

# JASPER COUNTY GLEANER

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## Society News

### BREAKING NEWS!

GOAL	\$6,575
	\$6,000
	\$5,000
	\$4,000
	\$3,000
	\$2,000
Currently	<b>\$1,625</b>
	\$1,000

As you know, we have been trying to raise money to buy a new microfilm reader/scanner/printer for our library.

We have a loyal member who has made a challenge for the membership. This anonymous donor will match up to \$100 each month any cash donations for the reader/printer made from now until the end of the year, December 31, 2010.

So the first \$100 received, from other members, each month becomes \$200.

We are asking the membership to step up to this challenge and let's get a new microfilm reader/printer!

Our total goal amount is \$6,575 and we currently have **\$1,625** in donations so we have a ways to go. WE CAN DO IT! We just need everyone's help. As we mentioned in the past, we more than 50 rolls of microfilm that our patrons can not read because our reader is broken and needs replaced.

## Upcoming Programs

Our Annual meeting is Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army Loan Closet building.

Our web page is [www.iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/](http://www.iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/) and our e-mail address is [jcgs\\_genealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:jcgs_genealogy@yahoo.com)

## Reminders

Just a reminder that our society offers services that can be ordered to take photos and place flowers on gravesites. The order forms were in the last issue and you can also find them on our website.

- Pictures of Your Family Grave Stones  
Let us take pictures of your family gravestones in Jasper County, Iowa.  
We will take digital picture(s) and either send the picture(s) to your e-mail address or print the picture(s) and send them to your mail address, as you desire.  
You will also receive a free picture of the cemetery gate and/or cemetery sign.
- Fresh Flowers on Your Ancestor's Grave  
Let us help you honor your ancestors and relatives on this Memorial Day and throughout the year.  
We will purchase a 4" potted plant (Geranium or Begonia) and place at each gravestone.  
We'll do our best to honor your choice of flower and color, but if not available we will substitute the best we can.  
Take this opportunity to have a photo taken of the gravestone for the same trip cost.

## Websites to check out

If you are looking for obituaries published in Des Moines Newspapers, check out the Des Moines Public Library website where you can find an index of obituaries and articles. [www.pldminfo.org/index.htm](http://www.pldminfo.org/index.htm).

The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) has put online the first installment of a new State Archives death records database. This is an ongoing indexing project to index selected pre-1935 state-level death records not available on County Records microfilm and they can now be accessed at the SHSI website: <http://www.iowahistory.org/archives/holdings/index.html>.

The Genealogical Society of Utah and the State Historical Society are joining together to work on projects involving Iowa records. They are looking for volunteers to index these records. If you want to help, go to FamilySearch Indexing and register. Or go to <http://www.familysearch.org> and click on "Help Create free public access to U.S. Census indexes" to register or contact Shirley Woodruff at 987-8299 for an appointment. You can help make Iowa records more accessible to researchers everywhere.

**KENTUCKY** - If you have a need for Kentucky research you might try the website for the Kentucky Secretary of State Land Office website (<http://sos.ky.gov/land/>). Also at this site you can check out military information. The Military Registers and Land Records site includes information regarding Military Warrants issued to Virginia veterans prior to 1792 and all Kentucky patents authorized by those warrants.

**PENNSYLVANIA** – Check out [www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp](http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp) it has the following archive available online:

### **PA National Guard Veterans' Card File, 1867-1921**

Arranged alphabetically by surname of veteran; information: name, rank, age, physical description, occupation and residence; the date and place of enlistment; the date and reason for discharge; and the unit (company and regiment) to which assigned. Information about federal service rendered by the veteran and the date of death or first appearance in the military records also routinely appears.

### **Civil War Veterans' Card File, 1861-1866**

Arranged alphabetically by surname of soldier; information soldiers' names, military units, Bates' citations (volume and page), ages at enrollment, descriptions (complexion, height, color of hair and eyes), residences and birthplaces; the dates and places where enrolled; the dates and places where mustered in; and the dates of discharge.

### **Mexican Border Campaign Veterans' Card File**

These cards, bearing the title "Mexican Emergency, Call of President, June 18, 1916," contain the following information about veterans: name and rank, regiment and company, age and place of birth, a physical description, date of commission or enlistment into service, home station and date of rendezvous, and date of acceptance into United States service.

### **World War I Service Medal Application Cards**

These cards were originally submitted by veterans and their survivors who applied for service medals. Information provided about each veteran consists of name and serial number, place of residence at time of entry into service, date and place the veteran entered into service, rank, military unit to which attached, place and date of honorable discharge, and the signature of the applicant.

