

**JASPER COUNTY GLEANER**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Reminder:** Our mailing address has changed. Instead of our post office box, we are now receiving mail at our library address:

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

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

We also have a new email address: [jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com) (that first letter is a lower case “J”). Please update your records and use this address to contact us in the future. It is on our web page as well. Our phone number remains 641-792-1522.

**JCGS Research Services:** The price for basic research is \$12.50 per hour plus the cost of copies (at 20¢ each). Send a S.A.S.E with 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, and postage.

**Update on our library:**

The future of the building where our library is located still has not been decided, although preliminary repairs for issues in the basement of the building have begun. We are located on the main floor and are not affected by any of the issues or repairs. At this point we do not anticipate having to move the library to a new location but, if we should be asked to vacate the building, our new address will be posted on our web page. We suggest that before calling or planning to visit our library, you consult the JCGS information page at <http://iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/> for our most up-to-date contact information.

**Names of Persons Assessed in Buena Vista Township,  
During January, February, and Mar. 1889**

In the absence of the 1890 federal census, the list below represents the best record we have of the residents in the east central part of the county at that time. Buena Vista Township is located southeast of Newton, with its northwest corner being located near Exit 168 at Interstate 80. Its only incorporated town is Killduff, located near the southeast corner of the township.

This list of people assessed in Buena Vista Township was the final section of a two-part article titled "Brief Early History of Buena Vista Township, Jasper County, Iowa". It appeared in the *Newton Journal* July 7 and 14, 1909, and was written by J. W. Murphy, a longtime resident of the township. We published the first part of the article in the May 2018 issue of the *Gleaner*.

<u>Name</u>	<u>1909 Status</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1909 Status</u>
Adams, Orsan I.	in Buena Vista	Corleet, Joseph	dead
Adamson, Jr., Abraham	living in Newton	Cox, Jas H.	dead
Adamson, Sr., Abraham	dead	Cox, John M.	dead
Adamson, Jr., E.	living in township	Cox, Wm. P.	dead
Adamson, Elisha	removed	Credlebaugh, Daniel	dead
Adamson, Elizabeth	dead	Davis, C. M.	dead
Adamson, Enos	dead	Davis, Isaac B.	dead
Adamson, Sr., Evan	dead	Davis, Jas. O.	in Colo.
Adamson, Henry	in County House	Davis, John	dead
Adamson, Ira	removed	Dilborn, Joshua	dead
Adamson, L. M.	dead	Dooley, Geo.	dead
Adamson, Lewis	dead	Drake, John B.	dead
Adamson, Sarah	dead	Eaton, F. A.	Newton
Adkins, Martin	dead	Ellis, Hiram	dead
Akins, Wyatt	living	Ellis, Joe M.	in Cal.
Antle, Thomas	living	Evans, John	dead
Arnold, Dan'l	dead	Fisher, Charles	dead
Ballard, Joab	dead	Flosier, Wm. C.	dead
Bicknell, J. W.	dead	Fugard, J. F.	dead
Binker, Elijah	living	Gould, Joseph	dead
Binkerd, John	dead	Grimes, Elihu	dead
Blackwood, J. W.	dead	Hadley, Elias B.	removed
Braley, Jas.	dead	Hadley, Jacob	dead
Bright, Jas. C.	removed	Hammer, Nathan	living in Buena Vista Twp.
Cammack, Elihu	dead	Hammer, Sarah	in Newton
Carey, Maurice	dead	Harris, Abraham	dead
Cary, F. W.	dead	Hart, C. W.	dead
Carson, Levi L.	removed	Hart, Jas. E.	Newton
Chenoumeth, Sarah M.	dead	Hart, Wm.	killed in battle
Clossan, Thomas	removed	Hill, Josh B.	dead
		Hill, Nathan	dead
		Hill, Robert	dead

<u>Name</u>	<u>1909 Status</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1909 Status</u>
Hinshaw, A. T.	in Neb.	Pickett, Thomas	dead
Hinshaw, Evan	dead	Queen, John	dead
Hixson, Jacob	dead	Rich, Samuel	dead
Hixson, Wm. S.	dead	Richards, W. W.	dead
Hotchkiss, Geo.	dead	Rinker, C. P.	living in CO
Iliff, Stephen	dead	Roberts, C. L.	in Grinnell
Irvin, James M.	dead	Roberts, Cornelius	dead
Jordan, Wm. I.	dead	Sanderson, C.	living
Lamb, Obea	dead	Saum, Geo. T.	living on the same farm
Lamphier, Daniel	living in Buena Vista	Scott, John C.	dead
Landmesser, Sr., Nick	dead	Scoville, Bennett	dead
Likens, John M.	dead	Scoville, Jas. B.	dead
Likens, L. E.	dead	Slagel, Eli	living
Likens, Leonard	dead	Slagel, Isaac	dead
Lister, Jonathan	dead	Slagel, Isaiah	dead
Lockwood, S. D.	dead	Slagel, Jacob	dead
Ludwick, W.	dead	Slavens, Willis	removed
Manful, Margaret	dead	Smith, Wm. J.	dead
Marsh, Isaac B.	dead	Tenney, Elias F.	removed
MEEK, L. N.	dead	Thompson, Wilson	dead
MEEK, S. R.	removed	Trevits, Phillip	dead
Mendenhall, Z.	dead	Trotter, Monroe	dead
Miller, Joseph	living on farm	Trotter, Nelson	dead
Moler, J. W.	dead	Turck, Andes	dead
Murphy, J. W.	in township	Turck, Anthony	dead
Murphy, Samuel	in township	Turck, Peter G.	dead
Murphy, Townsend	in township	Turk, Truman V.	dead
Nickols, J. M.	dead	Wheatcraft, Samuel	moved to MO
Oldfield, Noah	living at Mitchellville	Wheeler, Jerry	dead
Oden, Elizabeth	dead	Wheeler, John	dead
Osborn, Elihu	dead	Wheeler, John B.	living in Newton
Osborn, Ambrose	dead	Wheeler, Joseph	dead
Osburn, Israel	removed	Wheeler, Nehemiah	dead
Patton, Mahlan	dead	White, Chas. F.	dead
Peacock, Asa	dead	Wilson, James W.	dead
Pearce, Elisha	dead	Wilson, Jas. (Gen.)	dead
Pemington, D.	dead	Wilson, S. H.	dead
Phillips, B. F.	dead	Woods, Tho.	dead
		Wright, Henry	dead
		Wright, James	dead

