

JASPER COUNTY GLEANER
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In recent years our local network of volunteer members has aged and dwindled, a problem that plagues many organizations across the country. Recently we have had to scramble to find enough volunteer librarians to allow us to maintain our regular library hours and keep up with our schedule of Gleaner production.

If it seems like you haven’t received all of your expected Gleaners this year, you are correct. Our editor, Barbara Hug, has moved away from Newton, and we have been unable to find a replacement for her. Putting out four newsletters per year, of the size and quality that our organization is known for, is no easy task. Thank you, Barb, for all of your volunteer efforts throughout the years.

Sometimes we don’t adequately appreciate our volunteers until they are gone. Thanks to all of the “local” people who donate their time and knowledge to a variety of JCGS activities and projects. A big “thank you” to the Jasper County Board of Supervisors for providing us with our library space, and to the maintenance staff and custodians who keep it comfortable and clean.

We also appreciate all of our out-of-area members and hope that you will stick with us through the changes we have to make. We need your continued support, both monetary and physical, in order to keep our organization viable. If you have stories, photos, reminiscences, or other material about Jasper County people, businesses, or organizations that you can share with our readers, please send them to us. We especially would like to be able to learn more about the rural areas of the county. These are areas where newspapers and historical materials are not readily accessible, and we are hungry for information about the people who lived and worked in these areas.

Beginning immediately:

- The Gleaner will be published only twice per year. Publication dates not yet been determined, but perhaps April and October. Some issues may have a few more pages than normal, some fewer. It will depend on the amount of information our volunteers are able to pull together. Again, we need our members, both local and out-of-area to help us by supplying material about Jasper County.
- Library hours will remain the same: Thursdays & Fridays: 10:00 - noon & 1:00 - 3:00; first and third Saturdays: 9:00 – noon.

- Now that we have a nice library space with seating space for more people than our old facility provided, we hope to be once again holding membership meetings and programs several times per year. The number of meetings will be dependent on finding programs and presenters. Our old meeting time was 7:00 on the last Thursday of the month, but we aren't bound by that schedule in the future. Evening meetings will be needed, though, in order to accommodate our members' work schedules.

BOOK TALK

NEW BOOKS ON THE SHELF

The following books have been added to the shelves of Jasper Co. Gen. Library:

Atlas of Jasper County 1941

Jasper County Atlas 1968

Descendants of John Miller

Descendants of Solomon Rose and Eliza Bidlock

Fudge Family from Germany to Iowa by Larry E. Hart

John Ferrell & Susan Thorne Descendants

Snook Family Genealogy

The Tool Family by Larry E. Hart

United States Direct Tax of 1789: Tax lists for Washington Co. PA.

Lands of the German Empire and Before

Other Books of Interest to Genealogists and Family Historians:

NEW YORK IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians; Eric G. Grundset for the NSDAR, 2012. This is the first in a series of Source Guides on the American Revolution. It is comprised of 634 pages of reference index to assist researchers in locating "widely scattered and often hidden materials". It lists the major research centers in New York State with their locations with a description of their holdings and even the location of the material within the building. This book is available upon request from one of the society members. Contact us at P. O. Box 163, Newton, IA, with your question or request.

On the next page are two excerpts from *Heritage Tour of Jasper County, Vol. 1 & 2*, by Jasper County Writers, Inc., 1980. (These books can be purchased at the JCGS library; Vol. 1 \$22, Vol. 2 \$16, or both volumes for \$35)

