charles Griebeling estate, W. H. Jasper, Herman W. Kooistra, H. C. Korf, C. O. Macy, L. H. Macy, Anna C. McNeil, C. V. Shipman, D. Sjaardema, C. J. Sparks, Albert Vander Kamp, Stoffel Vander Pol, Bertha Vander Pol, Andrew Van Zante, Andrew Van Zante trustee [sic], and C. Zimmerman.

*A week after Sully State's closure, its stockholders and depositors voted to reorganize the bank, rather than open a new one. The reorganization plan required the raising of \$25,000 in capital stock for the new establishment, along with a surplus of \$6,250. All depositors would be required to sign an agreement waiving 30% of their deposits. A committee selected to raise the capital stock was comprised of Lambert Moes, E. Buitenaars, William Lanfer, W. P. Conover, F. F. DeJong, Albert VanderKamp, and Henry Lambert, chairman.*

*Sully State Bank paid its depositors a 30% dividend on April 8, 1932. Nothing was found in subsequent county newspapers to indicate that it ever reopened.*

In the wake of the Sully bank closure on Oct. 16, and the failure of the Security State Bank at nearby Pella the following day, the **Kellogg Savings Bank** and **Killduff State Bank** announced on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1931, that they were merging, moving all their funds to the bank at Kellogg, and would thereafter operate under the name **Kellogg State Bank**. The merger was expected to reduce operating costs, and their combined assets would hopefully help them withstand depositors' demands. Both banks were already affiliated with the **Jasper County Savings Bank** in Newton.

*On March 29, 1934, a notice to creditors of the **Killduff State Bank**, signed by the receiver for the bank, appeared in the Jasper County Mirror. The notice called for all depositors' claims against the Killduff State Bank to be submitted to Iowa's Superintendent of Banking by May 7, or be forever barred. Real estate owned by the bank was later advertised for sale by the receiver. The receivership of this bank most likely was tasked with settling its affairs associated with its merger with the Kellogg Savings Bank. There was no indication found that the **Kellogg State Bank** ever went into receivership.*

On Oct. 22, 1931 the *Colfax Tribune* reported that the **First State Bank at Lynnville** had closed briefly for several hours in the morning of Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> "to protect the institution." After bank officers explained its financial situation to depositors and quieted the "unrest" that had existed, the bank re-opened for business that same afternoon, and thereafter remained open.

*Lynnville bank depositors may have fallen victim to false rumors, as happened at Leighton (28 mi. south of Lynnville, in Mahaska Co.). An article in the Pella Chronicle, Oct. 29, 1931, detailed that situation: "Leighton Bank Victim of False Rumors", the headline proclaimed. The paper reported that a few of the town's residents had panicked after hearing rumors of problems at the bank, but bank officials were able to squelch the rumors and avoid closure. Bank officials seemed to think that out-of-town agitators were spreading misinformation in a number of towns in the area.*

*The Chronicle also stated that a person who spreads a rumor concerning the solvency of a bank or repeats a libelous statement made by another is subject to a term in the penitentiary. In researching this article, nothing was found to indicate that anyone was ever prosecuted for spreading such rumors.*

Meanwhile, the bank at **Newburg Savings Bank** in northeast Jasper County, had failed on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1931. John Newcomer was president of the bank and A. K. Murphy, the cashier. At the time of its closure, the bank had about \$80,000 in deposits. Shareholders were assessed 100% of the value of their stock to help pay depositors. A. K. Murphy was the largest stockholder in the bank, with 100 shares. Other shareholders, many of whom owned 10 shares or less were: E. C. Burrough, R. M. Burroughs, W. A. Craig Estate, Mary E. Dunn, Emma Fisher, Clyde Foster, Mary E. Fuller, P. Y. Fuller, D. F. Grass, Edgar J. Harris, James Lowry, Robert Madill, F. F. Michaels, W. S. Murdock, Charles O. Newcomer, C. J. Newcomer, John Newcomer, Joe Newcomer Estate, George Palmer, K. E. Phillips Estate, S. J. Pooley, Wm. Robbins, J. G. Sage Estate, O. P. Walker, Watlund Lumber Co., and Fred Weaver.