## **The Kelly Family: New York to Iowa – Early Life in Jasper County, part 1** **By Dennis M. Kelly (1860-1950)**

*Mary Kelly, of Louisiana, recently donated some records of her family's history. One item was a manuscript written in 1937 by her great uncle, Dennis M. Kelly, in which he presented recollections of his family's life in Catauga Co., NY, and in Jasper Co., IA.*

*The family's surname originally was O'Kelly. Dennis O'Kelly lived in the village of Blarney, county Cork. His son, Dennis [1812-1895], lived through the Potato Famine before emigrating to New York. There he married Margaret "Peggy" Dunley [1814-1904], also a native of county Cork, and they had six children: John, Nora, twins Bartholomew and Mary, James (who died in infancy), and Dennis M. Kelly (1860-1950), the author of this manuscript.*

*Much of the author's early childhood was spent in Weston's Mills, NY, a rough, working class city of lumber mills, near Olean. In 1869, at age 9, his family came to Jasper County,*

*Although some genealogical information is printed here, the intent of this article is to share Mr. Kelly's vivid recollections of his childhood in Iowa and the challenges of pioneer life in Jasper County, in his own words. Excerpts from his story are printed with the permission of Mary Kelly.*

...At the age of sixty years, for the sake of his family, [my father] left his job and the work with which he was familiar and with his few material possessions moved from New York to Iowa. At the age of sixty years, with a helpless family, to enter into a new line of work – a work of which he was entirely ignorant – required the courage that only the pioneer spirit of those toil-filled days could produce. Those early days on the farm, learning to plow, learning to plant, learning how to care for few head of stock, learning how to harvest the crops, learning all the many detail of farmer is painful even to remember...

When father and mother were planning the move to Iowa, all our friends and neighbors were against the move. Tales of Indian massacres in Iowa (The Spirit Lake massacres occurred only ten years before) were recounted and all believed the danger was real. Stories of the winter blizzards where men and animals alike were frozen to death on bleak prairie were not uncommon notices in the papers and father's attention was called to this fact many times, as well as to stories of the havoc caused by the fierce tornadoes that left death and destruction in their wake.

To all these stories father turned a deaf ear for he was determined to make the move. Father's urge was land hunger. In Ireland, no Irishman could own real property, so he was obsessed with [the] idea of becoming a land-owner which to him meant affluence – our peace. Mother's urge was safety for her boys. To get her boys away from the mill town gangs were to her recompense in full for all the hardships she might suffer in the new land beyond the Mississippi. Father's hopes were realized in a modest way and mother's boys, although they may not have fulfilled her high hopes, developed no criminal tendencies.

I remember but very little of the long journey to the West except the parting with friends at train time. If you have ever [heard] the wailing of Irish women of the old days, you would understand why the scene of that parting would linger in the memory when other things were entirely forgotten. Here there was no stemming of the tide of grief – a wild wailing

and sobbing that told the story of grief in heart responsive to every emotion. We were going away into danger that was real. We were as certainly lost as if the grave had closed above us.

We arrived in Newton on the fourth day of July 1969. We were met at the depot in Newton by mother's brother Batty Dunley. Uncle Bat lived in a log house five or six miles from Newton. We stayed with him for two or three weeks and set up our own home in Newton. We were pretty crowded in Uncle Bat's house. They had eight children and with the five Kelly children were just a little crowded. We slept on the floor and took our meals in relays.

Our house in Newton was a two room railroader's shanty on the railroad right-of-way. The walls of this shanty were one thickness-wide board with strips of thin [battens] over the cracks to keep out the snow and rain. The roof was also of wide boards running lengthwise of rafters with eaves reaching within a couple of yards of the ground...

That first winter in Iowa was an ordeal beyond description and this little shack in which we lived was not even papered or painted. Just the rough pine boards for walls and roof. When cold weather struck, father banked the shanty on three sides until the dirt reached the roof boards. That helped very much, but the snow sifted down through the roof into ridges on the floor.

We had a small wood burning cook stove that kept one room fairly comfortable, but the room in which we slept was damp and cold. To take away the awful chill at bedtime, Mother used to fill an iron pot with coals of wood raked from the stove and place it on the floor between the beds. This looked nice and warm, but didn't throw out much heat; but under heaps of covers, cuddled down in the straw ticks, we slept the sleep of perfect health.

