

JASPER COUNTY GLEANER

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We anticipate that our library will be moving into its new location in the new county administration building sometime during the spring of 2022. At that time the library will close for several weeks while we complete the relocation process. Through the 2021-22 winter and early spring you can still come and do in-person research at our current library location:

115 N. 2nd Ave. E. – Suite C, Newton, IA 50208-3241.

We are open from 10 a.m. – noon and 1 – 3 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

If you plan to visit the library between April 1 & the end of June, it might be a good idea to first send us an email or phone to see if we will be open. Our phone number is 641-792-1522. You may leave a message, but be aware that we can only return calls to a **local phone number**. Our **email** address is jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com. You also check our **web page** at www.iagenweb.org/jasper for updates on the upcoming move.

Boxing up a library's worth of books and supplies, unboxing them, and restocking our library shelves is a BIG job. We would gratefully accept all the help we can get. If you would like to volunteer your services, please email us at our address above.

JCGS Research Services: The price for basic research is \$12.50 per hour plus the cost of paper copies, if more than ten are required. In many cases we can take a photo of what we find and send it to you, at no extra cost, as a .jpg. Specify what information you want us to look for, and send your check for a minimum of \$12.50 along with up to 2 surnames to our address above. Include a SASE, if you wish us to send paper copies.

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

It's time to renew your membership for 2022. See the renewal form on page 19.

Life in Monroe in 1869-70

The following is taken from a letter written to the editor of the *Jasper County Mirror*, at Monroe, written on Jan. 3, 1934, and published in the newspaper on January 18. The writer was Cason A. B. Tice of Rock Hill, South Carolina, who was born in 1862 at Monroe, IA..

Monroe happens to be my "old Home Town" and although it has been almost 20 years since I last visited there it comes up most vividly to memory's view as I knew it in 1869-70, when as a lad of about eight years I spent some time at the home of my grandfather, Cason Burckhalter... He conducted a clothing store near the northeast corner of the square, across from the old Eagle House. He was a devout Baptist and rarely, if ever, failed to attend prayer meeting. On one such occasion a new pastor addressed his flock telling them a good Christian should be of cleanly habits. Now grandsire could do a marathon at tobacco chewing. He came home from that meeting in a brown study, after a time he put his hand in his pocket for his beloved "plug" and – threw it into the fire, then paced the floor for a long time. During the remainder of his life he never used it again, though he must have suffered tortures for want of it.

Among those most prominent in the village affairs at that period I remember Dr. J. B. Corr, dentist, whose young son, Arthur, was my youthful pal; Dr. A. S. Elwood, physician and surgeon; O. Cowles was the leading joiner and builder, an artist in his line as well as having a fund of ghost stories which gave his small boy friends many a thrill; another friend of the small boys was Pete Bicklehaupt, the big, good-natured drayman, who carried on his work with a big two-wheeled cart. When business was slack the small boys who were allowed to do so got quite a kick out of riding with him "a standing." John Scharf repaired boots and shoes on one side of a small store room while Mrs. Scharf retailed footwear from a small stock on the other side. Prof. Mowatt was principal of the schools. The school bully who thought to bluff him never tried it a second time. "Chris" _____ kept a saloon on the east side of the square, a dirty, ill-smelling place, which, I believe, was Monroe's only saloon, and it was some years later, voted out.

Kerosene street lights were installed on some streets that year which made certain taxpayers grumble at the expense and charge that the town was not ready for city airs yet. It was the town marshal's added duty to light these lamps, which were run on moonlight schedule.

The dulcimer was a popular musical instrument in those days... [but] there were few skilled performers, and those homely instruments rapidly found their way to the attics in favor of the cottage organ. The Shelleys bought a melodeon that fall, the only one in town, and parties gathered there nightly to hear and enjoy it. I don't think Monroe boasted a piano at that time, for I never heard my Aunt Margaret, who was much interested in music, speak of one.

Dame Fashion was at about the height of her folly in the early 70's and Monroe's feminine social successes were as eager then as now to display the latest from Paris. When milady went "calling" or attended a social function fashion decreed that she must be attired in a much be-ruffled long skirt with train, over 4-foot steel hoops, bustle, wasp-waisted corset, forms, with her hair done over a chignon; if the day was fair she carried an 18-inch parasol to match. When milady came to muddy places and street crossings she gingerly gathered up her train and hoops in her left hand and carried them over;

women's clubs did not agitate clean streets then but heroically practiced sweeping them with their trained skirts.

Croquet as a pastime had reached the proportions of a "craze" about that time. Society played the game literally day and night. [The] Bethels, who had a short time before completed one of the finest homes in Monroe, almost across the street from grandfather's place, gave a "croquet party" to which all the elite of the town were invited. A number of courts were laid off and the grounds lighted with several hundred Chinese lanterns. An orchestra and refreshments added to the enjoyment. As I viewed it from grandsire's front gate I marveled at its brilliance.

Tennis was unheard of then. Nor can I imagine a pretty maid playing the game in the costume of that day. She would probably have finished a fast set with her bustle over her left hip, broken corset steels and chignon over her ear. No tennis for her.

The town was overrun with fleas that summer (and perhaps other summers) and most folks retired with lamp turned low ready for instant attack of the festive hoppers when they made sleep impossible.