*No further mention of this, or any other bank in Newburg, was found until the County Board of Supervisors acknowledged on July 3, 1934 that the stock of the Newburg Savings bank was of no value. It is therefore assumed that the bank's closure in 1931 left the town of Newburg without a banking institution.*

### **New Regulations Guide Banking**

In 1931 and succeeding years counties in Iowa were required to contribute money to the "State Sinking Fund." The sinking fund was used to take care of public money that had been tied up in closed banks. Jasper County banks sent a total of \$16,139 to the fund in 1931 and reported a contribution of \$2,539 for months of July and August 1934, with the money coming from interest received on county-owned accounts in the various

banks. In 1934 banks at Prairie City, Monroe, and Colfax received money from this fund.

During 1932 and 1933 both the state and federal governments adopted a number of measures designed to help mitigate the banking crisis. By June 1932, banking institutions were allowed to collect a tax of 2 cents on each check, draft, or money order written from one person to another. Travellers checks were also taxed. This tax was to continue until July 1, 1934.

In January 1933 a new Iowa law allowed the State Superintendent of Banking to take over the management of a struggling bank, if requested by the bank's board of directors. This measure allowed banks to avoid having to declare insolvency, which would have required closing the bank, appointing a receiver, and subsequent reorganization measures.

On March 6, 1933, less than 36 hours after his inauguration as President, and because of the continuing failures of banks around the country, Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered all banking transactions in the United States to cease immediately. Thus began what has become known as a "banking holiday." On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Congress passed the Emergency Banking Act, which allowed the twelve Federal Reserve Banks to issue additional currency on a bank's good assets (as certified by bank examiners). Until bank examiners completed their evaluations of each bank's resources and operating procedures and "released" the bank from restrictions, citizens could only deposit money to their accounts or withdraw funds that they had deposited since March 6<sup>th</sup>. This made it possible for banks to accommodate legitimate withdrawals of depositors' funds and better manage their assets. Banks in good financial shape that belonged to the Federal Reserve system could pass inspection pretty quickly, while others' ability to resume full operations could be delayed for months.

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1933 marked the first of Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats", this one explaining to the public the purpose of the banking legislation that was just passed. On March 13, banks that had joined the Federal Reserve were allowed to reopen. That same day, the Iowa legislature passed a law enabling Iowa banks to join the Federal Reserve system. By March 15<sup>th</sup> about 90% of banking operations across the country had resumed. The result of the "banking holiday" was that deposits began to outpace withdrawals, and the banking crisis slowly began to abate. Still, it would take years and additional legislation, including development of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (F.D.I.C.) before the banking industry was once again stable.

In response to F.D.R.'s banking holiday the Iowa legislature had passed Senate File 111, which allowed banks found to be on the brink of insolvency to reorganize without going into receivership. A number of Jasper County were reorganized under this Act that protected all new deposits as well as making available some money that had been deposited before F.D.R.'s banking holiday. In November 1934, Iowa's governor, Clyde Herring stated that the F.D.I.C., which guaranteed the security of deposits, was modeled after Iowa's S.F. 111 legislation.

### **Effects of the 1933 Laws on Jasper County Banks**

The **First National Bank of Colfax** survived the original round of closures that occurred in Jasper County during 1931-32. At the bank's annual meeting, held in January 1932,

the officers and directors from the previous year were re-elected. They included: F. E. Boyd, president; F. M. Gagle, vice president; H. E. Bell, cashier; R. E. Cummings and J. H. Cairns, assistant cashiers; and additional directors: Ed Bollhoefer and H. E. Bell.