Corr House: 410 North Commerce St, Monroe, by Nanette Brock

James Bennett Corr was the son of Rev. Thomas Corr, a Virginian, and Presha Wood, born in Tennessee. The Corrs were living near Nicholasville, Kentucky, when James Bennett was born in 1822. They moved to Illinois when he was a young boy of twelve. Dr. Corr was graduated in medicine, from Northwestern University in Chicago. He served as Assistant Surgeon of the 133rd Regiment Illinois Infantry during part of the Civil War. Mary Jane Hall, of Macoupin County, Illinois, became his bride in 1851. They moved to Monroe in 1867, and Dr. Corr set up his medical practice, specializing in eye, ear and throat diseases. Mrs. Corr's sister, Margaret Elizabeth and her husband, Adolphus Hinson, also moved to Monroe that year, and Mr. Hinson operated a book store. Martha Huddleston, of Monroe, was a sister to Dr. Corr. Dr. Corr died in 1897, Mary Jane in 1918. They were the parents of five daughters: Flora Selest Shaw, Josephine Louis Morrison Corray, and three who died in childhood. Grace, Beulah and Mabel. There were two sons: Arthur B. and James Edwin. The larger part of the house was the original dwelling. The later addition on the back was for Dr. Corr's mother, Presha Wood Corr. She died in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ammer were residents of the house for a number of years. Oscar was a hardware merchant in Monroe. The owners in 1980 were Mr. and Mrs. Rick Wilson. Most of the information on this more than a century old house and the picture came from Lucile Jarnagin Gray, the only grandchild of James Edwin and Dora Hiskey Corr.

The history of **Hotel Colfax** is varied and fitted with Glamour and Despair. What drew people to this oasis in the Corn Belt? The Baths were one of the great drawing cards. They had the most skillful masseurs possible. The springs, found in 1875, when a railroad crew were digging holes along the bluff for coal when water bubbled forth that were declared of great medicinal value and immediately attracted invalids with a variety of ailments. The first hotel was a modest building at the base of the bluff followed by a three story building in 1878. The Spring was named "Magnesian Chalybeate," and the M.C. House of Mineral Springs was a place where guests were treated to billiards during the week and sermons on Sunday afternoons. The original hotel burned to the ground on Thanksgiving Day in 1881. The water was bottled and distributed all over the United States and Europe. In the spring of 1884, the "Saratoga of the West" opened and a dedication was held. The first major hotel had over 100 rooms and was considered the best hotel between the Mississippi River and The Rockies. Access was no problem because the Rock Island RR was a regular stop downtown at the depot and again one mile east at M. C. Springs. A side track and depot were part of that construction. At that time there was even a post office for M. C. Springs. In 1892, Wesley Jordan bought the hotel for \$10,000, and from then through its peak, the hotel had over 13,000 guests. By 1904, the glamour had vanished and it was sold at a sheriff's sale. Col. James Donahue acquired the hotel and invested around \$600,000 restoring the building, remodeling with steel and concrete. He carried out a Moorish style and the hotel was considered on par with some of the most exclusive hotels in the world. There was a golf course on the 160 acres of wooded land as well as an outdoor chapel an ice and cold storage plant, electric plant, laundry and pumping system. Famous entertainers and dinner music were included. It was serviced by the Colfax Springs Railway from downtown Colfax.

The hotel was closed from 1919 to 1920 because of a coal strike but few people came so it closed again. Following World War I with the advent of automobiles and advancing

technology also hastened its demise. Following the war, the V.A. leased it for veterans who needed medical care. Again it was remodeled and the Turkish bath was torn out. A congressional investigation into questionable use by high-ranking officers closed the hotel in 1922 and patients were transferred to Knoxville. After standing abandoned for several years, Fox Chemical purchased it in 1946, and started a new era. The hotel became known as the "Swine Palace". Hogs lived and were sold within the walls. The elevator, apartments and dining room were used once again and it was officially the Great National Swiss Palace and headquarters of the National Purebred Livestock Exchange. In 1948, it became a hospital for the rehabilitation of alcoholics and was called River Oaks Manor. Because of rising costs it was closed and forfeited to Fox Chemical who used it briefly for a sales and auctioneer training center. By 1955, it was discovered by the Catholic Society of Divine Savior and became known as the Salvatorian Novitiate which closed in 1967. To keep from losing the place, hundreds of people gave to a fund and it became the Interfaith Spiritual Center.

Married Well and Often: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800
Marriages & Marriage References for Lancaster, Northumberland, Old
Rappahannock, Richmond, & Westmoreland Counties, by Robert K. Headley, Jr.
Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company

Although this book is not in our library, if your local library participates in an inter-library loan program, you may be able to request it. This is a great resource for anyone who is looking for marriages of early settlers in the Virginia counties of Northumberland, Lancaster, Old Rappahannock, Richmond, and Westmoreland. The author has reviewed previous compilations of marriage records, as well as Bible records, family records, wills, and other documents that list maiden names, birth and death dates, and parent-child relationships from these five counties (remember, in the 1600s these counties encompassed a lot of territory). He lists that information and provides reference citations for each piece of information that he includes in the book. If known, he even lists an immigrant's European birthplace.