The most exciting event during my youthful stay in Monroe happened on a summer afternoon when the boiler in Schenck's flour mill blew up. No fatalities except to a flock of geese that were feeding on tadpoles on the mill pond. It seemed to me that every man, woman and child in town was at the scene of the mishap in a short time and all lines of business was suspended for the rest of the day.

...One day at dinner grandfather said to me, "Casey, do you want to go and see 'em print the paper?" I could form no idea as to what I would see but felt that it would be interesting. Arriving at the west side of the square we went up a flight of unswept stairs over some frame store building...and as we neared the top a peculiar odor greeted our nostrils. I can't describe it; at first it seemed a mixture of a slaughter house and a paint shop. At the landing it was much stronger, but not so bad at that, more of it seemed sort of intoxicating. Going through a narrow hall and open door and we were in a room that seemed to me, full of mystery.

At the far corner of the room I saw a strange machine that grandsire said was a press. At one side was a brawny man with arms akimbo and beads of perspiration on his forehead; on the other was a boy with smutty face who held in his hands a long black roller which he worked over the back of an overturned grave stone, then rolled it across the press. (Inking the type, I was told.) The man spread a paper over a cloth that was stretched over a frame, then he slammed the frame over the type and rolled it under the press, then he grasped a big lever and gave it a mighty pull, the type was then rolled out, the frame lifted and the paper taken off – all printed with pictures and reading and everything. The man looked at it, then called to the boy "Stribit!" Another paper was printed and looked over, then he swore at the boy an awful swear: "Stribit, you d----d lazy devil!" More papers were printed, then he called "C-o-l-o-r." The boy would get some gobs of tar out of a can and put it on the gravestone, smear it about with the big roller. And thus the work went on.

Mr. Tice went on to say that this youthful experience in the Monroe newspaper's print shop led him to take up printing as his career. According to Find a Grave, he died in 1940 in South Carolina, at age 71. His full name was Cason Adinijah Burnside Tice.

KEEP THOSE EMPLOYEES BUSY

The May 25, 1933, issue of the *Jasper County Mirror* carried the story of a recent contest sponsored by the Howard Roberts Clothing Store in Monroe.

During the ten-day contest, store patrons had to estimate the number of stitches in a pair of Big Smith Overalls. The four closest guesses were awarded clothing from the store. The winners were from: K. F. Wilson, Vern Jarnagin, Dean Vaught and Eric LeGrand, all from Monroe. Actual stitch count was 15,246.

This article makes one wonder: Who actually sat and counted all these stitches? And how long did it take to do it? What happened if the counter lost his/her place? Unfortunately, the answers to these questions were not answered by the journalist.

With our COVID pandemic having subsided somewhat, it is our hope that all remaining restrictions on businesses will soon be a thing of the past, more customers will once again make regular visits to brick-and-mortar stores and restaurants, and employment numbers will return to pre-pandemic levels. However, should our merchants ever find themselves under renewed restrictions or in another slowdown, perhaps they could keep their employees working by having them make counts similar to those reported above to be used in business promotions.

Here are some things employees might count and store patrons could guess:

- For movie theaters: How many kernels in a large box/tub of popcorn? or How many camera scene changes in a specific movie? (gotta buy a ticket and watch the film to make a guess)
- For department stores: How many greeting cards in an aisle?
- For a book store: How many words in a book (specify the name)?
- For a clothing store: How many individual stitches in a child's cable-knit sweater?
- For a sit-down restaurant: How many forks does the establishment have?

Well, you get the idea. Keep those employees on the payroll, and have some fun in the process.

INTERESTING HISTORY

Taken from Whitewater Valley Genealogy Association newsletter Vol. II #4

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day, it was taken & sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive, you were "Piss Poor."

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. On the next page are some facts about the life in the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof...Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way. Hence: a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old." It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive so they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth..... now, who said history was boring?

Who Inherits???

By Rita Reinheimer

Well, JCGS is now an international business!

Early in October we received an email inquiry from a “probate genealogist” in a European country where English would be considered a second language, asking if we could do some estate research for him. He gave very little information, other than to name a Newton citizen who had died in 1987 and say he was looking to learn whether or not this person had a will and who inherited from her estate.

As the person who receives JCGS’s emails and does much of the research, I was intrigued by the prospect of working on this project, but also wary. What if this was a scam, a new take on the inheritance schemes of recent years? I checked the “genealogist’s” website info and reread his email to look for either validation of legitimacy or inconsistencies. On the surface things looked good; the website offered multi-language translations, a lot of work for a scammer to do. The man held membership in an international professional organization, verified by the organization’s website. The email letter to us was formal and impersonal, but well written. Even so, there were some parts of it that made me question its veracity: 1) The message, apparently written on company letterhead, simply started “Hello” – no reference to us or our business address, a date, or a greeting such as “To whom it may concern.” (*strange*), and it ended simply “Regards,” with no signature, other than the company logo at the bottom of the page (*really strange. Is our correspondent the guy for whom the company is named, or one of the employees? Is this the way they do business overseas, or is this a red flag?*). And then there’s the part about needing help to settle a 40+ year old estate... Still, the premise of the letter was just unusual enough to be believable.

The prospect of working for a professional genealogist, especially one from Europe, was intriguing. I quickly verified the information that the email’s author had provided about the decedent. After estimating how much time it would take to do the work and what we should charge, I talked it over with our treasurer, and we decided to accept the project. On the advice of our banker, I wrote back to the “genealogist,” providing the estimated time and charges, and stated the money would need to be sent by a wire transfer, with the receipt of the funds confirmed by our bank before my research would begin. (*I wasn’t ready to give this guy our bank information yet, though*).