*Unfortunately, the bank was not able to fully withstand the pressures of the Depression. On May 2, 1933, the Jasper County Board of Supervisors approved a creditors' agreement with the trustees of the **First National Bank of Colfax**, "now **suspended**," and being operated under the provisions of S.F. 111. A newspaper report of the Supervisors' meeting revealed that a new National bank was being organized in Colfax. It would purchase certain assets of the old bank and would assume a percentage of liability and the "assets of the said bank so eliminated will be conveyed to Henry Byal, W. S. Cutter and H. E. Bell as trustees for the benefit of all creditors...". Depositors were being asked to sign a waiver to keep 25% of their deposits in the old bank. In November 1934 a District Court judge approved the payment of a 5% dividend to the bank's depositors. Two other dividends of 6% each had previously been paid to depositors. No report has been found that told when the bank opened unrestricted.*

The story of Monroe' banks was a little more complicated to piece together. In April 1931, the **Monroe National Bank** and the **State Savings Bank** had consolidated, reopening as the **Monroe State Bank**. The new officers at the time were: C. B. Livingston, president; William Livingston and Frank Chipps, vice-presidents; Ulrie Clevenger, head cashier; and Laurel Buckley and R. O. Kingdon, assistant cashiers. A receiver was appointed for the old State Savings Bank accounts in April 1933 to clear up the affairs of that institution. Officials at the Monroe State Bank were quick to point out that the appointment of the receiver did not affect the current bank, which apparently had problems of its own.

*The **Monroe State Bank** did not completely fail, but following Roosevelt's banking holiday it was operated with restrictions under Senate File 111. Among the bank's officers at the time were: Frank Chipps, president; Ulrie Clevenger, cashier; Harry Worth, J. A. Murray, Laurel Buckley, and Joe Long, directors. The board of directors and three depositors, Cyrus Nolin, John Wagner, and Minnie Wright, were named to form a trusteeship that would direct the bank through the reorganization process. The bank's depositors were required to sign waivers as part of the bank's reorganization, but the waivers were slow to come in.*

*In April 1934, banks operating under S.F. 111 that had not yet been reorganized or released from restrictions received letters from the Iowa State Banking Department threatening legal liquidation if they did not earn their release within the next few weeks. In Monroe's case, that meant the required number of waivers must be signed or the town would lose its only bank. With an intensive push from community leaders the required number of signed waivers was collected by the bank within three weeks. The bank opened unrestricted on July 2, 1934 with 50% of bank deposits released to the depositors. Harry Worth assumed the presidency and J. A. Murray became vice president. Clevenger remained the cashier, with Buckley the assistant cashier. Joe Long and J. A. Murray were returned to the board of directors; they were joined by W. P. Barber and R. B. Gloyd. The following month the bank reported that its deposits were now insured by the F.D.I.C.*

Both Prairie City banks also struggled to stay in business. Near the end of March 1933, likely on the recommendations of bank examiners following the banking holiday, the **First National Bank at Prairie City** opened with John Van Steenberg appointed as

conservator. Depositors would be allowed to make withdrawals only from funds that they had deposited after March 6<sup>th</sup>. Concurrently, problems at the **State Bank in Prairie City** also threatened its future.

*Like the citizens of Monroe, Prairie City residents had reason to be nervous. If both banks failed and went into receivership, the town would have no bank for an extended period of time. Therefore, the town's businessmen met with the banks' leaders and they decided to voluntarily reorganize both banks.*

*On December 2, 1933, the **reorganized First National Bank** opened, with the following officers in charge: W. R. Hayes, president; John H. McKlveen, vice president; J. Van Steenberg, cashier; LeRoy Schakel and Frank C. Turner, assistant cashiers. Other temporary members of the board of directors, who would serve until January 1<sup>st</sup>, included: H. J. DeWit, O. T. Taylor, Albert McFadden, and B. E. Moore. The bank's deposits were guaranteed by the federal government as of January 11, 1934.*