### **Spanish American War Veterans' Card File of United States Volunteers**

The card file of veterans who participated in the Spanish-American War was created by the Office of the Adjutant General in 1941 from information taken from the official records of the United States War Department. Information found about each veteran includes name, race, residence, place and date of birth, date and place of enlistment, military organization to which attached, rank, and dates serving overseas in either Cuba or the Philippines.

### **Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File**

The abstract card file contains transcriptions of data extracted from original records in the custody of the State Archives concerning Revolutionary War service in the Pennsylvania Militia, Pennsylvania Line, and the Navy. Information provided is name and rank of soldier, whether active or inactive duty, county of residence, battalion in which served, and record from which information was extracted.

### **Militia Officers Index Cards, 1775-1800**

Index card file of the names of Pennsylvania militia officers who served during the American Revolution, in Indian campaigns in northwestern Pennsylvania, and in quelling the Whiskey Rebellion. Information provided is name, county, rank, company or battalion, dates of service, township, and occasionally district within township.

## Odds And Ends Things of Interest

### Places to visit

- Something you might want to check out is the One-Room School house Museum in Cedar Falls. I do not know anyone who has visited this museum but apparently it is has an extensive collection and is very interesting.
- Another place is the National Homestead Monument Museum in Beatrice, Nebraska. They have digitized the homestead records for Nebraska and will gradually add those of other states. The Homestead Act of 1862 granted 160 acres to settlers who had worked the land 5 years.

### Interesting newspaper articles from many years ago

I ran across the following articles while searching for obituaries and thought they should be shared. Thankfully we have come a long way in the medical field and do not practice the suggestions.

You can get rid of a wart by stealing a piece of pork and burying it under a stone. A horse-chestnut carried in the left pocket is equally effective. Or get an old piece of string and rub with it the objectionable excrescence, repeating in a soft and appealing voice the invocation, "Anamana monamike, Barcelona bona strike, hare ware from hack, halico balico, we wo wack!" The wart will vanish.

Source: Newton Journal; June 14, 1877, page 4

### Marriages

I also found this list of marriages and even though the marriage dates weren't very specific, maybe it gives you information you did not have before.

BENSON-BENSON – By Rev. E. D. Eaton, at his residence in Newton, Oct. 30th, 1879. Mr. Homer P. Benson and Miss Jane Benson.

WATT-WHITEHEAD – By Rev. E. D. Eaton, at residence of the bride's father, in Greencastle, Nov. 19th, 1879. Mr. Charles Watt and Miss Mary A. Whitehead.

YOUNG-SWIHART – At the Pastor's home in Newton, Nov. 18, 1879, by Rev. J. H. Culler, Jacob W. Young, of Nemaha City, Nemaha county, Nebraska, to Miss Catharine Swihart of Malaka township, Jasper county, Iowa.

DEAN-WALSH – At the M. E. Church on Monday evening, Nov. 24, 1879, by Rev. F. W. Evans, Mr. Warren J. Dean, and Miss Janie Walsh.

PRY-SWIGART – Nov. 19, 1879, at the residence of the officiating minister, by Rev. E. P. Michener, Mr. David P. Pry and Miss Mattie A. Swigart.

DAUGHTERTY-MC CALL – ON Wednesday evening, November 19th, 1879, at the East Side Presbyterian church, Des Moines, Rev. Mr. Thorpe officiating, Capt. Frank Daugherty, of the West Side and Miss May McCall of the East Side. Mr. Captain Frank Daughtery and his estimable bride will accept the congratulations and good wishes of Company C, 3rd Reg't. I. N. G.

Source: Newton Journal; November 27, 1879, page 3

THOMPSON-EWING – By D. Edmunson, Esq., in Newton, on the 13th inst. Peter Thompson & Mary Ewing.

DAVIS-THOMPSON – By Rev. S. R. Ferguson in Lynnville, on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Franklin Davis and Lovica J. Thompson.

OSWALT-OSWALT – By D. Edmunson, Esq., in Newton, on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Alexander Oswalt and Lydia Oswalt.

NOBLE-MILLS – By Rev. A. Robinson in Colfax, on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A. O. Noble and Maggie J. Mills.

BROCKMAN-BOLLHOEFER – By Rev. C. Kranz, in Horn, on the 1<sup>st</sup>. William Brockman and Mary Bollhoefer.

WHITE-SUTLIFF – By P. H. Doud, Esq. in Poweshiek twp, on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Chas. W. White and Clara V. Sutliff.

HOWARD-SALADA – at St. Stephen's Church in Newton on Thursday By the Rector, Rev. J. H. Magoffin. Madison Howard of Monroe and Allie Salada of Monroe.

LYON-YEARNS – By A. S. Stuver, Esq., in Newton on the 16<sup>th</sup>. J. W. Lyon of Marion Co. and Amy Yearns of Jasper Co.