When you are looking for common Virginia names, such as William Ball, Richard Hull, and Charles Lee, which appear generation after generation in family after family, the extra information contained in this book makes it easier to identify the person you are looking for.

**It is also interesting to note here that the term "Northern Neck" has been used by different authors to refer to different parts of Virginia. In the above case, we are talking about the "fingers" of land along the eastern shore of Virginia that adjoin the Atlantic Ocean, the Rappahannock River, and the Potomac River. Some other authors have referred to the "Northern Neck" as being the northernmost area of Virginia that adjoins Maryland, Pennsylvania, and present-day West Virginia.

If you have found a good reference book that you think might be of interest to a lot of us whose ancestors eventually made their way westward to Iowa, please let us know about it. Send us the name of the book, along with the author, publisher's information, and a short synopsis of the book. We'll publish them periodically.

A NEW PIONEER CEMETERY FOR JASPER COUNTY

Sams Cemetery, southwest of Mingo in Poweshiek Township, has been designated a pioneer cemetery as of February 9, 2016. Sams is the 24th cemetery in Jasper County to receive that designation. In order to become a pioneer cemetery, there can be no more than 12 burials in the past 50 years. Sams was established in 1853 in Poweshiek Township by John Sams and his wife Susan Eveline Humphreys Hilton Sams. The cemetery sits on a rural hilltop providing a commanding and serene view of the surrounding countryside.

NEWTON'S FIRST AVENUE HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECT

Earlier this year the Newton Historic Preservation Commission began a two- to three-year project that will culminate in two Newton neighborhoods being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The neighborhoods are on either side of Newton's Historic Downtown: one taking in the buildings from 400-722 1st Avenue West, the other including buildings from 402-629 1st Avenue East. Both neighborhoods include many turn-of-the-(20th)-century homes, significant both in their architecture and their importance in understanding and interpreting the development of early residential districts in the town.

Five Commissioners and four community volunteers, along with an architectural historian, are researching and writing the history of approximately fifty-five properties in the districts. Phase One of the project will be completed in July 2017. The second, and final, phase will begin in 2018.

Through research conducted thus far, some interesting stories have been uncovered. Several families shaped a good deal of the development of these early neighborhoods. Their stories will appear in the next Gleaner.

The story below pertains to development of First Avenue and the surrounding areas, but also sheds some light on what pioneer life was like throughout Jasper County in the 1840s and '50s.

CLAIMING & PATENTING LAND IN EARLY JASPER COUNTY – NOT ALWAYS AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS

In the early days of the county, people were allowed to stake a claim to newly opened land.

In the spring of 1846 a Claim Protection Society was formed at Lynn Grove, in the southeastern part of the county. This group kept a plat map showing the lands claimed by the early Jasper County settlers; anyone wishing to claim land was to come before the clerk and have his property marked on the map and registered on another paper. A land patent would later be issued by the State.

In 1846 or 1847 an “Independent Protection Society” was formed in the Newton area to assist people who were occupying claims, but were unable to enter them at Iowa City. The Society was supposed to prevent persons from entering lands claimed by others in good faith or, if land was actually taken from the original claimant, then the Society could negotiate (read that, “force”) a settlement with the claim jumper that would be fair to the original claimant.

The history book tells us that in other counties, some claim disputes turned violent. This was not the case in Jasper County, and only two (possibly three) cases of disputed claims were noted. All of them involved members of the Prouty family.

A(nson) T. and his wife Elizabeth “Betsy” (Helms) Prouty, along with their seven children came to Jasper County from Chesterville, Ohio, in the fall of 1846.

In 1848 A. T. Prouty entered claims for several acres of land throughout the central part of Jasper County. Among the lands he entered was forty acres of land previously claimed by James Edgar, a blacksmith. Prouty entered his claim in the name of his son, Joseph, who was only 17 at the time (and, presumably, not eligible to own land). The land, situated in Sec. 33, Twp. 80 N, Range 19 W, is now located within the city of Newton, bounded on the east and west by approximately W. 4th St to West 8th St. and stretching north and south from N. 5th Ave. W. to S. 5th Ave. W. By the early 1900s, the northern part of this section of land housed most of the washing machine companies Newton was known for, as well as several other manufacturers.