We had wholesome and invigorating food that winter. Flour and cornmeal were cheap, wholesome and filling. We had great stores of hickory nuts and hazel nuts to furnish fats in abundance. For meat there were rabbits, Prairie Chickens, sometimes Quail. Brother John was very skillful at trapping. He made several box traps with figure four triggers and rarely missed finding game when we wanted some meat. Uncle Bat had a corn mill and made great quantities of sorghum molasses. We were not forgotten... Talk about vitamins! We had them. I do not know just what vitamins are [found] in sorghum or in hazel nuts, but we children never had colds or sick spells during all those trying days of tropical heat or of arctic cold...

The change from New York to Iowa was pretty hard on the older children but I was just as happy in Newton as I was in Olean. But it must have been a severe trial to father and mother. Not only the loss of old time friends and associations, but the loss of a comfortable home and adequate wages – not only to keep up that house but to put something aside for their later years. Then too, in Olean they were a part of a substantial class, respected and respectable, in comfortable circumstances, and taking an active part in the affairs of the community. How all that was changed. [In Newton] they were aliens. What they had saved was fast dwindling away. The future was uncertain. They were poor. They had no interest in the community and the community had no interest in them. It is no wonder that father's temper was uncertain and his spirit daunted, but mother's faith never faltered. Her cheerfulness never seemed dimmed, her courage never failed. She was the safe shelter in the time of a storm. She worked for us all with tireless

energy. She prayed for all with a faith that was sublime. She sang to us with old Irish ballads that brought to our young hearts the romance of the golden days of the Irish Kings. She taught us to dance the now forgotten Irish jigs. She laughed, danced the jigs, joked, and encouraged, and guided us all though often her feet were weary on the rugged path her life was cast.

In the spring of the same year, we moved to a little farm of seventy acres that father had rented from Paddy Higgerstore... About half of the place was in cultivation, the other half in timber – some acres of heavy timber and some of tall sapling black oaks from six to eight or more inches in diameter. We were to give one third of the crop from the cultivated land for rent. If we cleared any of the timbered tract we were permitted to keep all of the first crop that was raised on that for our own.

Before father felt able to buy this place for his own, practically all of the seventy acres was in cultivation. The clearing was done by working all through the winter. Frozen ground interfered, but little in the heavy timber where the ground was covered with leaves and brush.

When the debt assumed on this original purchase was paid, father bought thirty acres of brush and timber land that joined our place on the south, and when the debt was paid, he bought the Fowler farm of forty acres that joined us on the north. The last payment on the Fowler addition was made from my salary of one hundred five dollars from my first school teaching. I drew my pay at the end of the term and [gave] it to mother to make the final payment on our farm of one hundred forty acres. I was nineteen years that winter.

We moved from Newton out to the farm father had rented one fine spring day. This was about five miles from town. Uncle Bat took the household goods on his wagon. All of the family except mother and me went with him. Mother remained behind the others to clean up the shanty and kept me with her to keep me out of the way of the movers. Later the two of us walked out to the little farm that was to be her home for the remaining years of her long life...

The house on the farm improved but little on the place in town. In fact, in one particular it was inferior. The house we parted from had two rooms, but the house into which we moved had only one room. The farm house had a shingle roof and a ceiling of matched boards. There was no chimney, just the stove pipe extended through the roof, no lath and plaster, no foundation but sections of logs buried flush with the ground at each of the four corners of the floor. The house walls were rough boards running vertically, with narrow [battens] covering the cracks between the boards.

With two beds, two bunks that slid under the beds, a stove, a table, a cupboard, and a few chairs in this one room, there wasn't much room left for the seven members of the family, and yet, we slept well, we ate heartily. We laughed much, we quarreled little, and we envied none. We were at home.

[Father spent the last of the family's savings to buy a team of horses and a little colt.] The horses were housed in a stable. Stables were made by putting a double row of poles the required length around the sides of the structure. These double rows were about a foot apart and when the desired height was reached, the space between was packed with straw. The ridge pole rested on two forked poles that required height for the slope of the roof. Then more poles to support the brush used for sheeting and then long, coarse

slough grass over all laid on like shingles to shed water. These stables were long but never properly lighted. The horses always blinked when they came out into the sunlight...

Our farm equipment consisted of a stirring plow, a single shovel plow, a double shovel plow, and a small harrow. The single shovel plow [was] used to mark the field for the corn planting. It was drawn by one horse and made a rather deep furrow. The field was marked off in squares by means of this plow, and corn dropped by hand at the intersections of each two furrows, and covered with a hoe. It was slow work, but the corn was planted deeper in the ground and thus gave the corn roots a firmer hold to resist both wind and drought. The double shovel plow was a one horse affair used in the cultivation of the corn as well as for digging up the soil before sowing the spring wheat which was the main crop in Iowa at the time.

The first day father attempted to plow was a hectic day in the annals of the Kelly clan. The plow was carried to the field by hand power not far from the house, and [the horses] hitched to it. Now father had seen plowing done in Ireland and it looked very easy – but the plowman was a professional...Father was an amateur...

Brother Bat [Bartholomew], who was driving [the team] was ordered to start the horses...Father held the plow handles with all his strength, but the plow slid along the top of the ground and refused to dig. It dodged to this side and that side but wouldn't plow. After running for five or six rows father cried in a choked voice, "Sthop!" The team was turned to the original starting point for another attempt... This time father raised the handles and the plow dug into the ground deeper...until stopped by the team. The horses, willing enough, were pulling with all their power then the perverse implement suddenly shot up clear of the ground and, due to the sudden release, the horses shot forward for a dozen rods before brother could stop them.