Source: Newton Journal; August 23, 1877, page 3

## A List Of Those Who Visited The Chicago World's Fair

As Reported In The Newton Herald In July 1893

(Date(s) following name(s) indicate issue(s) of paper(s) in which their attendance was noticed.)

Compiled and submitted by Larry Hurto

J. S. Agnew – July 21	Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hess from Carlsbad, Cali. – July 7
Mrs. Mary Ash of Idaho – July 14	Geo. B. Hunter, wife and children – July 21
G. M. Blackman, of Vernon, Texas – July 28	I. U. Ikenberry – July 21
Miss Colburt – July 14	Hollas [sic] Joy – July 21
Albert Cowgill – July 7	Mr. Robert Larimer – July 21
R. A. Cowgill – July 28	Miss Sarah Lister – July 14
Miss Sadie Cowgill – July 7, July 28	Mr. J. R. Mershon – July 7
Miss Mary E. Decherd, of Austin, Texas – July 14	Frank Morgan, wife and son Walter – July 21
Andrew Engle – July 21	Miss Pleece, of San Francisco, Cali. – July 21
Mr. J. D. Gardner – July 14	Mr. J. T. Pound, of Stuart – July 28
Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Gates – July 21	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vaughan, of Cali. – July 28

### Advertising found in a 1907 Newton Cookbook

- Don't forget that Silverware guaranteed for 20 and 25 years! At Grahams.
- Call and see us in our new store room. We have one of the best, lightest and up-to-date Dry Goods store in the state **Milt A. Carrier**. Tow doors east of old store room, Skiff block.
- **Fred Claussen**, Meat market – Meats, Fish, Oysters, Pickles Phones 161-571 If we please you, tell others; if we don't, tell us.
- **Dr. E. LeMotte Eustice**, Dentist – Crown, Bridge and Porcelain work Specialties
- **A. M. Carl** – Pianos, Organs, Sewing Machines
- **Seeberger** South Side Square for Quick Meal Steel Ranges, Quick Meal Gasoline Stoves and Ranges, Plumbing and Heating
- Everything in Shoes, At Everybody's Price – **Lariner & Clark** South side Square
- **Armstrong** Dealer in Fresh, Salt and Sugar-cured Meats
- Dentists **A. P. Joy, Anna H. Joy, H. J. Joy** – Bridge and Crown Work Specialties
- **E. E. Duer** – Dry Goods, Groceries
- Hough's C. O. D. Laundry and Carpet cleaning House does first-class work. **Fred W. Hough**
- **MarFarland's Specialties** – Dry Goods, Ladies' Suits and cloaks
- **J. H. Fugard**, Attorney – Scharf Block, Newton – Real Estate, Loans
- The very Latest Styles in Millinery – **Miss N. L. Jack**
- **Arthur L. Kennedy**, Druggist – Manufacturer Fine Flavoring Extracts – North side Square
- **O. N. Wagley** – Drugs, Window Shades and Fancy Wall Papers
- **Mrs. C. M. Cowgill** – Fashionable Millinery – East Side Square
- **W. O. Foster & Co.**, Druggists – The purest in everything. Nothing too good for our customers. Try out vanilla and flavoring extracts. Phone 11
- If you have been trying to live without a cook book and have dyspepsia, call on **Dr. L. O. Rogers**, he treats chronic cases. Office and residence, South Farmer St., Newton, Iowa

### Mingo Compiles Names and Addresses of Men in Service

Armstrong, Keith	Finch, Chas. D., Pvt.
Armstrong, William, Corp.	Inglis, Forrest Beals, Jr., Pvt.
Beals, Irwin	Osborn, E. A., Pvt
Castor, Wayne W.	Parker, Robert
Coughlan, C. H., Capt.	Richardson, Kenneth W., Pvt.
Coughlan, V. H., Capt.	Utley, Harry L.
Deaton, Merle	Warrick, Earl W.
De Reus, C. C., Sgt.	

This a list of veterans from Mingo at the time the newspaper was published. The news article also included the mailing address of where these men were serving, presumably so that friends and neighbors could write them letters.

Source: The Baxter New Era; December 24, 1941, page 6, col. 1

### **“The Wrong Town”**

Once in a while there is some fellow who forgets to get off the train when his station is reached and the railroad men always designate such as “Rubes”. This morning there was an instance of this kind but the man who missed his station would hardly like to have the boys call him a Rube.

Geo. W. Dubock of Chicago, the general baggage agent of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company, stopped off of No. 5 and gazed around as though he was looking for something or somebody and of course the newspaperman was on the spot to inquire about it. Mr. Dubock finally loosened up and said he had come in to attend the agents’ meeting.

