

# **JASPER COUNTY GLEANER**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We anticipate that our library will be moving to the new county administration building in mid- to late June. For now, our street and mailing address remains 115 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E. – Suite C, Newton, IA 50208-3241. We have not yet been given an exact mailing address for our new library room, but the street address is 300 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. N.

Packing of our out-of-county resources will begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. Patrons may use our Jasper County records in our library until approximately June 10<sup>th</sup>; however, it is recommended that you call before coming. Our entire library collection will be closed to the public from June 11th until we reopen in our new location, probably in mid- to late July.

Library hours are Thursday and Friday: 10:00 – noon and 1:00 – 3:00. You may call us during our library hours to speak to a librarian; at other times you may leave a message, but be aware that we can return **only local calls**. Our phone number is 641-792-1522, and we anticipate it will remain the same following the move.

**For the latest information about the library move, our mailing address, re-opening date, and research hours, please visit our website: [iagenweb.org/jasper](http://iagenweb.org/jasper) and click on the link for the Jasper County Genealogical Society, near the top of the page.**

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

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

**NOTE:** Research services will be limited, or suspended, during the time we are closed.

## Long-time Subscribers of the *Newton Journal*, 1885, part 2

Submitted by Diana Wagner

[ED. NOTE: This is the second and final part of an article that appeared in the *Newton Journal* on April 8, 1885. Subscribers of the paper were asked to tell a bit about themselves and how long they had taken the paper.

H. M. Reasoner, Reasnor.

Born in Indiana. Came to Iowa in 1864, and bought and settled on the farm which he now occupies. Age 36 years.

Sylvester Tiffany, Clyde:

Was born near Buffalo, New York. – Came to Jasper in 1849, and has resided in the county since 1852. Age 60 years.

H. S. Efnor, Elk Creek:

Born in Saratoga County, New York. Came to Jasper county in January, 1854. The first winter he was here, he and fourteen others (only 5 of whom are still living in the county) were domiciled in a log cabin 14x16, in sec. 6, Elk Creek township, near which he has since resided, and been engaged in farming, - except the three years he was in the army. Age 45 years.

Peter Shull, Brooklyn, Iowa.

Has taken the paper since 1867, and has never missed a number.

H. I. Perrin, Baxter.

Has been a constant patron of the paper for the past 12 years – subscribed for it when it was the Head-Light, and published by F. T. Campbell and Thos. M. Rodgers.

C. H. Caughlin, Ira:

Was a subscriber to the Jasper County Express, edited by Besack & Welker, and has been a constant patron of the paper through all the changes of names and editors down to the present date.

L. L. Miller, Palo Alto Tp.:

First took the Free Press. When the Head-Light was started took one of the first numbers; then when the change was made to Newton JOURNAL took that right along, never missing but one number. Told the editor we had concluded not to take the paper, paid the arrearages, &c. But when the time came for the paper and we did not get it we went and signed for it that same week, and still take it. Could not keep house without it.

D. E. Longfellow, Newton:

Born in Marna. Removed to Jasper county in September, 1854. Run a saw mill for Hiram Masteller on the site of where Richard's mill now stands for six months, and was sheriff of the county for the four succeeding years. Aged 55 years.

Gilbert Hall, Malaka tp.:

Was born in New Hampshire. Came to Jasper county in June, 1853. Taught school during the first winter here, then worked at the shoemakers trade for one year, and at carpentering for three years, after which he moved to his present farm in Malaka township. Age 53.

J. W. Wiltbank, Newton:

Born in Delaware. Came to Iowa in 1855; first settling near Dubuque. In 1865 removed to Jasper county. Age 53 years.

J. C. Poulson, Colfax:

Can be classed among the "old subscribers". Subscribed for the paper in 1856, when it was under the management of Besack & Welker, bearing the name of the Express, and has taken it through all the successive changes and administrations, except one year.

John Roberts, Prairie City;

This gentleman writes: "I have been a patron of your paper for about fourteen years. Commenced with the Free Press in the year '71, took the Jasper Republican a short time, and the Head-Light during its life time. Expect to be a patron of this JOURNAL while it continues to advocate sound Republican doctrines. Success to the JOURNAL and the Republican party."