*The reorganized bank had fifty-nine shareholders when it reopened. Besides board members, they included: R. C. Coffey, H. F. Baird, C. L. Duntley estate, Geo. Wilhelm, W. S. Charls, J. DeGroof, Maggie Vander Linden, Ernest Wilson, Harry Wassennar, M. C. Kennedy, Floy Kennedy, J. L. Cowman, Ida Ingram, W. B. Dickenson M. and M. Dickenson, Joe Taylor, Eli Ulrey, Hazel F. Chandler, Mrs. C. H. Riddle, Eva H. Bryan, A. M. Randal, Dowden Mfg. Co., Martha Kleinendorst, Mary E. Shaffer, Murray Ten Hagen, Estella McConnaughey, Korf & Korf, Josiah Taylor, P. W. Hugen, J. W. Elliott, Mrs. Grace Brunner, E. Walters, Dick Steenhoek, Harry DeHaan, Henry Bierma, Albert McFadden, Jay Prouty, Gertrude A. Stineman, C. B. Ruby, G. L. McFadden, Minnie McFadden, C. R. Van Voorhis, Mrs. Carrie Awtry, Bertha A. Wiggins, F. J. Shearer, S. E. Churchill, Oscar Kane, Williams & Morhauser, Lloyd R. Jennings, Dan Kane, H. C. Young, and O. E. Perryman.*

*The financial situation at the **State Bank of Prairie City**, already operating under S.F. 111, appears to have been more serious than that at the First National Bank. A newspaper article talked about the State Bank possibly going into receivership, which would make its stockholders liable to an assessment equal to 100% of their stock's value; this apparently did not come to pass. The required number of signed waivers was collected in May 1934, and the bank opened without restrictions near the end of June, with 50% of deposits having been released to depositors. William Vander Kraan was the bank's president at the time.*

The first mention of problems at the **Peoples State Savings Bank in Baxter** came in May 1934, when a petition was filed in District Court to assess the bank's stockholders 100% of each share of stock, valued at \$100 per share. The bank was already closed and in receivership, which most likely occurred shortly after the 1933 bank holiday. Of the bank's 136 shares of stock, W. J. Troxel of Baxter held the most, with 43 shares. Other stockholders of the bank were: C. W. Berry, Henry Dorr, George Gauch, Fred Geise, Elmer Kappen, E. E. Kline, A. G. Kracht, Sadie Wehrman, all of Baxter; Edwin L. Owen of Des Moines; James I. Wilson of Mitchellville; Elsie Mary Clapper of Rhodes; Martin Damman of Melbourne; L. Roy Trout of Davenport; Winfeld S. Regur of Summit, NJ; August Boedeker of Long Beach, CA; and S. E. Long of Salem, OR.

*By Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 1934 all preferred claims against the bank had been paid, and the bank had approximately \$10,960.00 on hand. Depositors were to be paid 25% of their deposits. This was the only other reference to this bank that was found. Whether the*

*bank's depositors received any additional payments toward the balance of their accounts is unknown. This bank apparently did not reopen.*

### **Not All Jasper County Banks Failed or Were Reorganized**

Some of the banks in the county appear to have survived the banking panic relatively unscathed. On Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1931, the same day that Newton's First National Bank closed, the *Newton Daily News* carried an article titled "Maytag Bank Meets Demands." This was the **Jasper County Savings Bank**, located on the south side of the Newton Square. The term "Maytag Bank" was a reference to members of the Maytag family, who owned 51% of the bank's stock. Elmer H. Maytag, son of the Maytag Company's founder, was the bank's president at this time.