As the idea of an agents’ meeting in Newton was a new one to the reporter he asked more particularly about it and Mr. Dubock evinced some surprise that a meeting of such magnitude should be pulled off in such a country village and all the hayseeds not be looking for it. Of course such ignorance and evident lack of appreciation of the honors about to be thrust upon our community could not fail to be embarrassing to a modest newspaperman but the situation had to be made the best of.

After the next train east had gone out some inquiry was made by agent E. E. Warren regarding the meeting and he said it was to be in Grinnell and that Mr. Dubock had got mixed on the towns. He was even then gone, on his way to find the meeting. Come again.

Source: The Newton News; Tuesday, 9 June 1903

### **A Genealogical Puzzle**

I found the following epitaph puzzle online on many web pages. The sources most credit is given to are the following:

The Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany, Volume 72; Being A General Repository of Literature, History, and Politics, for 1810.

Virginia Gazette, No 642, Year 1748 (sic)

New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Volume 3, Year 1849, page 344

National Intelligencer for Jan. 16, 1849

Supposedly an 1848 Epitaph in Paris, VA near Arlington, VA:

Here lies:

Two grandmothers, with their two granddaughters;

Two husbands, with their two wives;

Two fathers, with their two daughters;

Two mothers with their two sons;

Two sisters, with their two brothers;

Yet but six corpses in all lie buried here,

All born legitimate, from incest clear.

If you want to see a possible solution, see page 8 and if you come up with another solution, please share it with us.

### **Stories of Gold, Oil, Indians recounted from Oswalt**

By Dawn Schroder

Barnett Pewter Oswalt, better known as Barney”, or “Barney P. Axehandle” was a Civil War Veteran who founded Oswalt, Iowa, which is located three miles north and west of Colfax. Oswalt bridge, which crosses the Skunk River by the former town, which was platted in 1885, still bears the name of the area’s founder.

Samuel Moll discovered coal in the area and several small mines began operating. In 1881 D. S. Couch of Newton started drilling in the area and opened a mine in 1882. Next he constructed a railroad to carry coal from the mine to Colfax. The next year, in 1883, the railroad was extended to Valeria. The railroad, called the Iowa Northern, ran parallel to the Chicago North Western tracks.

The coal mining business in the Oswalt area was big enough to employ 1900 miners who made up the majority of the residents in the area. It’s hard to image the open area in the country where the few remaining homes are separated by acres of farmland, trees, indigenous grasses and weeds once had a large general store, barber shop, meat market, school house, feed business, two large boarding houses, Knights of the Pythias hall and a smaller general store with a small post office located inside. As the supply of coal dwindled, the town’s population decreased and the post office was discontinued in June of 1895.

One former resident of Oswalt, Emily Pearson Clark, came to the village as a young girl in 1880. In an October 1978 issue of the Jasper County Tribune her son, Floyd Clark spoke about his memories of the stories his mother, who was 96 at the time, told him. "She told many times of seeing the Indians come through on an annual trip. The reason has been long forgotten, other than the Oswalt area is rich in Indian lore and finds of arrowheads is frequent. Old timers thought they were to come through after they had been sent to the reservation to see their old burial grounds. One of the places thought to be burial or sacred places may be on the Hadsall place southwest of Colfax. By the late 1890's they were pretty docile and maybe like all of us had to take a trip to the old family farm just to see if it still looked the same."

Kristina Oswalt Smith, great-granddaughter of Barney Oswalt, remembers playing on her grandfather's land as a child. She said she remembers they were not allowed to play in a certain area of the farm which is where one of the old mines was located. Kris remembers playing near an abandoned shack when she was a child. The shack had been the Plummers Grove Schoolhouse years before and is no longer standing today. Kris also remembers stories her father Mack told that Indians used to camp on the hill on the northeast side of Oswalt bridge because they could keep a lookout up there.

Years after the coal mine rush, in 1934, the former town of Oswalt became part of the news, not only in the local newspaper in Colfax, but also in the Des Moines Tribune where the headline read, "Oswalt, IA, Gold Rush Ends When Mystic Leaves in 'Huff'."

Rumors of gold on the land had started more than 20 years earlier when a man from Indiana came and tried to purchase part of the land owned by the McKeever. William McKeever refused the man's request to purchase some property, so the man from Indiana told McKeever the story of how he had received a map of the Oswalt area from his father who had befriended an old Indian, Dr. Omach, who had grown up in the area.

As the story goes, Dr. Omach lived in Oklahoma at the time, and before he died at 110, he told the white man who had befriended him the story of gold he had found in the Oswalt area when he was playing with friends there as a child. The youngsters showed their find to the chiefs who wrapped the gold in a blanket and buried it in the ground. They planted a cottonwood tree to mark the spot. They figured the gold must have come from a stagecoach robbery because trails in the area led to what was then called Fort Des Moines.