The demon plow seemed possessed. By noon...that field looked like the fields of Northern France must have looked after a shell barrage. It seemed impossible for father to hold the plow level for he would raise one handle and the perverse thing would make a dash at poor Bat trying to control the horses on one side and then dart way in the opposite direction and throw poor father to his knees.

After a couple of days, the work went on fairly well. So anxious was father to have the plowing done that one day while out plowing, a rain storm came up but he kept right on during the downpour... Later the sun came out and smiled on that field. When planting corn time came, that field was such a mass of clods...that there was not dirt to cover the corn. The harrow had no effect whatever. The clods were like blocks of granite. In desperation, father made four heavy mallets and the three boys, with father in the lead, plodded back and forth on that field mashing clods...

Believe it or not, we raised a fine crop of corn...that year...Practically every bit of the work that year was accomplished only by heart breaking effort and back breaking toil. At the close of the season we had a crib full of corn, some twelve hundred bushels!, a granary with two hundred or more bushels of wheat, potatoes enough to feed the township, a flock of chickens, a few hogs, and a cow and her calf.

***This story will be continued in the May 2019 Gleaner.***

**Family Genealogies in the JCGS Library (surnames beginning with G - Mc )**  
(Surnames C - F were published in the May 2017 Gleaner)  
(associated surnames in parentheses)

Galbreath

Galloway

Garn

Garrett

Goodrich

Gregory

Griffith

Haines (Van Voorhis)

Hammer

Hampton

Harcourt

Hardenbrook

Hawn

Haynes

Hays

Hayes

Helphrey

Hewitt

Hill

Holmes

Howard (Carl, Chriss, Galusha, Prescott, Squire)

Howe (Burr)

Hummel (Robison, Rorabaugh, Dimon, Snook, Florea, Hoffert, Muck, Engle)

Hurst

Iliff

Jarnagin

Jones (Cripps, Chenoweth)

Jones (Ferguson)

Jones (Strickler)

Jones (Knauer)



Kelley / Kelly  
Kiddoo  
Kirkpatrick  
Klein  
Kling  
Larson ( Dencker, Uggerby)  
Laughlin  
Leeper  
Leintford  
Lester / Lister  
Likens  
Linder  
Livingston  
Long  
Lucas  
Lust  
Macy  
Maggard (Gilbert)  
Mason  
Main  
Mason  
May (Swanger)  
Mc Connaughey (Berry)  
Mc Cone  
Mc Connell  
Mc Cuen / Mc Ewen  
Mc Kinstry (4 vols.)  
Mead  
Meese  
Mc Kean / Mc Keen  
Mc Keever (Alexander)  
Mc Kittrik

**If you would like us to research any of these books (or other materials) for you, please follow the information provided in the announcements on page 1 and tell us what information you are seeking.**

## Old-Time Terms and Measurements

Originally published in the SMC GS newsletter, the following information appeared in the "Family Tree" newsletter, Aug./Sept. 2000, published by the Ellen Payne Odam Genealogy Library (Moultrie, GA).

A **grass widow** can refer to an unmarried woman who has lived with one or more men, a discarded mistress, a woman who pretended to have been married and had children, an unwed mother, or a married woman whose husband is habitually or temporarily absent. Probably, the last definition is what is referred to in the census, as both males and females are listed as "grass widows."

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### Measurements of Volume

1 <b>pottle</b>	=	2 quarts	1 <b>pipe</b>	=	2 hogsheads
1 <b>runlet</b>	=	18 gallons	1 <b>pipe</b>	also =	1 butt
1 <b>coomb</b>	=	4 bushels	1 <b>butt</b>	=	108 gallons (or 126 gal.)
1 <b>tiece</b>	=	42 gallons	1 <b>wey</b>	=	40 bushels
1 <b>firkin</b>	=	9 gallons (or 11 gal.)	1 <b>puncheon</b>	=	84 gallons
1 <b>last</b>	=	88 bushels	1 <b>anker</b>	=	10 gallons

-- This information originally from the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists' magazine.  
-- Information in parentheses is updated from New Oxford American Dictionary (2015).

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### Linear Measurements

While reading land deeds from the late 1700s, I came across the term "perches" that I had not encountered before. According to the New Oxford American Dictionary (2015):

1 <b>perch</b>	=	1 linear or square rod
1 <b>rod</b>	=	5 ½ yards, linear measure
1 <b>square rod</b>	=	30 ¼ square yards = 1/160 <sup>th</sup> acre = approx. 25.29 square miles

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### Query

Would like to find the names of the parents of Josiah Cox who was born 1827 in Indiana, came to Clear Creek Twp. about 1848, and died in Kentucky 1 March 1863. Josiah was married to Julia A. Maggard, and was a Union soldier from Iowa in the Civil War. He may have had a brother named John Cox, who married Nancy Harvey in Jasper County, 1852.

---Linda Maccllellan, P.O. Box 88, Shelton, WA 98584 lindymac@seanet.com

## Jasper County Courthouse Clock Repaired (well, almost)

The clock in the tower of the 1911 Jasper County Courthouse in Newton was installed in the fall of 1910 as the current structure was nearing completion. It began working as the official courthouse timekeeper on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> of that year.

In 2017 repairs began on the original clock in the 1911 Jasper County Courthouse. Because the courthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places, the county worked with the State Historic Preservation Office in Des Moines to ensure that the repair/restoration process would retain the clock's original appearance and as many of the original parts as possible.