The next morning we had a response to my message. The time stamp on his email showed it came to the JCGS in-box at 1:30 a.m. Iowa time, or 8:30 a.m. European time, (*an indication the message was most likely sent from Europe during business hours*). In the email, still very formally written, he explained that a man in Europe had died intestate before his cousin in Newton; therefore, she was one of his legal heirs. Since she died after he did, his country’s law dictated that her share of the man’s estate would be distributed according to the terms of her will – provided she had one. If she, too, died intestate, then her inheritance would be distributed according to intestate law. Therefore, my job was to find out whether she had a will, whether her children (all now deceased; he provided me with their names and death dates) had inherited equally, and, if so, who benefitted from each child’s estate. (*Nuts! Did I underestimate the time and cost of the project? If I have to research the children’s estates, should I ask this guy for more money???*) Not wanting to sound like we were trying to extort money from the “probate genealogist,” I decided to stick to my original cost estimate, and sent him the

information necessary to complete the wire transfer. (*Note to self – next time, consider overestimating the time necessary to complete the task; at least budget for time necessary for ongoing correspondence that may be required.*)

The next day when I opened our email, we had a message from our correspondent, again without a greeting, that began, “Thank you for that.” (*Uh oh. How odd. Red flag?*) The message also contained a copy of the wire transfer receipt, dated 08/10/2021. (*Uh oh, again. This is October 8th. Oh wait, Europeans – or at least this international company that initiated the transfer – must use the dd/mm/yyyy system of dating. Whew! Probably legitimate. The wire transfer company checked out.*)

Our local banker had told me that a wire transfer from Europe could take as much as ten business days to complete and confirm that the money was in our bank account. Soon after sending our banking information to the “genealogist,” (I keep using quotation marks since I’m still not sure if he’s legitimate) it dawned on me that I had failed to ask our banker whether this man, if he was actually a scammer, could somehow use the information I had sent him to raid our account and take all our funds at a later date. (*Of course, I have this brainstorm on a Friday evening, meaning that I have to wait until Monday to call the bank. Oh wait. Monday is Columbus Day, and the bank will be closed.*)

Thus began a three-day period of waiting and worrying, until the bank was once again open and I could get reassurance from our banker that there was virtually no way a scammer could get any of our money. To withdraw funds from our account, he said, would require the written permission of someone whose name was on our authorized signature card at the bank. Then the banker offered this caveat: “A scammer might contact you to say there is a problem transferring the money to our bank, and you need to sign a form or send a [signed] letter to verify the account number.” He told me “To protect the account – *do not sign anything.*” The signature could be copied and later used to raid the bank account.

This story has a happy ending. The wire transfer reached our bank on the third business day. The research was completed and sent to the probate genealogist by the magic of email, and I decided once and for all that the man was not a scammer when he asked me to send him a receipt for his payment to us.

I will probably never know how or when this estate is finally settled, but I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about some of the legal aspects of estate settlement, as well as working for (and receiving payment from) someone in another country.

I also hope we don’t get any more requests for research from foreign genealogists.

And while we’re on the subject of unusual inheritance cases, read on. Like the foreign estate settlement presented above, the following case had an international aspect. Nine of the sixteen relatives claiming the estate lived in Denmark.

“Judge Studies Case of Twins

“Judge J. G. Patterson Saturday afternoon took under advisement Newton’s “twin” case. Sixteen heirs at law of R. P. Rasmussen are seeking the division of his \$50,000 estate among themselves. Forrest Kunze, son-in-law of

Rasmussen, intervening in the petition of the heirs, claims the entire estate. Mr. Rasmussen had left his estate to Mrs. Kunze, his daughter. She died in childbirth, and her twin babies, delivered in a caesarian operation, [also] died."

So began the opening paragraph of an article that appeared in the *Jasper County Mirror*, Thursday, Feb. 22, 1934.

The babies, named Dorothy Ann and Richard Lee, were the first children of Forrest Kunze, 34, an oil company tank wagon driver, and Irene W. (Rasmussen) Kunze (Feb. 16, 1901-Mar. 7, 1933), who had married in 1928. She was the daughter of R. Peter Rasmussen, a long-time Newton contractor, and his wife, Charlotte Louise (Altemeier).

The article went on to say that the sixteen heirs at law claimed the twins never lived and, therefore, as the next closest relatives, they should inherit the Rasmussen estate.

Kunze's attorneys countered that claim, arguing that although the babies never breathed outside the womb, they were alive when Mrs. Kunze, [née Irene Rasmussen] died on the operating table. Consequently, the twins would have inherited their mother's estate, and Mr. Kunze would inherit theirs.

Judge Patterson ruled the burden of proof that the babies were dead at birth would rest upon the sixteen heirs.

Dr. F. L. Smith, who performed the operation on Mrs. Kunze, testified on behalf of the heirs. He expressed his belief that the babies were not alive at the time of birth; however, he admitted that he did not make a closer examination of the babies after pronouncing them deceased.

Testifying on behalf of Mr. Kunze, Dr. J. A. W. Johnson and Dr. S. E. Hinshaw answered hypothetical questions by saying they believed the babies *probably* would have been alive at the time of the caesarian operation.