W. T. Carey, Baxter:

Born in Washington Co., Penn., 56 years ago. Landed in Keokuk, Iowa, Dec. 21, 1853, from Guernsey county, Ohio. First work I did in Iowa was picking up chips at the lower mill in Keokuk. Came to Newton March 8<sup>th</sup> 1854. Have taken an abolition or Republican paper continuously for 45 years and have been a subscriber to the county papers ever since the first was started, and belong to the Black Republican party.

John E. Auten, Kellogg, Tp.:

Aged 71 years. Was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania. Came to Iowa, and settled in Jasper county in Nov. 1864 – on his present farm in Kellogg township. Has taken the paper since his first arrival and expects to continue to be an exponent of sound political doctrines.

Riley Ashley, Palo Alto tp.:

Was born in Knox county, Ohio. Came to Jasper county in 1849. When he arrived in Newton there was a little hewed log cabin on the south east corner of the square on the lot now occupied by the Continental Clothing store, that was then used as a hotel, kept by William M. Springer – Uncle Billy, he was always called – who was also Clerk of the Courts. A man named Copp had a store on the corner north of that and besides these, there were four other houses, and they constituted the town of Newton then, excepting the old court House which stood on the northwest corner of the public square. Mr. Ashley is 64 years old.

Lewis B. Helphrey, Sherman tp.:

Was born in Licking county, Ohio. Came to Iowa in 1853 and to Jasper county in 1855. Age 63.

Henry Kiisel, Newton:

Was born in Stockholm, Sweden. Came to Iowa in the fall of 1854. Clerked for the Mershons for the first year, and part of his duties was to drive team. Helped to unload the first printing press ever brought to Newton. Age 54.

Joseph Bean, Reasnor:

This old friend writes as follows: "In response to your request in your last issue I would say that I subscribed for the Free Press as far back as the year of '68, and under its different managements I have never ceased to take it. I am always pleased with the position it assumes in matters of public interest, especially politics and temperance. I have several times said to my neighbors and friends, who were speaking in opposition to the JOURNAL, show me one false statement in the editorials of the JOURNAL and I will stop my subscription at once; but no one has ever endeavored to prove one; I am a life subscriber."

W. H. Philips, Sherman tp.:

Was born in Jefferson county, Ohio. Removed with his family to Jasper county in 1860, and bought the beautiful farm on which he still lives. His age is 53 years. While Henry can't claim to be one of the oldest subscribers to the JOURNAL, he surely has been one of the most faithful friends and generous supporters that paper has ever had.

E. H. Keyes, Mingo:

I expect I may be called an old subscriber, having commenced as far back as the time of Besack & Welker, and have taken the paper the most of the time since. Was born in Posey county, Indiana. Have resided in Iowa 34 years and in Jasper county 30 years. Mine has been a frontier life – having settled in Illinois in 1830 and in Iowa in 1847 – so the trials and inconveniences of these early days are almost forgotten. They seem hard, to look back at them now, but thought little of them at the time. My age is 61.

Isaac N. Guthrie, Newton:

Was born in Lancaster county, Penn. Came to Jasper county in the spring of 1853. During his first year in Newton was proprietor of the Newton House – more generally known as the old Ault House – which stood then on the lot just east of the Presbyterian church. Since that time he has lived on his farm in Palo Alto township, and been a very successful farmer and stock raiser. Has always been a Republican, and a patron of his county papers. Age 51.

J. W. Miller, Newton:

I came to Iowa and settled in Jasper county, Feb. 24, 1868, and on the night following my arrival, the safe in the County Treasurer's office was burglarized and \$4,200 taken. – Two of the burglars were caught, and the other two escaped. I have taken your paper ever since I came to the county. Was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, March 15<sup>th</sup> 1824.

Samuel Hickman, Sherman tp.:

Was born in North Carolina. Came to Jasper county in 1852, and has resided ever since on the farm on which he first located. His nearest neighbor was E. White, who afterwards went to the Penitentiary for aiding and abetting larceny. Mr. Hickman is 67 years old.

John R. Bain, Palo Alto tp.:

Age 57 years – born in New York. Came to this county in 1855. Was in the army three years.