*In anticipation of heavy withdrawals, during early October 1931 Mr. Maytag had brought in extra cash. When the bank opened on Oct. 6, it had over \$600,000 in cash in its vault. Mr. Maytag also reported the bank had enough liquid bonds and securities to pay all depositors if they chose to close their accounts. With that assurance, early withdrawals were said to be "small." This bank continued to function without restrictions throughout the Depression.*

Despite receivership of the Killduff State Bank, which had merged with the Kellogg Savings Bank in 1931, nothing was found to indicate that the **Kellogg Savings Bank** experienced any disruption of service other than that associated with F.D.R.'s banking holiday in 1933. In Feb. 1934 the bank, which was associated with the Jasper County Savings Bank in Newton, re-elected E. H. Maytag as bank president and F. L. Maytag as chairman of the board at its annual meeting. Other officers elected were: A. B. Craven, vice president, R. O. Bailey, vice president & cashier, J. D. Roth and L. H. Macy, assistant cashiers, and J. E. Cross and A. E. Hindorff, both of Newton, and Henry Wulf and H. Willemsen, both of Kellogg, directors.

The **Baxter State Savings Bank** which, following the closure of Newton's First National Bank, advertised itself as "the second largest bank in Jasper County," also appears to have avoided closure. Bank officers/board members elected in January 1932 were: Charles Burdick, president; William Krueger, vice president; Robert Geise, cashier; George Geise, assistant cashier; Lela Jones, bookkeeper; W. J. Byal, Calvin Noah, Robert O. Geise, C Sanderman, board members; and H. A. Geise, chairman of the board.

*The bank's stockholders, In addition to the officers named above, were E. L. Bowen, F. Chollett, Mrs. W. Deutsch, Minnie Diehl, Mrs. H. S. Downs, Paul Edler, Edw. Eibs, Adolph Geise, Emma Geise, P. S. Hill, Minnie Hager, V. G. Irwin, Mrs. J. F. Kleise, Helen Krampe, Mrs. August Krampe, Mrs. F. A. Kanne, Levi Kanne, Conrad Kracht, Henry Kruse, Albert Ludeking, Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Moore, Mary E. Meyer, Don Raridon, Wm. Schweinebart, Otto Sanderman, Eli Swihart, J. W. Swihart, Simon Stock, Henry Sinkler, Joseph Sinkler, Carl J. Sinkler, H. W. Stinson, Ernest Toedt, Wm. Tramel, J. W. Tipton, O. S. Tipton, C. C. Webb, H. Wintermeier, and Louis Kanne.*

The **First State Bank at Lynnville**, after its initial scare in October of 1931, apparently went on to operate unrestricted throughout the banking crisis.

The **Farmers' Savings Bank at Ira** also managed to stay open without restrictions.

Aside from a robbery at the **Mingo Trust & Savings Bank** in 1930, no reports of other problems at this bank were discovered. More about that robbery in our November issue.

---

In my research I found no estimate of the percentage of their deposits that Jasper Co. citizens lost during the Depression. Depending on where they did their banking some people may have lost all their money; others may have been able to recover at least a portion of their assets. And, of course, those who withdrew all their savings before their bank was closed lost nothing. The economic uncertainty that stemmed from the banking crisis was certainly one of the main factors that influenced the life of Jasper County citizens throughout the 1930s.

During the Depression, a number of businesses closed, but new businesses also opened. Real estate transactions and court cases were plentiful. But school and social activities continued as people attempted to maintain a sense of normality. In our November *Gleaner*, we will look at these, and other, aspects of everyday life in our county during the early 1930s.

## References

### Newspapers

#### *Colfax Tribune* articles:

Citizens State Bank Closed Doors Sept. 19. (Sept. 24, 1931); Geo. B. Perkins Receiver. (Oct. 1, 1931); Reasnor Bank Closed (Oct. 15, 1931); Lynnville Bank Closes – Then Opens. (Oct. 22, 1931); Monroe Banks Consolidate. (May 7, 1931); Newburg Bank Closed. (Oct. 29, 1931); Sully Bank Talks Reorganization & Get Capital Stock for Bank (Oct. 29, 1931); Maytag Orders Men to Newton (Oct. 31, 1931); \$16,139 To Sinking Fund. (Jan. 7, 1932); First National Bank Held Annual Meeting. (Jan. 21, 1932)