All of the nurses who were present for the surgery and delivery testified that they were unable to remember whether heartbeats were detected in either of the infants.

A follow-up article in the *Mirror* of Mar. 22, 1934, carried the headline "Rasmussen Estate Goes to 9 Heirs."

Of the sixteen heirs who had originally sought to claim R. Peter Rasmussen's \$50,000 estate, nine of them, all living in Denmark, were blood relatives of Mr. Rasmussen. The other seven relatives, all living in Iowa, were related to his late wife who had predeceased him; therefore, Judge J. G. Patterson ruled they were not entitled to share in the estate.

As it turned out, Judge Patterson had reversed his original position that the sixteen heirs would have to prove that the Kunze twins were not alive when they were delivered, and instead ruled that Mr. Rasmussen's will itself was the key element in determining who would inherit. The will left the entire estate to his daughter, Irene [Rasmussen] Kunze, the mother of the twins.

The court found that, at the time of his death Mr. Rasmussen had no other surviving children or grandchildren. Therefore, the judge ruled Mrs. Kunze, as his closest living relative, would have inherited her father's entire estate with, or without a will; therefore, the will would lapse and become null and void, and the blood relatives of Mr. Rasmussen would inherit as if no will had been made.

By the time of the 1940 federal census for Jasper Co., IA, Forrest Earl Kunze was married for a second time, to Mildred Surilla Brannan. He died 15 Oct. 1968 in Boulder, CO. He and Mildred are buried in Page County, Iowa.

Irene Kunze's father, R. P. Rasmussen, died early in June, 1933. His obituary in the Jasper County Mirror was dated June 8, 1933, just three months after his daughter's death. At the time of his death, he was waiting on the renewal of his passport before going back to Denmark to spend the summer with relatives.

Fun and Practical Genealogy Projects for Winter

The website Ancestral Findings (www.ancestralfindings.com) has an online newsletter, posted weekly, that is full of information and suggestions for projects to do. Some of their recent project ideas are great for those cold, nasty late fall/early winter days, when all you want to do is stay inside. Kids or grandkids might want to help out with some of the projects, while other suggestions from summer issues of the newsletter would make great family reunion activities. Here are five basic ideas below from the "10 things to do..." columns in their monthly October and November newsletters. Some of the supplementary comments are from our editor.

1. **Write another chapter on your family history book.** Try taking a month to write a chapter.
2. **Fix some traditional cold-weather family recipes each week.** What were those foods you loved to eat as a child? Did your mother/grandmother share any of those recipes with you? Or use recipes from an old cookbook. Get family members to help you prepare some of the dishes. While you are preparing the dishes, you can share your memories or information about the ancestors who might have prepared these same recipes.
3. **If there is a museum open in your area this winter, make a family visit** on a good-travel day. See and discuss the tools your ancestors would have used, the items they cooked with/cleaned with, what they did for recreation, etc.
4. **Make a photo collage of your family doing seasonal activities:** Add photos of your ancestors, if you have some. Make separate collages for each season, if possible, and frame each. Use these seasonal decorations in your home.
5. **Concentrate on a line of your family research that you have previously neglected.** Pick one or two surnames, and see if you can find one or two new names to enter into your database. Be sure to check for death certificates, burial information, land records, church membership lists, etc. and document the sources you used – both those that yielded new information and those that didn't (so you don't have to check them again). Add short narratives about events your ancestors experienced during their lives.

My School Days in Jasper County, Iowa, part 1

By Esther Remmenga

This story is included in the *Somerville-Laughead Family History*, available at the JCGS library. It has been copied as Mrs. Remmenga wrote it, although some of the more obvious typographical errors have been corrected for publication. The author was born 27 Feb. 1909 in Blakesburg, Iowa and died 8 Aug. 2003. She is buried at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne, Michigan. She was married to John Menko Remmenga in 1928. Her maiden name is alternatively spelled Laughead and Langhead, in various records. Her handwriting tends to look like "Laughead."

I, Esther Marie (Laughead/Langhead) Remmenga and my brother Gale Leroy, started at the same time to school at Hickory Grove School, Kellogg, Iowa. We had 4 miles of dirt road to walk one way. I donot remember too much about the school and I do not know the Teacher's name. The school was a white wood building, and it was on a road that ran east and west, down a little hill from my Uncle John and Aunt Mable Somerville, and across the road from them, lived her Father William Paul, a Sister, two Brothers – Andy and Lewis; her Mother had passed away. We would stop and play with our little cousin, Clara at night; if we went right home the older children would fight us on the way home. Mother would have to come looking for us a lot of times. One reason I did not remember too much about of it was we only went 19 days out of the term; my Aunt Clara Somerville taught there after that and it was on the record book. I was struck by lightning when we lived [at] the Kellogg address; it effected my voice, so my voice was different from most people, so the other children made fun of my. My parents Thomas and Olive Laughead knew they had to do something about our schooling, so they got a place by Rushville.