The restored clock was reinstalled in the tower in May 2018, and a public celebration was held in June. Unfortunately, a problem occurred shortly after that and, currently, the clock's time-keeping mechanism is not operating properly. The county is still working with the restoration company to complete the repairs.

The original bell, which had been removed years ago, is once again at home in the tower. When the clock is functioning again, it is scheduled to chime daily at noon and perhaps at other times to be determined. A closed-circuit television has been installed in the lobby west of the rotunda, and here the public will be able to watch a video loop showing the movement of the clock works.

An article entitled, "Short Story About Court House Clock," appeared in the *Newton Daily News*, 19 Oct. 1910. According to the article, the total cost of the clock and installation was approximately \$1,800 (remember, folks, this was 1910!). Over 1,200 Jasper County residents donated \$1.00 each to fund the purchase of the clock.

There were an estimated 1,500 – 2,000 parts in the clock's mechanism. Because the courthouse elevator was not yet operational, all the pieces were hauled to the tower by hand. The clock was installed by Ed J. Klinger, of the Seth Thomas Company of St. Louis with assistance from J. W. Loyer, of Newton. The two men made an estimated fifteen to twenty round trips per day, navigating the 759 steps between the lobby and clock tower.

The clock's bell weighed 1200 pounds and was struck by a 45-pound hammer. The pendulum ball weighed 175 pounds. Each side of the tower had a dial, or clock face, that was 7' in diameter. The hour hands were 2' 8" long, and the minute hands measured 3' 5". The Roman numerals on the dials were each 13" long. Each dial was illuminated by four electric lights.

The clock was automatically wound each day at 8 p.m. by a 2-quarter horsepower motor.

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DIED: Mrs. Rebecca W. Smith, 25 Oct. at the residence of James Smith in Newton, aged 81 years, 9 months, 13 [or 15] days.

-- *Jasper Free Press* (Newton), 28 Oct. 1858

Note: Registry of deaths in Iowa did not begin until 1880, and newspapers of the time carried limited local news items. This, and the two death notices on page 13, may be the only written records of these early events that exist.

## **18<sup>th</sup> & Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Passports or Travel Passes** ***Could Your 18<sup>th</sup> / Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ancestor Have Applied For One?***

Petitions for passage, or passports, are a relatively obscure, but valuable, source of information for genealogists. A number of Eastern and Southern colonies or states required them at one time. Passports were supposed to be issued only to individuals who posed no security threat and who would conduct themselves appropriately.

In Pennsylvania, from 1776-1790, a person could not legally leave the state without first obtaining a travel pass, or passport, from an agency of the state government<sup>1</sup>. Multiple family members could travel on the same passport. The passport application often contained the date, primary individual's name, place of origin, destination, family members names, and reason for travel.

The reasons for travel were varied. Some people wanted to visit the homes of family members, while others traveled for business reasons. A number of applicants were trying to obtain parole for a family member who had been captured by the British during the Revolutionary War and were still being held on British prison ships.

In many cases the primary applicant provided a letter of reference, or character endorsement. Applications, references and bonds were signed, which may be the only document you'll ever find that contains your ancestor's signature.

Some Pennsylvanians received more than one passport over the years; others' applications were denied, and in many cases the reasons for denials were provided.

Nearly 600 passport petitions can be found in the Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments 1775-1790.<sup>2,3</sup> Abstracts of some of these petitions can be found in the *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, beginning with vol. 44, #2 (Fall/Winter 2005)<sup>4</sup>.

People migrating westward from southern states often chose a migration route that avoided or minimized the dangers and hardships presented by the Great Smokey Mountains. One popular route took travellers through Augusta, GA, northern Georgia, and finally into Central Tennessee. Because this route crossed through Indian lands a passport was required for all travellers. More information about these Georgia documents can be found online at <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/rs/passports.htm>. The definitive book on these southern passports was compiled by Dorothy Williams Potter<sup>5</sup>. In addition to westward migration, she listed trade, debt collection, and recovery of stolen horses and slaves as reasons for travel through Indian lands. Hundreds of passport applications and decisions are presented in her book.

An Internet search may help you to find applications from other states, but choosing key words which produce your desired result can be difficult. I once found a reference for New Jersey passports, but have not been able to locate it again using a Wiki and several different search engines and terms.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> From 1775-1776 this was the Committee of Safety, from 1776-1777 the Council of Safety, and from 1777-1790 the Supreme Executive Council.

<sup>2</sup> Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments 1775-1790, Pennsylvania State Archives Record Group 27, 54 rolls of microfilm. The passes comprise all of roll 30, available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT, film series #1,759,080. Originals are at the Bureau of Archives and History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg.

<sup>3</sup> *Guide to the Microfilm of Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments 1775-1790 (Record Group 27) in the Pennsylvania State Archives* (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1978), 227-40. The applications are filmed in alphabetical order.

<sup>4</sup> Applications for Passes, 1776-1790 in *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 44 #2 (2005) and subsequent issues.

<sup>5</sup> Potter, Dorothy Williams. *Passports of Southeastern Pioneers 1770-1823. Indian, Spanish and other Land Passports for Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, North and South Carolina.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. (1982)

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## Gold Fever in Colorado

The *Jasper Free Press* edition dated Thursday, 15 March 1860, carried an article entitled "Off for the [Pike's] Peak: The First Departure." It told of several Newton citizens who formed a wagon train to go to the gold mines in Colorado. Travelers in the train included:

- G. W. Chambers, John Q. Adams, Abijah Alloway, and Samuel Hays: One wagon and four yoke of cattle.
- I. E. Webster, lady and child, D. Harper: One wagon and three yoke of cattle.
- P. M. Housel and lady and two children, Rev. J. Steele, Jas. H. M'Cord [McCord], D. N. M'Cord, Charley Gilman, Wm. Hawk, Nathan Elliott: Two wagons and five yoke of cattle.