After hearing the story of the buried gold, William McKeever allowed the Indiana man to dig for the gold on his land with the understanding that they would split the treasure between them 50-50. The treasure was not located, and the man from Indiana had to return home to work. Before leaving he allowed William McKeever to make a copy of the map.

In 1934, Mrs. James Oswalt, sister-in-law of William McKeever, read a story about Madame Stanley, a medium from Sioux City, who had gone into a trance and told the exact location where a box of gold coins was hidden. Mrs. Oswalt wrote to the medium, and they corresponded about the gold that was rumored to be buried in Oswalt. When the medium came to the Oswalt farm, the two women disagreed about what the financial arrangement was. Madame Stanley, angry over the misunderstanding, stated that the gold was not buried on the Oswalt farm and graveled up the road to the home of Nate McKeever, son of William McKeever. The medium said the treasure was buried on the McKeever land and made a deal with Nate that she could search for the buried treasure on his land and any gold found would be split 50-50. Nate McKeever said of the arrangement, "I told her I'd give her half. I never did have much faith in the thing. I've dug around a little but never had much hopes anyhow. She didn't like it when I laughed about finding gold with an ouija board, but I never did have any faith in such things anyhow. She and I dug around the trees a little, and when we didn't find anything, she quit."

James Oswalt said he dug deep beneath a cottonwood tree on his land a year earlier and found nothing but quicksand. He said he doubted if the Indians would have planted the treasure in quicksand, and if it had been buried there it might have sunk. James said another cottonwood tree had been cut down years earlier. "If it was buried under a cottonwood, it must have been the one which has been cut down for years. The only way to find it would be to dig all over the farm in hopes of finding some of its roots. I did find an old tomahawk on the brow of the hill once. I gave up looking for the gold 25 years ago – that is, all except that digging I did last year."

Although no gold was ever found, Madame Stanley like the man from Indiana who had come more than 20 years earlier, returned home still convinced there was gold buried somewhere in the Oswalt neighborhood. When she was in a trance, Madame Stanley had also said that there was oil less than 900 feet below the surface on the Oswalt farm, but like the gold the oil has never been found.

(Photo included in the article with the caption: Photo of property where gold was to have been buried. As of March 2001, property owned by Norm and Joan Jones.)

Source: Jasper County Tribune (Colfax, IA); February 28, 2002

## Valeria – a town founded by romance

If you have passed through the community of Valeria your eyes may have been drawn to the two bright green highway signs at opposite ends of the town.

The signs were installed by the D.O.T. this summer and the wording says – Welcome To Valeria Town of a Railroad Romance.

So you say, what does this mean? Is it simply creative advertising by the town's leaders? Or is it some type of folklore legend worthy of a soap opera storyline?

The answer is probably a little of both as the community of Valeria, like a lot of towns around the state, took advantage of the State of Iowa's new initiative allowing town's the privilege of posting their "claims to fame" on signs entering their communities.

Now, getting back to the "Railroad Romance." Legend has it that in the early 1860's the William Henderson Johnson family left the South to escape the atmosphere and attitudes of the Civil War. They settled in Section 20, Poweshiek Township, where the village of Valeria would one day stand.

Nicholas Johnson, a son of W. H. Johnson, and his sister, Edna Valeria; both played major roles in the birth of the village. When the railroad crews came in the early 1880's to choose a route through Jasper County, Edna Valeria fell in love with a young civil engineer named McBride. She and her beau convinced her father to allow the tracks to cross the Johnson land. W. H. Johnson granted passage through his land on the condition that the depot planned for the area be known as Valeria. Young McBride married his sweetheart and later left the railroad to become a dentist.

Nicholas, meanwhile, busied himself with the family's new real estate interests. His signature appears on the papers platting the town in October of 1883, and on the abstracts of present property-owners in Valeria. By May of 1885, Valeria's population was 68.

The Johnson family told of Indian settlements along Skunk River. The natives were friendly, they said, and were able to live quite well off the fertile soil there.

The future of the village of Valeria was greatly affected by two tragedies during the 1890's. In 1894 the business district was wiped out by a terrible fire. The town was recovering from that blow when in 1896 a cyclone ripped through the area. In 1912 an election was held to vote on incorporating the town. Twenty-one yeas were cast. Only five voted against incorporation.

By this time, the town boasted two railroads. A spur called the Colfax and Northern had been constructed from Valeria to Oswalt because of the coalmines in the area. In 1882 there had been twenty-two mines in Jasper County stretching from Oswalt to Reasnor. 170 men were employed in the mines.