Our Year at Rushville School, Newton, Iowa

We attended this school more than we did the other school; I do not remember too much about the school and do not know the teacher's name. The white wood school building was on a road that ran east and west by Rushville church. The school faced the South, and as you entered the school there a long hall for our coats and double swinging doors to go into the class room, I remember that well, for as I went to go in one day, two big boys through a snow ball in, it hit the double doors and snow went all over the hall, and the boys told the teacher that I did it. I guess I was younger than most of the girls, they had a make believe play house under some trees in the school yard – had broken pieces of dishes for their dishes, and broked bottle necks with string to connect the bottles together for their phones. When we lived there the Indians used to come to South Skunk River on Grandpa and Granma Osborn farm and stay from early spring to late fall with their spotted ponies , wagons, dogs, and leather skin tents. The Indians use to have the skins out curing from the animals that they killed to eat, and they use the skins for clothing and tents ; the Indians never killed animals unless they needed them for food or clothing, that is the reason they always had food and clothing. The Indians taught my aunt Orpha how to do bead work, they came there for years and years. (Grandpa Henry and Rhoda (Hammer) Osborn were our cousin's grandparents. They thought our Grandparents was theirs, we was so close. When we went to Rushville school we had two miles of dirt road and a mile to the mail box. We had apple trees there and we were told not to eat the green apples, but you know I did, and that day I had to go on old Bell, our wonderful house for mail. I guess we had always had her for my Mother and us kids. I thought I would never get there, I can still feel to-day how sick I was.

To be continued in the May Gleaner.

Long-time Subscribers of the *Newton Journal*, 1885 part 1

Submitted by Diana Wagner

[ED. NOTE: In the early months of 1885, the *Newton Journal* asked its subscribers to provide information about themselves. Many of the respondents included information about their birth and early life, where they previously lived, when they came to this county, etc. Subscribers from all parts of the county and even out of state answered. Below are some of the responses published in the *Journal* on Apr. 8, 1885. This article will continued in the May 2022 *Gleaner*.]

Morris Cating, Galesburg:

I was born in Jackson county, Ohio, in 1821. My father removed from there to Warren county, Ind., when I was probably about nine years old. At that time Indiana was considered a new country. Indianapolis was only a small village. About 1835 we moved to Winnebago county, Ill. I stopped in Joliet to learn the carpenter trade. The next spring the man I worked with moved to a village called Virginia, 2 ½ miles from Chicago. Chicago at that time was quite a small town, and the country all around was a swamp. There were no railroads – traveling had to be done by stage coach, and around there it took six horses to draw it, and then they often stuck in the mud and had to get oxen to pull them out. I do not remember that I ever saw a stage go into Chicago then with less than six horses and six inch tire on the wheels. The next spring I went back to Indiana and remained there until the fall of 1854, when I came to Jasper county, Iowa, where I have remained ever since. I think it was some time the next spring I was in Newton, met Mr. Welker and some other gentlemen on the street, trying to get subscribers for a paper; said if they could get enough they would bring a press. There was not a newspaper published in the county at that time. I subscribed, and have remained a subscriber ever since. Have hardly ever missed a number.

E. O. Wright, Red Lion, Neb.:

Mr. Editor: - Pursuant to request, I will say that I was born June 6, 1838, - which makes me 47 next June – in the town of Liberty, Sullivan county, New York; came to Jasper county, Ia., in the fall of '56. Would have voted for John C. Fremont, had I been old enough, that fall, but I threw up my hat and screamed for him with all my might. Cast my first ballot for Abe Lincoln – think I have all the symptoms still, politically. I remember very well what the winter of '56 and '57 was like, up in Independence township. The sun did not show itself for 40 days without a sun dog, neither did it thaw on the south side of a building during that time, and the snow was so deep that it wasn't safe to start out with a team unless you was armed with a shovel to dig through snow drifts – the past winter was mild compared with that. Stayed in old Jasper twenty-three years and have a soft feeling for her still. Have taken the JOURNAL, and its predecessors, ever since I can remember, have forgotten date of commencing.

Mrs. D. S. Stover, Newton:

Noticing your kind invitation to old subscribers to send in notes I thought perhaps I might give you a few incidents. I believe I have been as constant a reader of your paper as there is living, for it has been a regular weekly visitor at our house since the very first issue of the old *Jasper County Express* up to the present time, and I have read every number, only when prevented by severe sickness. When Mr. Welker, of the firm of Welker & Besack, came to Newton to make arrangements for starting his paper, he came on horseback, and night overtook him when within five miles of Newton, and he stopped and stayed all night at my father's. When he issued the first number of his paper he sent us eight or ten numbers, with the request that we send them to our

Hoosier friends, which we did, and no doubt they were the means of bringing emigrants to this county. It is a fact, not generally known, that there was a paper published in Newton before the *Express* called the *Newton Bee*, it was written instead of printed, on 12 or 15 sheets of blue fools cap paper. I think it was edited by Drs. Gray & Ault. My father was in possession of one or two numbers of this paper until a few years ago.

E. T. Preston, Baxter:

Was born near Lynchburg, Virginia, March 14, 1813. At the age of 12 years removed to Columbus, Ohio. In April, 1855, came to Jasper county, Iowa, where he has been a reader of the Republican paper up to the present time. He acted with the Whig party until 1849, at which time he aided in the organization of the Liberty party, voted for J. G. Birney, for president, in 1840; acted with the Free-Soil party up to 1856. Then adopted the Republican party, with which he stands, or falls, holding no affinity with rebels or rebel sympathizers. He has been an interested observer of the development of old Jasper for about the space of 30 years, and would, through the kindness of our good JOURNAL, greet his old friends throughout our great county.