At least one other train was dispatched to Colorado that year. The July 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Free Press*, mentioned that O. P. Hedge, writing from Denver City on 13 June 1860, had sent word that his little company from Independence Twp. had seen "the Wittemburg group."

So far, no follow-up article has been located stating whether any of the intrepid prospectors struck the mother lode. However, a check of the 1870 census reveals that Isaac E. Webster, David N. McCord, James McCord, Charley Gilman, William Hawk were all back among the Jasper County citizenry. James H. McCord and Emily Housel were married in Jasper County in 1861, and Abijah Alloway, age 43, died in Newton in Nov. 1863.

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DIED: Ida Irene Newell, daughter of Hugh and Lucinda Newell, of laryngitis, 20 Oct. at Newton; aged 4 years, 28 days.

DIED: Mrs. Clara R. Fitch, 9 Oct., in the 34<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

-- *Jasper Free Press* (Newton) 29 Oct. 1859

## The Strange Case of Sarah (Armstrong) Winslow's Will

By Rita Reinheimer

The following item appeared on page 1 of the *Newton Journal*, Dec. 29, 1909:

### The Winslow Will Case

"The will of Sarah E. Winslow is having a hard time getting settled.

"It will be remembered that when the case was tried here, the lower court "broke" the will, and the case was appealed. Later the supreme court affirmed the decision of the lower court.

"Thereupon, the proponents filed a petition for rehearing before the supreme court and this was granted. This leaves the case again before that august body and the attorneys may, if they so desire, file new printed agreements before them and await another decision...

... "The attorneys in the case are: McElroy & Cox, E. C. Ogg and M. R. Hammer, Jr., for appellants; and J. C. Hawkins, E. J. Salmon and G. M. Tripp, for appellees."

Reading this article, my interest was immediately piqued. I was familiar with the names of Horace Winslow and his wife, Sarah E. (Dunklee) from previous research I had done on the family of Sarah's sister, Susan (Dunklee) Hunter. Sarah Dunklee Winslow's husband was a Newton lawyer and later a judge so, if his wife had a will, I assumed he would have set it up so that it was airtight and beyond controversy. I had to know: *What went wrong?*

Finding three large probate files for Sarah E. Winslow, I started reading. The names of her heirs were totally unfamiliar to me, and several documents in the packet, including one with her signature, referred to her as "Sarah Winslow, nee Armstrong," with no mention of the surname Dunklee. *What was going on here?*

It wasn't until I found an obituary for Sarah Armstrong Winslow that I realized there had been two Sarah E. Winslows who lived in Newton simultaneously and died about two years apart. Sarah Emily (Dunklee) Winslow, the widow of the judge, died 12 June 1906. Sarah Elizabeth (Armstrong) Winslow died in 1908, a little more than five years after marrying the judge's brother, Willard C. Winslow, in Apr. 1903. And just to confuse things further, Sarah E. Armstrong Winslow's maiden name was not "Armstrong" at all; it was "Fair." She was the widow of William A. Armstrong.

***"And now," as Paul Harvey was fond of saying, "the rest of the story..."***

When Sarah E. (Fair, Armstrong) Winslow died on 21 July 1908 her will, dated 12 February 1906, left all her real estate to her son, George T. Armstrong. This included 80 acres of farmland along what is now IA Hwy. 14, described as the N ½ of the SW ¼ of Sec. 15. At the time it was about two miles north of Newton, now about 1½ miles from the northern edge of town. Transfer books located in the Jasper County Courthouse show that the Armstrong family owned this property as early as 1866.

Also included in the bequest to Sarah's son, George, was part of Out Lot 18 in the original plot of Newton, currently encompassing the lots at 103 and 109 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. E. George would also inherit properties, with houses and barns, in Lots 4 and 5 of Block 8 of Black & Ritter's Addition in Newton (now owned by the Vernon Co., in the 400-600 block W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. N.). He was also to receive, *"immediately and unconditionally"* a small parcel of land from that same Block 8.

As stated above, the only land George was to receive immediately following his mother's death was the small parcel in Block 8. Sarah's other properties, the income from them, and all of her personal property, were to be left in trust for George with her executor, C. F. Morgan, acting as trustee. George was to receive the income from these properties but would only be allowed to take physical possession of them ***"in the course of time, say about ten years from the time of my decease, should the said George T. Armstrong become capable by refraining from the use of intoxicating drinks and any other bad habits of managing and controlling said property, then and in that case, I hereby direct said Trustee to turn over to the said George T. Armstrong all of the above described property, but under no circumstances is said property to be turned over to him until he becomes a sober and competent man."***

Other bequests from Sarah Winslow's will:

- To William Armstrong (adult son, of Chicago, IL), a parcel of land 62' x 157' in Out Lot 18, just south of that given to George. This land was in the 300 block of what is now 1<sup>st</sup> St. S.
- To Amaie (Amzi) L. Hixon (adult grandson), a 60' x 143' lot just south of that given to William Armstrong.
- To Charley Armstrong, (adult son) the income of the undivided half of real property being the North 19' of Lot 5, Block 15 of the Original Town. At his death the property would pass to her granddaughters, Gussie (Sarah Augusta) Foreman and Stella Swiheart (Swihart), daughters of Alice Swihart. The building that sat on this property was on the east side of the Newton Square, directly east of the Court House. It was replaced in 1918 by a new commercial building that currently carries the address of 110 1<sup>st</sup> St. N.
- To Mary E. Wormley (adult daughter), the sum of one dollar.
- To Alexander Armstrong (adult son, referred to as "Andrew" in Sarah's obituary), the sum of one dollar, he having had all that would be in any manner coming to him from my estate.
- To Lestelous [sic] Armstrong (a.k.a, Louis, of Chicago, per Sarah's obituary) the sum of one dollar, he having had all that would be in any manner coming to him from my estate.
- To Alice Swiheart (Swihart), my (adult) daughter, one dollar.

Not mentioned by name in the will but later listed among the heirs was Wm. A. Hixon, of Newton, an adult grandson, known as "Willie."

On July 25, 1908, before Sarah's will was admitted for probate, her son, Alexander Armstrong, petitioned the court to appoint W. F. Morgan special administrator of the estate because "a considerable portion of the real property belonging to said estate now appears of record in the name of Geo. T. Armstrong, and your petitioner believes that unless speedy action be taken for the purpose of preventing the same, that said Geo. T. Armstrong will convey or encumber said real estate greatly to the injury of the estate of the deceased or persons interested therein." The court agreed, empowering Morgan to "institute such actions as in his judgment, may be necessary to collect and protect the property, both real and personal, belonging to the estate."

Alexander Armstrong and three of his siblings, Louis (identified as "Lestelous" in Sarah's will?), Alice Swihart, and Mary Wormley, then filed "Objections to Probate of Will" on

4 September, 1908. They petitioned that the “said” will should not be admitted for probate in District Court on the grounds that:

1. Sarah’s mental capacity was so greatly impaired at the time the will was supposedly written that she could not have been the author or understood what she was signing.
2. She was under undue influence of her son, George, who “by urgent solicitation, flattery, and deceit” tricked her into executing and/or signing the will.
3. George T. Armstrong participated in the execution of his mother’s will after residing with her and being totally supported by her, doing nothing toward his own self-support; by telling her lies and scandalous stories about his siblings he poisoned her mind against them to the point that she would barely speak to them; George was a heavy user of intoxicating liquors despite making repeated promises to quit drinking and was intoxicated on the day of her death; because of his promises to abstain from drinking Sarah would accede to his wishes and demands; and because of his pretended love, affection, and promises he made to her that she was at all times under George’s control.

George countered, on September 29th by filing a “Motion to Strike” certain portions of the third paragraph of the “Objections to Probate...” document. Using the argument that his siblings’ accusations were “immaterial, redundant, incompetent and calculated and intended”, his motion disputed the allegations that

1. He did nothing to support himself.
2. He was a heavy user of intoxicating liquors.
3. His drinking was a great worry to his mother, and by promising to abstain from drinking he was able to influence her actions to his advantage.
4. He had no intention of abstaining and that he was drunk on the day of his mother’s death.
5. Because of his pretended love and affection and promises to abstain from drinking, his mother was at all times wholly under his control and influence.

A jury trial was held in the December 1908 term of District Court. Witness, Phebe Newell, in a written deposition, stated that Sarah Winslow told her she had married her husband Willard to have “some one help her tend to her business because she could not do so much herself”. She also stated that Sarah had confided that she left the bulk of her estate to George, because “he didn’t get his share when his father died, and the rest of the children did” and that, despite not having a made a will, “the lawyers had fixed it so George would get his share.” At the close of the trial the jury returned a verdict on 15 December in favor of the “contestants” (Alexander Armstrong and his siblings), stating that the will presented for probate was *NOT* the last will and testament of Sarah Winslow, apparently based on diminished mental capacity at the time she signed the document.

On 5 January, 1909, as an amendment to George T. Armstrong’s “Motion to Set Aside Verdict and Grant a New Trial”, his attorney M. R. Hammer, Jr., stated that on the day the jury delivered the verdict reported above, he observed the twelve jurors leaving the courtroom with “Andrew” Armstrong, one of the contestants (“Andrew” being the nickname of Sarah’s son, Alexander Armstrong) and his lawyer, J. C. Hawkins. The group then went to a restaurant where, according to the proprietor, they enjoyed “oysters, cigars and other refreshments, all at the expense of said contestant, Andrew Armstrong.” Named in the amendment were the twelve jurors:

T. J. Danks  
C. H. Kimberly

C. E. Kirkpatrick  
E. J. Austin

Louis Saak  
Harrison Prindle



James Paul  
Robert Fleenor

Joseph Shroyer  
J. W. Rhodes

Simon Krampe  
Charles Scarbrough

Nothing has been found in the court or probate files to document what actions, if any, resulted from these charges. There was also no paperwork found in the court files that specifically mentioned the outcome of the appeal to the state Supreme Court referred to in the *Daily News* article.

Wrangling over the authenticity of Sarah's 1906 will continued for another year. Records of depositions taken in 1909-1910 from her husband, W. C. Winslow, and neighbors and former tenants all of whom indicated that she was of sound mind and managed her own affairs to the end of her life. They also testified that Sarah only left her daughters Alice and Mary \$1 each because they had been estranged from her for a number of years before her death.