During the mining boom, Valeria residents rode the trains to the mines each morning. Coal was worth 75¢ a ton in 1878. A skilled worker could sometimes make \$3.00 a day. Some of the area farmers worked the mines during the winter. Mines in the area included the Valeria Coal and Mining Company, Bealier Mines, Slaughter's Mines, Adsit and Company, E. G. Fish Mining Company, and Black Heath Mines. Mining was predicted to overtake farming as the county's top industry. This didn't happen, of course. The mines were soon worked out, and have been deserted for years.

In 1816, Valeria had a population of 92.

In early years the streets were lighted by gas corner lights that were lit by hand each evening at dusk. Claud DeReus was one of the people responsible for lighting the lights until Iowa Power and Light Company came to town.

In the 1920's, mail came in on the 7 p.m. passenger train. It was loaded onto a two-wheeled cart which J. C. Stanley pushed to the Lynn General Store for sorting. Valeria was a fourth class Post Office. A robbery in 1910 netted the thieves \$4.36. Valeria now gets its mail from Colfax by rural delivery.

Valeria's barber shop often doubled as pool halls. The men gathered there to gossip, kid each other, and made trades. During the thirties and forties, many of the businesses closed up and were torn down. The only business house left is a brick store, which has been converted to a dwelling.

Dances were held at Town Hall in years gone by. There were also several wood dance floors built outside. All are gone now, but in the thirties Valeria had quite a reputation for its dances and brawls.

A new town hall was built several years ago. The city's firetruck is stored there. It is also used for meetings and elections. Valeria is still incorporated and self-governed, with 27 houses and 85 people.

Some of the early Valeria businesses included: Telephone, Depot, Livery, Garage, General Store, Millinery Store, Stockyard, Funeral Home, Doctors, Carpenter, Draymen, Taverns, Barbers, Hotels, Hardware, Blacksmith, Creamery, Drugstore, Lumber, Elevator, and Restaurants.

Although all of the original businesses have long been gone and few current residents are aware of their communities' storied past, they can now point to a sign and tell visitors how the town became known as Valeria.

*Historical information courtesy of MaryLou Morrissey and the Mingo Historical Book.*

Source: Jasper County Tribune (Colfax, IA); December 7, 2000

## QUERIES



When writing to the Jasper County Genealogical Society for research help the following guidelines have been established.

- Please type or print your letters.
- Limit of two (2) requests per letter (use separate form for each surname).
- Make your request short and to the point, be specific on what you are requesting.
- Include as much information about the person you are looking for as you can, date, places, etc.

Donations – We request a donation of \$12.50 per hour of research, which includes postage, and the cost of copying from our library materials and/or the public library materials. The cost for copies from courthouse records is one dollar per copy. We cannot guarantee to find the information you request, although we will make every effort to do so. Please send SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope). Requests received without a contribution will not be returned or acknowledged. Make your check payable to Jasper County Genealogy Society. Please allow 30 days for a response. Thank you.

There were no queries were on our website:

The following are some queries that were answered by Darlene Leib, our corresponding secretary.

- POAGE I would be interested in obtaining information which you may have that is not as accessible such as Census record data, news articles and obituaries, death certificates and probate records, also tombstone photo requests. James Poage
- SIMPSON Looking for death date and location of John Simpson. Would like his probate record also. I found where he died in Kellogg, can you help find his death record? I have contacted the Iowa State and they couldn't find his death record. Can you help? Audrey K. Tyson
- MARDIS,  
TURNER,  
WILCOX,  
WRIGHT Would like to find an obit for Harris Madris. One reference I have says obit was published. I believe he was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Colfax. Would like obit for Lucinda Wright and Daisy Turner Wilcox. Jean D. Hurst
- HILDEBRAND I need a copy of page 83 of the Jasper County Naturalization Record Book #2. I have included a copy of index page 4 for this record book. William E Youngquist
- MALCOMSON Researching Thomas Malcomson, veteran of Co. F. 2 WI Inf. I am looking for death date, death cert. obit and gravesite of Thomas Malcomson. Also marriage date, marriage cert for him and Asenath. Any other particulars found in newspaper or other sources on this couple. Jeffery L. Alderson

### Epitaph Puzzle Solution

One possible solution to the Epitaph Puzzle works with using half-siblings and step-siblings: (Person 1) A grandmother, she had a son (Person 2) who married a widow (Person 3) with a son (Person 4 from a previous marriage or whatever). This couple had a daughter (Person 5 and one of the sisters). Then Person 1 married the son of Person 3 (no relation whatsoever) and they had a daughter (Person 6, and the other sister). Person 4 and 5 are step-sister and brother, and Person 2 ends up the half-brother of Person 6.

Two grandmothers (1 & 3), with their two granddaughters (5 & 6);  
Two husbands (2 & 4), with their two wives (1 & 3);  
Two fathers (2 & 4), with their two daughters (5 & 6);  
Two mothers (1 & 3) with their two sons (2 & 4);  
Two sisters (5 & 6), with their two brothers (2 & 4);  
Yet but six corpses in all lie buried here,  
All born legitimate, from incest clear.