Silas Smith:

Has been taking the paper about 14 years. Was born in Indiana. Came to Iowa and settled in Jasper county 18 years ago this month. Mr. Smith is 51 years of age.

Israel Rorabaugh, Mound Prairie tp.:

Was born in Pennsylvania. Bought land in Jasper county in 1855, and moved here in 1860, and has resided ever since on his present farm in Mound Prairie tp. Age 65 years.

Elias Shutt, Fonda, Pocahontas county, Iowa:

Should be counted among the old subscribers. Was born in Burke [Berks?] county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1832, came to Warren county, this state, in May, 1856, and from there to Elk Creek tp., Jasper county, in the spring of 1872, where he remained until March 8, 1884, when he removed to his present home near Fonda, Iowa.

C. L. Patt, St. Johns, Mich.:

He writes that he has taken the paper since 1869 – first the Free Press, then the Headlight and now the JOURNAL. Says the winter in that state has been very severe – snow at times fully thirty inches deep – and the thermometer at 26° below, no uncommon thing. Chas. will make a visit among his Jasper county friends this spring.

Wm. Kiskadon, Palo Alto tp.:

Was born in Devonshire, England. Has been in Jasper county 14 years. Age 61 years.

Robert Hill, Palo Alto tp.:

Is a native of Tyrone, Ireland. Came to Iowa in October, 1854, and has resided here ever since. His first days' work here was for James Earley, and afterwards for Dr. Ault. On the following January his father died, and he moved onto the home place, where he still resides. Mr. Hill is 54 years of age.

L. L. D. Kennedy, Newton:

Born in Wayne county, Kentucky. Came to Jasper county in the fall of 1850. He has cut hay off the ground where the Court House now stands and the high grass in the square was a home for the rattlesnake. At that time there was no house between Newton and Hammer's Grove – a distance of six miles. Aged 59 years.

John M. Hiatt, Newton

Born in Tyler, West Virginia. Age 65 years. Came to Jasper county, May 24, 1854, and has resided here ever since. He first settled on a farm in Rock Creek township, but left it and came to Newton in April, 1856. The first house he built was a little one-story frame, for himself, in Edmundson's Addition.

J. H. Chapman, Newton:

Born at Zanesville, Ohio. Removed to Iowa in 1852, and settled in Newton in May, 1861, since which time he has resided here, and engaged in the jewelry business. Age 56 years.

Irey Quaintance, Newton:

Was born in Jefferson county, Ohio. Removed to Iowa in 1854, and settled in Jasper county in 1855. The first night he was in Newton he and his wife and Wm. T. Giles and wife slept on the floor of the old Ault Tavern, on the corner opposite the Presbyterian church. Mr. Quaintance brought with him 500 head of sheep – the first flock that came into the county, Mr. Q. is 63 years of age.

Aaron Hammer, Newton township:

Was born in Jefferson Co., Tennessee. Removed from that State to Iowa in 1848, and the year following came into this county, and is in fact one of the pioneers of old Jasper. When he came here there were only two or three cabins in Newton, and the only store was kept by a man by the name of Hinshaw, and the principle article of commerce was whisky. Mr. Hammer was here before the section on which the town of Newton is located was entered from the Government. He is 63 years of age.

[A letter from Elizabeth Hinshaw, rebutted some of the statements in the above entry: "... I noticed a mistake in Aaron Hammer's biography. I came here in '48; he came to this state in '46 and to this county in the following year, in '48 [sic]. John Cop sold whiskey before that. One William *Hanshaw* lived in Newton, now Hinshaw; as the Hinshaws never was in such business...]

J. S. Allen, Mingo:

This gentleman writes us that he began taking the paper when it was the Headlight, and continues it yet.

Samuel Beals, Newton:

Came from East Tennessee to Iowa in 1854, and settled in Jasper county in 1856.

John H. Stier, Sherman tp.:

This gentleman puts in his claim as to his being one of the oldest "standinbys" of the paper – and it is conceded to be a just one, too. He writes that he came to Clear Creek township May 24, 1857. Was one of Mr. Campbell's first subscribers to his paper, the Express, and has taken it almost all the time up to the present – as Express, Free Press, Republican, Headlight and JOURNAL – at one time got the largest list of subscribers for Mr. Campbell of any man in the county. "In 1857, we had to go 20 miles for our mail. In 1859, I bought corn for 6 to 8 cents per bushel in trade – no railroad then. During the War Clear Creek was a nest of copperheads and secessionists – but still turned out a goodly number of volunteers. I was postmaster at Clyde from February, 1858, to June, 1871."

Samuel Reasoner, Reasnor:

Born in Muskingum county, Ohio. Removed from Ohio to Indiana in 1833 and thence to Iowa in 1864. Aged 63 years.

Wm. B. Ritter, Iowa:

Removed from Stark county, Ohio, where he was born, to Newton in the spring of 1855, and has resided here ever since. He is 53 years of age. Mr. Ritter tells us that Henry Welker, who published the first paper here, used to carry the mail from Canton to Bethlehem, and he has frequently watered the boy's horse from his father's well in Columbia county.

C. D. Conwell, Baxter:

This gentleman has been a friend indeed to the paper, having taken it for about 30 years, and says he expects to continue it. Mr. Conwell is a staunch Republican and believes in encouraging Republican literature. Such friends as Clark Conwell are always appreciated.