By the April 1910 term of District Court, after reviewing evidence from the latest depositions, a district court judge ruled that Sarah Winslow was of sound mind on 12 Feb. 1906, when she signed the disputed will. He then ordered it to be admitted to probate as her last will and testament and appointed C. F. Morgan executor and trustee for George T. Armstrong. Under the terms of this agreement, when George could demonstrate he was capable of remaining sober and acting responsibly, he was to receive all of Sarah's personal property and real estate cited in the original will as the northern part of Outlot 18 and the remaining lots in Black & Ritter's addition. On 10 May 1910 the court directed that, upon payment of \$5,500 from Alexander Armstrong, Louis Armstrong, Alice Swihart, and Mary Wormley, the executor transfer to them "all of the right and interest to the family farm located in the N ½ of SW ¼ of Sec. 15, Twp. 80, R 19W".

The final report of administration was presented in the February 1912 term of court. By this time most of Sarah's properties and many of her personal possessions had been sold, with the proceeds apparently being held in trust for George.

In the April 1916 term of Jasper County District Court, George T. Armstrong petitioned the court to grant him possession of the remainder of his inheritance, stating he "has become capable of refraining from use of intoxicating drink and has no other bad habits." The probate records do not reveal what, if anything, was awarded to him at that time, but it was not until July 1924 that the remaining portion of Sarah's land in Lot 8 of Black & Ritter's Addition was officially transferred to George.

George Armstrong died unmarried on 13 Feb. 1945, leaving his Black & Ritter Addition property to the Red Cross. He was buried at Newton Union Cemetery with his parents and brothers, Louis and "Andy" (Alexander/Andrew), and Andy's wife, Emzie.

Sixteen years passed after Sarah Fair Armstrong Winslow's death before the dispersion of her estate was finally completed. In the process a family was torn apart over an inheritance, and the final distribution of Sarah's assets may not have been exactly as she had wanted.

Nothing is known of George's life beyond 1924. Hopefully, from that time on, he was able to remain sober and manage his affairs competently, as his mother had wished.

## Men of Merit: Jasper County Grand Jury Members, February 1895

Reported in the *Newton Record*, 8 Feb. 1895

**A. H. Braley**, of Kellogg, is foreman. Mr. Braley is a farmer by occupation, as is (either active or retired) his six associates. He is a native of the Green Mountain State [Vermont], is 48 years of age and has been a resident of Jasper for 28 years.

**M. H. Hitchler** is a Jasper County man, born and raised in the best shire in the best state in the best country in the world. He is 33 years of age, tills the soil near - and gets his mail at - Metz.

**John Leeper**, aged 71 years, hails originally from that state of candidates [Ohio], but has lived in Iowa more than a quarter of a century – 28 years in Jasper County. He owns a nice farm about 3 miles west of Newton.

**C. E. Palmer** came from the grand old Keystone State [Pennsylvania] but is now a full-fledged Iowan and a thorough Jasper County man, 23 years here, although he gets his mail at Gilman because that is the handiest post office. He is a tiller of mother earth and reckons his age at 49.

**S. B. Powers**, of Kellogg, has been in Jasper County a long time, although he is a young man, only 44, looking and feeling nearly as young as when he came from his native Empire State [New York] to Jasper 26 years ago.

**H. M. Reasoner** admits he is 48 years of age, though, like Mr. Powers, the term of his residence in Jasper, 30 years, would seem age enough for so you a-looking man. Mr. Reasoner has one of the finest farms in Iowa, down in the southern part of this county, on which he raises Jersey cattle so much better than the ordinary Jerseys that they are distinguished at farms as “Reasoner cattle.” Mr. Reasoner is a Hoosier [Indiana native] but has gotten his mail at Reasoner, Jasper County, IA, ever since there was such a post office.

**Thomas Vanatta**, like the candidate, needs no introduction. He has lived in this county only four years less than a half-century and is well known in every part of it. He has done his share in making Jasper the finest agricultural county in the state, and is now resting in the sunset of his life in a comfortable home in Newton. He is 77 years of age, hale and hearty, and is a native of Pennsylvania.

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William Pittcock, over in Poweshiek Twp., was reduced to the expedient of declaring martial law at his place the other day. A couple of peddlers who made a raid on his premises insisted upon selling him or his family something they didn't want and extended their importunities into threats and bluffs which were accompanied with the display of revolvers. Mr. Pittcock is a veteran Union soldier and the way he called their bluffs will never be forgotten by the peddlers. He went into the house and after a minute's absence reappeared trailing an Army musket of the vintage of '61. The peddlers asked for an armistice while they removed their baggage wagon; and it was granted with the understanding that the invaders never make another raid upon Mr. Pittcock's territory.

--*Colfax Weekly Clipper*, 7 June 1895

## Jasper County Gleaner

The JASPER COUNTY GLEANER is published twice per year by the Jasper County Genealogical Society. Membership in the Society runs January through December. Dues are \$15 for individuals, \$20.00 for a family, and \$25.00 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), at **115 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E. – Suite C, Newton, IA 50208-3241.**

The Jasper County Genealogical Society was organized 26 Oct. 1977 and is a chapter of the Iowa Genealogical 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 members; non-members should send \$1.00 for each query. Submit queries to the Society address.

The JCGS library address is **115 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E. - Suite C, Newton, IA.** The library is open Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. We are also open the first and third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to noon. There is no charge for using the library.

The telephone number for the Society is (641) 792-1522.

Our email address is [jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com). Internet access is at <http://iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/>

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