Genealogy is like potato salad – when you share it with others, it's a picnic.



## **JASPER COUNTY GLEANER**

The JASPER COUNTY GLEANER is published in February, May, August, and November/December by the Jasper County Genealogical Society. Membership in the Society runs January through December, with 2010 dues being: \$12.00 individual, \$15.00 family, and \$20.00 foreign.

The Society is a non-profit organization, Internal Revenue Service classification #42-1147-284. Gifts, contributions, and bequests are tax deductible. Unless otherwise instructed, all correspondence contributions, and requests should be sent to: Jasper County Genealogical Society or JCGS, P. O. Box 163, Newton, IA 50208-0163. Contact us for an address to send packages.

The Jasper County Genealogical Society was organized on 26 October 1977, and is a chapter of the Iowa Genealogical Society.

Meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the last Thursday of each month, January through October. A holiday supper and election of officers is held the first Thursday in December. Executive Board meetings are held as needed to conduct the business of the society.

Research services are available at a cost of \$12.50 per hour plus the cost of copies (1-2 surnames per request, please). A \$12.50 check and a stamped self-addressed envelope (S.A.S.E.) should accompany each request. Send research requests to the Society address.

Queries may be placed in the Gleaner without research requests. This service is free to our membership; non-members should send \$1.00 for each query. Submit queries to the Society address.

The JCGS Library address is at 113 W. 2nd St. S., Newton, IA, which is located across the street north of the big water tower in Newton. The library is open every Thursday and Friday 10:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 3:00 pm and from 9:00 am to noon on the first and third Saturday of the month. There is no charge for using the library.

The telephone number for the Society is (641) 792-1522. We can return local calls but are not able to return long distance calls. Our e-mail address is [jcgs\\_genealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:jcgs_genealogy@yahoo.com) Internet access is at <http://iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/>

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### **J.C.G.S. Officers And Their Telephone Numbers:**

President: (Open – responsibilities being performed by committee).....	
Vice President: (Open) .....	
Recording Secretary: .....	Pat Beckham and Darlene Leib.....
Correspondence Secretary: Darlene Leib .....	<a href="mailto:darleneleib@yahoo.com">darleneleib@yahoo.com</a> ..... (641) 792-0174
Treasurer: Lelah Main .....	(641) 792-3448
Registrar: Robert Mick .....	<a href="mailto:remick35@iowatelecom.net">remick35@iowatelecom.net</a> ..... (641) 792-6490
Historian: (Open).....	
Memorials Chair: Rita Reinheimer.....	<a href="mailto:rita409@gmail.com">rita409@gmail.com</a> ..... (641) 792-0586
Librarian: Pat Beckham .....	(641) 792-7796
Gleaner Editor: Diana Wagner .....	<a href="mailto:rdwagner@pcpartner.net">rdwagner@pcpartner.net</a> ..... (641) 792-6668
Past President: Barbara Hug .....	<a href="mailto:bhug@prairienet.net">bhug@prairienet.net</a> ..... (641) 791-9485

**MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010**

**Membership Benefits:**

- Quarterly newsletter
- Free Queries in the newsletter
- New membership
- Single membership \$12.00
- Membership renewal
- Family membership \$15.00
- Foreign membership \$20.00

**I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

- My company has a matching gift program. Company name: \_\_\_\_\_
- My gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

**My gift may be best utilized for:**

- Special Projects Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Resource (books, etc.) Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_
- General Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

Membership forms dated or received after October 1st will be applied to the following calendar year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ 9-digit Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

We will use your name and address (or email address) from this form to prepare mailing address labels for the Gleaner. Surnames and places being researched:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and mail this membership form to: Jasper County Genealogical Society; P. O. Box 163; Newton, IA 50208-0163

**CENTURY CERTIFICATE** (Settled in Jasper County, Iowa in 1880 or earlier)

NAME OF APPLICANT (as it is to appear on the Certificate)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City, State, Zip (for mailing purposes)

\_\_\_\_\_

YEAR SETTLED IN JASPER COUNTY, IOWA \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCES OF PROOF (copies not originals – mark at least one)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Census record   | <input type="checkbox"/> Church record   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land record                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage record | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible record    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tombstone inscription (give location of cemetery) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth record    | <input type="checkbox"/> Military record | <input type="checkbox"/> County histories                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death record    | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School record   | <input type="checkbox"/> Estate record   |  |

NAME OF DIRECT ANCESTOR (as it is to appear on the Certificate) \_\_\_\_\_

We will issue Century Certificates to direct descendants of early settlers living in Jasper County, Iowa in 1880 or earlier. And applicant need not be a resident of Jasper County nor have ever lived in Iowa. Proof of direct descendancy must be submitted. . Only one proof is needed. This along with a straight-line lineage chart and \$3.00 (\$3.50 if to be mailed) must be submitted. Send for a certificate to Jasper County Genealogical Society; P.O. Box 163, Newton, IA 50208-0163. These 8 ½ x 11 certificates are great for framing.