Geo. W. Taylor, Newton:

Was born in New Jersey. Came to Newton in January, 1855, and built the house in which he is now doing business, the same year, for Robert Paterson. His age is 55 years.

Alex. Snodgrass, Newton Tp.:

Born in Marion county Indiana, came with his father to Iowa in 1854, and settled in Elk Creek township. Has taken the paper for a number of years, but has read it in his father's family almost from its first issue.

Robert M. Wilson, Rushville:

He writes: I was born in Sussex county, Delaware, Dec. 17, 1813: my father moved to Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1814, and then to Piatt county, and in 1821 to Clark county, Indiana, and to Scott county in 1842, when he died in 1846. I was married on the 10th of November, 1835, and in 1837, moved to Arkansas. In June, 1842, I moved back to Scott county, in 1850 to Clark county and in 1854 to Iowa. In October, 1854, I erected the house where I now live. – Moved my family to Newton on the 10th day of November, '54, and on the 13th to grove to old father John Alloway's until I could build me a cabin, - which I got into on the 5th of December, 1854. – Have taken the paper since the time that it was under the management of Angus Campbell – can't remember the year. When there were two Republican papers, I took both part of the time. During the time of the war we could not get the news fast enough. We had arranged for someone to go to town every day to bring us the latest from the front. There was a little daily printed for a while which came out every morning with the latest telegrams." (Mr. Wilson, the little daily was called the Monitor, if you remember, and was published by two printer boys in the old Free Press office. – Jackson Newell and Tommy Rodgers, - who when the thing to be a little interesting volunteered as "soger boys," and the Monitor was no more. Poor Jackson was killed at Vicksburg, and the other boy adds this note.)

F. M. Woodward, Des Moines:

Is a native of Warren county, Indiana. Came to Jasper county in 1854, and until recently has resided on a farm near Galesburg. He now lives in Des Moines. Is 52 years old.

Elias R. Peck, Metz:

Was a soldier in Co. I, 10th Iowa Infantry, organized by Col. Garrett as Captain. Has been a reader of the paper from its first establishment, born in Greenwich Connecticut. Came to Jasper county and located in Oct. 1853 on NE ¼ 33-79-20, Md. Prairie township. Remained on this farm until about 8 years ago, when he removed to Metz. Is 70 years old.

George Hews, Reasnor:

Was born in Fulton county, Illinois, - came to Iowa in 1853, when he was but 10 years old, and settled in Elk Creek township, within a mile from where he now resides. Served as a soldier in Co. I, 10th Iowa Infantry, organized by Col. Garrett as Captain. Has been a reader of the paper from its first establishment.

John K. McKee, Monroe:

We came from Pittsburgh just at the breaking out of the war. There are many incidents I would love to mention, but cannot now. The 1st clerk of the boat on which we came was a rebel; he had ammunition secreted in bales of hay which was not discovered till we arrived at St. Louis, where he was arrested – which pleased us very much of course. As we came opposite Commerce, Kentucky, we had to endure the sight of the rebel flag floating, and hear the people shouting for Jeff Davis and the Southern Confederacy. I was born in the North of Ireland, and am 80 years of age.

Adam Fisher, Colfax:

Was born in York county, Penn. – Came to Iowa in 1856, settling in Poweshiek township; and have resided there ever since, and for 29 years has watched the gradual improvement going on all around him. His home then in a sparsely settled neighborhood, is now in the midst of one of the best farming communities in the State. Is a Republican, and has taken the paper almost from its first publication.

W. H. McColloch, Hickory Grove Tp.:

Was born in Massachusetts. Came to Jasper county in the fall of 1869. Aged 40 years.

John Newcomer, Hickory Grove Tp.:

Born in Pennsylvania. Aged 41 years. Came to Jasper in 1867.

Thomas Vanatta, Newton:

You wanted your old subscribers to report. I think I am one of them, as I have taken the paper ever since Welker & Besack run it. I came to Iowa in 1846; settled first in Muscatine county, and removed to Jasper in '54. I am 68 years old. Have voted the Republican ticket since 1838. Have four sons and four sons-in-law, and they do the same.

John King, Newton:

I was born in Tennessee in the year 1806. Came to Iowa and settled in Jasper county in the fall of 1855; spent the first winter in Newton. Began to take the paper in 1856. Am going on 79 years old.

P. Allee, Lynnville:

I think I can be counted one of your old subscribers. I commenced taking the paper when it was the Jasper County Republican, and subscribed with Thos. Rodgers. Have taken it ever since.

Are These People in Your Family?

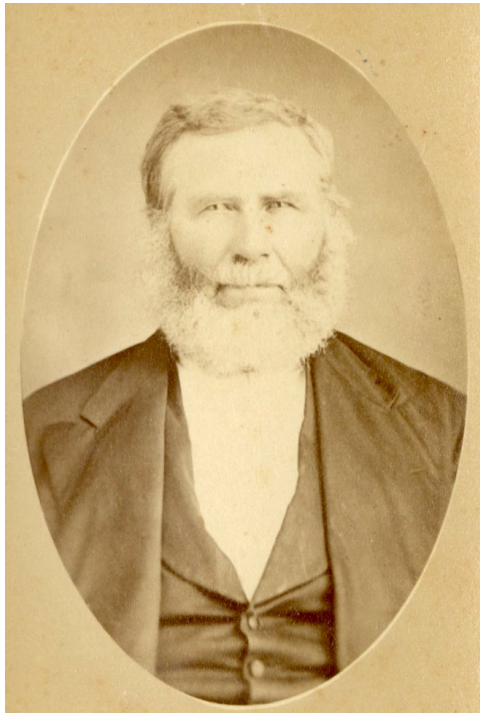
We were given a lot of family photos this summer. Some were from Newton studios; some had first names only; some were from out-of-town or even out-of-state.