J. W. Springer, Newton:

Born in New York State in 1813 – 72 years old. Came to Jasper county in 1868 and lived near Newton ever since. Subscribed for the paper, like a sensible man immediately on his arrival, and has not missed a number since.

Joseph Birchard, Kellogg:

I was born in Canada in 1832. Came to Iowa in the fall of 1861, and to Jasper county in the spring of 1863, settling near where Kellogg now stands. Our railroad had at that time only reached Malcom. Newton was then our nearest town. My age is now 52. Have been almost a constant subscriber to the republican paper printed at Newton, through all its changes, since its publication by Besack, Allum & Rodgers.

Daniel Rorabaugh, Newton:

Born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania. Came to Iowa in May 1859 and settled in Jasper in August 1865. Got his first dinner in Newton at the Oden House, and bought a hat the same day at the store of Loomis & Co., from James Jackson. Age 57.

John W. Reynolds:

Born in Illinois. Came to Jasper Co. in 1872, and has resided here ever since. Age 50.

F. W. Cozad, Newton:

Born in West Virginia. Came to Newton in November 1855. Bought the property in which he now resides, the year before he moved to Newton with his young bride whom he had just married in Cincinnati. Served three years in the army – Captain of a Company in the 40<sup>th</sup> Iowa infantry. Age 58.

Henry Skiff, Malaka tp.:

Born in 1832. Came to Jasper county in 1856 and settled in what is now Malaka township. At that time his nearest neighbor was 10 miles distant. Belonged to a family of abolitionist who kept a station on the “Underground railroad.” Has taken the paper for 21 years.

J. S. Sparks, Lynn Grove tp.:

Born in Illinois. Came to Jasper county with his father – Old Uncle Johnny – and settled near Lynnvillle forty years ago. The spring he came, ten other families also settled here, and these were among the first settlers. Age 56 years.

Charles C. Turner, Poweshiek tp.:

In response to your request to “old subscribers,” I would say that I came to Jasper county, and through Newton, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1850, settled here and have had my home in Poweshiek township all the time since, except on year when I lived in Newton. My township then was 9 x 12 miles – extending to Prairie City and taking one-half of Sherman on the east. Dr. Rodgers was our Recorder then, and Judge Rickman Treasurer – two men honest and true. I was born in Maine, August 15, 1826.

James Earley, Palo Alto tp.:

Was born in Lower Canada; came to Jasper county in the fall of 1854; settled on the farm he now occupies and has always resided there. Was in the army three years. Age 57.

George M. Raridon, Baxter:

Was born in Rochester, New York, came to Jasper county in the fall of '54, 31 years ago, and settled on the farm on which he still lives in Independence tp. Has taken the paper from its first establishment. Age 65.

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## 1950 Census Information

The 1950 census was released in April. For now, the best way to view the census for free is through the National Archives website: [1950census.archives.gov/search](https://www.1950census.archives.gov/search). Be aware that when you enter a surname, or a surname & first name, that you may not get a “hit.” Unfortunately, the handwritten names on the census forms were indexed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is notoriously inaccurate. For example, among 13 AI errors found on a single page, the name “Bassett” is indexed as “uset”; “Ross” is recorded as “Basid;” and “Tarrence” is “Farrence”. These errors may return no results if you spell the name correctly. If that happens you may have to use the enumeration district information to the right of the search boxes in order to find the name you are looking for. You can suggest corrections for the Artificial Intelligence errors by clicking on the “Help Us Transcribe Names” box near the top of the page where you find your family. In this census, approximately every 5<sup>th</sup> person on each page answered supplemental questions, which can be viewed at the bottom of the page.

## Tracing Your Native American Roots

Many people know or have been told they have “some Indian blood” in them and want to find what tribe(s) their ancestors were from. Tracing Native American ancestry is a complicated process, made more difficult by the fact that Indian tribes were repeatedly forced to move away from their ancestral lands as our country’s borders expanded. As they were pushed further and further from their point of origin, they lost much of their recorded information and had to rely on oral tradition to document their history.

Experts say that, in tracing your Native American lineage, it is imperative to start with yourself, and document: 1) your birth name with all the various family spellings, 2) your date of birth, and 3) exactly where you were born. Do the same for each of your ancestors. As you work backward, dates (even approximate ones) and probable places for major events in your ancestors’ lives will be critical for locating them.