Upon hearing of the disputed claim the Independent Protection Society visited Mr. Prouty’s home, located on another one of his many claims, to demand satisfaction on behalf of Mr. Edgar. The Society encouraged Mr. Prouty to sign a document deeding the disputed land over to Mr. Edgar, which he did, as did his son, Joseph.

A. T. Prouty later entered for patent another section of land that had already been claimed by John Moss. At the time, the land was three to four miles east of Newton; now all or part is probably within the city limits. Once again a visit to the Prouty residence was planned, but this time Prouty got wind of the plan and left home for the day, leaving his wife to deal with the Society. Apparently she promised that her husband would pay Moss a fair price for his land, which he eventually did. A second version of this story said that Prouty had

claimed this land in the name of his daughter, Maria, and the promised settlement was not made until the neighbors visited the Prouty house, tarring and feathering their front gate post in the process.

In 1851, Joseph Prouty deeded all his holdings in Section 33 to James Edgar and moved west to California. His parents, A. T. and Elizabeth, along with four of his siblings followed the following year.

Near Independence Rock in Wyoming, A. T. died of cholera on his fifty-second birthday. He was buried in an unmarked grave along the trail. Elizabeth and her children traveled on to Northern California and joined Joseph. They settled on land between the towns of Ione and Galt, located on an old Spanish grant. Each of the four Prouty brothers fenced in approximately three hundred acres. Joseph became the most prosperous of the four brothers, developing his land more than his brothers. He built a twelve-room log cabin, barns, corrals, and orchards with many varieties of fruit trees. Joseph became a well-respected member of the community, even holding elected office at one time.

After California became a U. S. state, following an agreement with the Mexican government, a number of Mexican Grantees were given a “floating grant” for land of their choosing. They chose the area of Joseph Prouty’s ranch, because it was so well developed. The Mexicans gave Joseph the opportunity to buy back his land, which he refused to do. And so, in 1875, he and his family were forced to leave the land with only clothes on their backs. They moved farther south, and over the next few years he purchased or homesteaded more than 500 acres of land in southern California.

Of the seven children of A. T. and Betsy Prouty, only Asher remained in Newton. He married Alice B. McGill in 1861 and they had a son, Jay, in 1863. Asher died in 1867, Jay in 1951. Both are buried in Palo Alto Cemetery, south of Newton. Nothing further is known about Alice.

Bibliography:

Andrews, Ilene Prouty (comp). The Ancestors and Descendants of Tirus Prouty and Mary Ann Thompson. Unpublished manuscript, 1965.

Weaver, Gen. James B. (ed.). Past & Present of Jasper County, Vol. 1. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen & Co., 1912.

Toughing it out in Missouri

If, while researching 1860s -1875 Missouri records, you find a woman selling property, don’t automatically assume that she is a widow. It could be that she was acting as head of the family because of her husband’s loss of civil rights as a result of his service on behalf of the South - or his sympathies for the Southern cause. In such cases, when his civil rights were restored later, you will find him handling financial transactions for the family again.

Newton Hosts The Central Iowa I.O.O.F. Annual Session, April 1906
By Rita Reinheimer

Have you ever noticed a man's tombstone that had a symbol at the top consisting of a three-link chain, with each link containing one letter: F - L - T? This symbol tells you that this person was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In the JCGS Library there is a souvenir program booklet from the "Lucky Thirteenth" Annual Session – Dept. Council Patriarchs Militant, I.O.O.F., Dept. Iowa - and the 87th Anniversary I.O.O.F. - Central Iowa Odd Fellow's Association, held in Newton April 24-26, 1906. Three of the four men pictured in the program are in military uniforms and all have military-sounding titles:

General M. A. Raney, of Marengo
Brig. Gen. Will V. Tufford, of Clinton
Major Gen. E. E. Lambert, of Newton
Brig. Gen. Paul Van Dyck, Des Moines

Most of the men whose names appeared in the session booklet had military titles. That made me wonder what the organization was all about, what was required for membership, and what kind of man would want to be known as an Odd Fellow (or "odd" fellow).