If you can prove your relationship to any of these people, we will be glad to let you have the photos.

Names on photos from the Clifford & Son, Ikenberry, and Pardoe studios in Newton included James Crawford, John Crawford (“father of Florence & Jennie”) & Eliza Walters Crawford; Emma Loupee; Arnout Dunnick; and “Viola, Ivy & Lilly Brown.”

Edith Burroughs, “school teacher”, who “married William Adair” had her picture taken by “Whitcomb, the Lightning Photographer” of Kellogg. “Uncle George Crawford, uncle of Hamah”, “Aunt Mary Crawford, Colonel Garrett’s wife”, and “Henry Crawford, Warren’s father”, had their cabinet card photos taken in Marion, Ohio.

Older photos, ca. 1880s, with no date or location given, include Nellie Crawford (Planalp), Roy Crawford, Mae Campbell, Sara Jane Tramel “wife of W. A. Tramel, mother of Charles & Mary”, Hannah Crawford Tramel, James Tramel, Mr. & Mrs. Marrit Heath, Sarah Jane Heath, Phoebe Dwammond, S. P. Hanson, Charles Greenlee and William Banford.



James Crawford



Nellie Crawford Planalp

The next three photos may be from the family of Jesse & Ora Jackson, who were living in Palo Alto Twp. at the time of the 1940 census. Their son, Larry, was 9 at the time.



There was no other inscription or date on this photo.



This photo, presumably of the same man, was taken by a Des Moines; the inscription on the back side says, "1951 – Enrolled in Marines."



This photo, was printed in Newton by Dows Studio and sent to "Mrs. Anna Jackson, 3418 Cambridge St. in Des Moines."

Another badly-creased photo from the same era identified these same children as "Larry, Joanne, and 'my Fly,'" who appeared along with a woman the photo's owner called "Mom." A separate studio portrait of Anna Jackson bears the additional inscription, "mother of Jesse, grandmother of Larry."

Confederate Research

Submitted by Pat Beckham, JCGS member

"The Confederate Research center, PO Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645, is a library and research center for confederate research. They have a super research-by-mail policy with a minimal charge of \$15 per person, and they prefer to bill you if information is found, and if nothing is found there is no charge. They prefer you use their request form, so send a SASE for one at the address above. Peggy Fox, Research Director, also requests that if you know the burial location of any Confederate soldier (ancestor or otherwise), please let them know that too. They would like to know the soldier's name, company and regiment, date of birth, date of death, and name and location of cemetery. Remember, this is for confederate soldiers only. *Genealogy Bulletin, July-Aug. 1996.*"

I ran across the above article years ago from the Des Moines Genealogy Society newsletter and saved it for future use, like we all do when researching a genealogy. A couple of years ago I ran across it and decided it was time. I knew my GGGGrandfather had fought for the confederacy but had never been able to uncover what unit he served with. At that time, I wrote a letter including a SASE envelope as directed. I never received any reply. Article on hold again.

Just last month I ran across the article and decided to see if there was a web site. Yes, there was and also a research form that could be filled out and submitted. I did that right away. The very next day I received a phone call from a researcher in Texas, she wanted to explain the material she had found and was sending me. I received 26 pages of information on my grandfather and information on Texas Heritage Museum located at Hill College in Hillsboro, TX.

If you are interested in research on the confederacy type in Confederate Research Center on your computer. A list of sites will come up and take the top one for research form. The price has increased to \$30.00 per request.

Queries

Searching for confirmation of burial place of Benjamin Lybe/Leib who died in 1872. Wife Anna (d. 1866) and son Levi (d. 1869) have headstones at Vandalia Cemetery. Is Ben also buried there, without a headstone? Also, where is Phebe Thatcher buried? Her husband, David, and their sons enlisted in the Union Army at Vandalia in 1861 & 1862.
-- Eileen Lennon, genmaus49@gmail.com

Searching for proof of deaths of Eli Pendroy (d. 1870), his son Jacob Pendroy (d. 1865), and Jacob's daughter, Jemima Jane (Pendroy, Pace) Mosier. This is needed for an application to the Mayflower Society.
-- Kathleen Germano, kagey2752@gmail.com

Looking for information about the mother of my great-grandfather, Charles "Charlie" French. The family appears in the 1870 census for Brazil, Clay Co., IN, when Charles was 3 years old. His father was Robert D. French; his mother's name appears to be "Gethe" or "Lethe". She apparently died before the 1880 census, where Robert D. French was found living with his daughter in Illinois. In the listing for Charlie French in the 1925 Iowa census his mother's name looks like "Lettie French." Can anybody verify her full maiden name?
-- Mary Rosendahl, rosendahl@ctel.net

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. 2nd 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, if more than 10. (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. 2nd Ave. E. - Suite C, Newton, IA.** The library is open Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. 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. Internet access is at <http://iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs>

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Map of Jasper County, Iowa