**AVAILABLE FROM THE JASPER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

	Price +	Postage
Jasper County Note Cards (pkg. of 6 – Old Newton Library, Colfax Depot, Killduff school, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, First Maid Rite, Newton Depot)	5.00	1.25
Newton and Jasper County Directory, 1903 (reprint). Soft cover.	\$ 7.00	2.50
1871 Jasper County Atlas	10.00	8.00
Back issues of the GLEANER	3.00	
**NEW** Heritage Tour of Jasper County, Vol. I (reprint)	22.00	2.50
Heritage Tour of Jasper County, Vol. II	16.00	2.50
(Buy both Heritage Tour Vol. I & II together at a discount)	35.00	3.00
These are soft cover, with articles and photos of historic buildings and sites in Jasper Co.)		
Combined Index of Cemetery Books	16.00	2.50
Deaths from Newton Daily News (June 1918-June 1921) (June 1935-Dec 1940)	10.00	2.50

Mail orders to: Jasper County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 163, Newton, IA 50208-0163

Due to limited number of copies of cemetery books in our library, we ask that mail orders for the following books be placed with: Iowa Genealogical Society; 628 East Grand Ave.; Des Moines, IA 50309-1924

#0712	1850 Federal Census of Jasper County	\$5.60 +	Postage
#1990	Every Name Index; Jasper County Honor Roll 1917-1919	\$5.40 +	“
#2604	Marriages, 1849 – 1869, Vol. #1	14.70 +	“
#2664	Marriages, 1869 – June 1880, Vol. #2	17.60	“
#2667	Marriages, June 1880 – Dec 1880, Vol. #3	36.70	“
#2603	Marriages, 1894 – 1898, Vol. 4 & 5	18.90 +	“

**JASPER COUNTY CEMETERY RECORDS:**

#1793	Clear Creek Twp.	\$12.20 +	Postage
#1794	Independence Twp.	16.60 +	“
#1795	Malaka, Mariposa, Hickory Grove Twps.	10.20 +	“
#1822	Rock Creek Twp. & Kellogg Twp., except Silent City	11.00 +	“
#1823	Kellogg Twp. Silent City Cemetery	9.60 +	“
#1848	Newton Union: Blocks 4, 5, 6 & 7	13.90 +	“
#1851	Newton Union: Blocks 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12	13.30 +	“
#1852	Newton Union: Blocks 13, 14 & 15	11.40 +	“
#1853	Newton Union: Blocks 16, 17, 18, 19 & 19N	12.80 +	“
#1854	Newton Union: Blocks 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 & 33	11.70 +	“
#1855	Newton Union Cemetery Index	12.00 +	“
#1865	Newton Twp., excluding Newton Union Cemetery	13.40 +	“
#1866	Newton Union: Veterans 1 & 2, Blocks 1,2 & 3	12.60 +	“
#1896	Poweshiek Twp.	14.40 +	“
#2045	Washington Twp. - Colfax	21.00 +	“
#2053	Mound Prairie Twp.	7.80 +	“
#2440	Buena Vista Twp.	10.40 +	“
#2441	Palo Alto & Richmond Twps.	16.60 +	“
#2448	Elk Creek Twp.	12.00 +	“
#2610	Fairview Twp.	28.50 +	“
#2679	Des Moines Twp.	18.00 +	“
#2754	Lynn Grove Twp. – Part 1, (excludes Sully & Swan)	15.75 +	“
#2755	Lynn Grove Twp. – Part 2, (Sully & Swan)	13.00 +	“

**POSTAGE & HANDLING FOR BOOKS ORDERED THROUGH I.G.S.**

U.S.A. Orders of:	P & H	Foreign Orders of:	P & H
\$ .01 - \$15.00 =	\$2.50	\$ .01 - 15.00 =	\$3.00
15.01 - 25.00 =	3.00	15.01 - 25.00 =	4.00
25.01 - 40.00 =	4.00	25.01 - 40.00 =	6.00
40.01 - 75.00 =	5.50	40.01 - 100.00 =	9.00
75.01 - 100.00 =	7.00		

\*\*Iowa Residents must add 7% Sales Tax on orders from I.G.S.\*\*

**JASPER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 163

Newton, IA 50208-0163

Address Service Requested

Return Intact – Do Not Destroy

Map of Jasper County, Iowa