Browsing through the official I.O.O.F. website, <http://www.ioof.org>, I saw nothing to indicate that this organization has any affiliation with the military, past or present. To the contrary, an ad in the program from the E. A. Armstrong Mfg. Co., Mercant (sic) Tailors, advertised uniforms for employees, military, band members, and "Patriarch Militant Uniforms, Regalia, Costumes and Supplies for I.O.O.F. Lodges, Rebekah Lodges and Encampments, and all other secret societies." Later, a friend confirmed that the I.O.O.F. is a secret fraternal organization in which, by study, members advance through a series of military-named degrees.

From the official website, I found the following bits of information that may provide some insight into the life of an Odd Fellow:

The letters "F L T" on the three chain links stand for "Friendship, Love, and Truth."

The I.O.O.F. is also referred to as the "Three Link Fraternity", a reference to the chain link symbol that appears as its logo.

According to the website, the I.O.O.F. is a worldwide organization that began in Manchester, England. The first American chapter was formed in Baltimore, MD, in 1819.

In 17th century England there was a great deal of sickness, poverty, and lawlessness. A man could expect to live only 45-50 years. Many families, especially widows and orphans, often faced a life of destitution. To make life more bearable for people who lived in unfortunate circumstances, individuals of various occupations and social

classes bonded joined together to provide needed assistance. That assistance could be financial, donation of labor or materials needed for a project, or just visiting families and providing emotional support. Visiting the sick often put their own health at risk, but still they persisted.

The website tells us that the early Odd Fellows felt it was their duty to “visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan.” Such selfless behavior, uncommon at the time, led people to describe the group as “an odd bunch of fellows.” The name stuck, and it came to symbolize the group’s altruistic, unselfish behavior.

In 1851 a women’s affiliate, known as the Rebekahs, was formed, making Odd Fellowship the first national fraternity to include both men and women. The Rebekah degree is based on teachings is based on teachings of the Holy Bible.

Caring for the elderly and orphans has been a focus of the Odd Fellows/Rebekahs. Odd Fellows Homes for the elderly and Children’s Homes were more plentiful in the early to middle 20th century, but some are still in operation.

Today’s Odd Fellows still uphold the duties outlined by their predecessors. They attempt to make the world a better place by promoting understanding and harmony among people throughout the world.

So, back to our Central Iowa Annual Session of 1906. Judging from the number of participants, Odd Fellowship was popular in Iowa. Officials from central Iowa included:

Asst. Insp. Gen., Maj. J. W. Frizzell, of Brooklyn
Asst. Adj. Gen., Maj. Chas. H. Bauer, of Des Moines
Asst. Q. M. Gen., Maj. E. A. Young, of Des Moines
Asst. Surg. Gen., Maj. H. N. Byers, of Newton
Aide-de-Camp, Capt. Geo. W. Edge, of Newton

Local men participating in the Apr. 24 program included Lt. Col. H. S. Rayburn, Asst. A. Gen., and Mayor Ed Cook. Fred Hough presented a musical solo.

Committees for the program apparently consisted of local residents. No towns of residence were given for the committee members listed below, so presumably they were from Newton or the surrounding area.

The General Committee consisted of:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Miss Kate Blazer | Mrs. W. O. Foster | P. R. Rice |
| J. L. Broderick | Geo. O. Kelley | Phil Scharf |
| A. F. Brown | Mrs. Geo. Kelley | A. K. Skow |
| N. W. Clouse | E. E. Lambert | Geo. W. Wormley |
| E. J. Failor | F. A. McMurray | Mrs. W. F. Yost |
| Geo. Feas | Mrs. F. A. McMurray | F. C. Young |
| Mrs. Geo. Feas | H. S. Rayburn | |

Other Central Iowa members of sub-committees or departments involved in the programming for the celebration included:

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| H. I. Allfree | W. E. Killduff | R. P. Rasmussen |
| T. G. Bryant | Mrs. E. E. Lambert | J. M. Rippetoe |
| H. V. Byers | R. K. Lambert | F. Russell |
| Miss Minnie Callison | Sam Lister | T. G. Russell |
| Mrs. N. W. Clouse | Mrs. A. Long | Bruce Sattelle |
| J. A. Clutter | Emma Lufkin | J. W. Weeks |
| Geo. W. Edge | Miss Malicoat | Byron Winpegler |
| Mrs. H. J. Failor | S. S. Marshall | W. J. Yarham |
| S. S. Gates | H. J. McMurray | Mrs. Ella Yost |
| J. Griebel | S. C. Paschal | W. F. Yost |
| Mrs. J. R. Hall | F. A. Preston | Mrs. Fred Young |
| J. H. Hand | | |

Officers of the Central Iowa Odd Fellows Anniversary Association included:

A. E. Hindorff, President; J. A. Clutter, Secretary; H. J. McMurray, Treasurer; and three vice presidents: C. E. Coons, J. R. Sharp, and Chas. Potter.

A.E. Hindorff, of Newton, was listed as Grand Treasurer Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F.

Local luminaries in the parade included Maj. Gen. E. E. Lambert (Chief Marshall), Maj. H. J. McMurray (commander, Cantons), Capt. S. C. Paschal (commanding Encampments), and Capt. Geo. W. Edge, commander of Subordinate Lodges

Lodges from central Iowa that participated in the programs for degree work included Colfax, Lynnville, Brooklyn, Des Moines, and Oskaloosa.

Items from the Newton Journal, 1910:

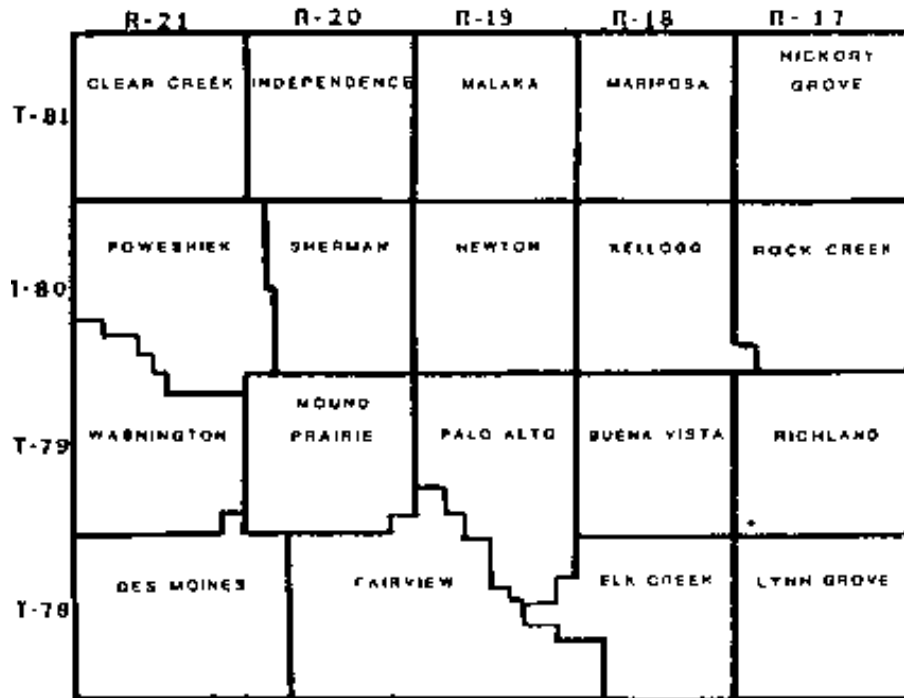
J. W. Watson Goes to Texas

J. W. Watson has traded four lots on which his house stands on the North Mulberry Street to Mrs. J. S. Rinehart for 188 acres of land near Houston, Texas. He will move to his new home the first of November. He returned from Texas Monday night. (17 Aug 1910)

To Live With Her Son

Mr. W. L. Anderson is expecting his mother, Mrs. E. M. Worcester, of Mason City to come to Newton about first May and make her home with her son, Mrs. Worcester is nearly seventy-seven years old. She has been keeping house in Mason City but feels she is getting too old for that and so has decided to live with her son here. (6 Apr 1910)

Map of Jasper County, Iowa



JASPER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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