#### *Jasper County Mirror* articles:

Killduff and Kellogg Banks In Merger (Oct. 22, 1931); Number of IA Banks Reopened Rapidly Mounts (Mar. 23, 1933); Monroe Bank Not in Hands of Receiver (Apr. 20, 1933); Minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting of May 2, 1933 (May 11, 1933); County Treasurer Signs Waiver (May 11, 1933); Waivers Now Being Signed by Depositors (July 13, 1933); County Board Transactions... (May 11, 1933); Prairie City Banks Will Reorganize (Nov. 2, 1933); Reasnor Bank to Pay \$5,000 to Depositors (No. 23, 1933); Monroe State Bank Elects Officers (Jan. 11, 1934); Kellogg Bank Re-Elects Maytag (Feb. 15, 1934); To the Creditors of Killduff State Bank (Mar, 29, 1934); Monroe Bank Must Be Opened (May 10, 1934); Stockholders of Baxter Savings Bank Asked to Pay Assessment (May 17, 1934); "Over the County" item (June 28, 1934); Monroe Bank Now Open Unrestricted (July 5, 1934); Minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting of July 3, 1934 (July 12, 1934); Send \$1,290 to State Fund (Sept. 20, 1934); Leaders with Courage Seen as Iowa Need and Legal Notice (Nov. 1, 1934); Colfax Bank to Pay 5% Dividend (Nov. 8, 1934)

#### *Newton Daily News* articles:

First National Bank Closes Doors. (Oct. 6, 1931); Maytag Bank Meets Demands. (Oct. 6, 1931); May Reorganize Newton 1<sup>st</sup> Nat'l Bank. (Oct. 15, 1931)

*Pella Chronicle* articles:

Sully Will Get Out of the Mire (Nov. 5, 1931)

*Pella Press* articles:

Baxter Bank to Pay Depositors (Nov. 8, 1934); New Sharon Bank Pays Dividend (Nov. 8, 1934)

Websites:

*encyclopedia.com*: Banking 1929-1941.

*federalreservehistory.org*: Bank Holiday of 1933.

*google.com*: History.com editors. Bank Run.

*thegreatdepression.com*

---

### It's All Relative(s)

#### **From Prairie City News 22 Mar 1878**

Miss Hattie & Mr. Chas. Wilson went to Taylor County the first of the week to see their brother-in-law, Mr. E. A. Parker, who is seriously ill.

Mrs. Dr. H. C. Porter has been visiting...with her mother Mrs. Dr. Hull of Colorado.

Mrs. N. H. Dowling is in Missouri visiting her father, Mr. Levi Jenks.

Mr. Whitlock, of Dexter (IA), is in town visiting his cousins, Mrs. Ben Worden and Miss Ketchum.

#### **From Newton Journal 3 Oct 1888**

W. H. Korff and wife were hastily called to Newton Monday evening on account of the alarming illness of Mrs. Korff's father, Mr. John Steiglitz (this item in the Baxter news column).

Oscar Vert, residing in Kasson, IA, has been spending a few days with his brother Harry in (Newton).

Mrs. Oscar Little is enjoying a visit from her niece, Miss Bee Curtis, of Chicago.

Miss Mary Hogan of Scott Co. arrived in Newton last Monday and will spend the winter with her cousin, Mrs. O. C. Meredith.

#### **From Iowa State Democrat (Newton), 8 Dec 1898**

Mrs. Clara Weaver of Stuart came in Tuesday morning, called here by the illness of her mother, Mrs. Ed. Churchill. (from Newton column)

E. N. Kenney and wife, after an extended visit with Mrs. Kenney's father, John Sullivan, have returned to their home at Ontario, CA. (from Prairie City column)

JASPER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
115 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E. – Suite C  
Newton, IA 50208-3241

Address Service Requested  
Return Intact – Do Not Destroy

### Map of Jasper County, Iowa