Use a variety of maps to help you find the location of Indian reservations over time. These, used in conjunction with the major event dates for your ancestors can help you determine the tribe to which they belonged.

Be aware that early Native Americans originally had only one name, which rarely indicated whether the person was male or female. A title or descriptive name may have been added at a later date, and a name might have changed following a significant event in the person’s life.

Resources to check when researching your Native American roots:

1. Church records (1500s to present) Note that in 1873 tribes were “assigned” to churches, by federal law.
2. Removal records / Emigration rolls (ca. 1815-1850)
3. Tribal enrollment records (1827 to present)
4. Annuity rolls (1841-1959)
5. Land allotment records (1856-1935)
6. Indian and federal census rolls (1884-1940 and 1790 to present) (Indian censuses of 1885-90 record both the individual’s given name and Indian name)
7. Probate records (1906-1921)
8. Vital statistics (1910 to present)
9. School reports (1910-1939) and school census records (1912-1939)
10. Boarding school records – federal & church (see #1 above)

Many of these records are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. or in one of its regional branches.

Note: Very few of the American Indian records in the National Archives have been digitized and made available online

Other references:

- Guide to Tracing Your Indian Ancestry (downloadable) can be found at [www.bia.gov/bia/ols/tgs/genealogy](http://www.bia.gov/bia/ols/tgs/genealogy)
- Tracing Native American Family Roots ([www.ncai.org/tribal-directory](http://www.ncai.org/tribal-directory)) has an online tribal directory that provides contact information for specific tribes.
- American Indian Records in the National Archives: [www.archives.gov/research](http://www.archives.gov/research)
- Native American Records at: [historyhub.history.gov](http://historyhub.history.gov)

## My School Days in Jasper County, Iowa, part 2

By Esther Laughead Remmenga, (1909-2003)

This is the second, and final, part of a story that 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 obvious typographical errors have been corrected for publication.

Our Cheery Creek Country School – Newton, Iowa

[Note: This correct name of this school was “Cherry Creek”]

The way to Cheery Creek School of yesterday – take main road going straight west of Newton [now Co. road F-48] – starting at the south side of square going west - go 3 miles more or less until you cross Cheery Creek – go a short way, and turn right at the lane, go  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and there on the little hill sat lovely Cheery Creek school all white, not a house in sight nor no telephone – it was a way from the rest of the world. I guess the lane was suppose to go north, but no one never went there except the three Shaffer girls, coming to school, and a few other children coming to school. There was a very, very large yard that the Moffitts had given for the school to be built on, a long, long rail was east side of the yard to tie horses to. The school building faced the east, with it large porch that looked like it said welcome come in, as you went in there a long hall where we put out coats, a cupboard to put our lunch pails in and double swinging doors to the class room all of this was on the west wall, on the north east corner a door to the large basement, on south east corner was a sink which did not work, a little place for the water cooler a window on the south side of east side there might have [been] a window there, but there was more places for coats and the out side door, which when the teacher left was paddle locked until he returned – people would brake in and take things. I think might have been have been two windows as you go down to the basement, go down a flight of steps facing north a landing there, turn and go down steps to facing south. We used the part under the steps for storage, there were swings which could be tied up so we could play a lot of different games on north west corner was the furnace and a very large coal bin for coal for the winder. We go up stairs, I will tell there has not been school for some time, so our parents got to-gether and cleaned the school, the men doing the heavy work and built a barn for our horses, as most of us would be riding to, each family had a place for one horse...Here is how the class room looked. Black board all along north side and a little on west side, there was several windows on the west starting by the black board; in front from east to west there no children’s seats for about 15 feet, the teacher desk was there (where ever she wanted to put, and a long set for our classes, it seated several children, and the seat would folded up on it), in the south east corner there was a cubbard for books which belonged to the teacher, and for odds and ends; a row of small seats, starting just by the double swinging doors on the east side of the room, the rows of seats went north to south and each row got a little larger, about 6 or 8 rows, at less 6 seats to a row. There were 2 furnace register – one in the middle part of the open space, and the other straight south about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way to south end of room between the seats, when it was real cold we would all get in the seats by the register. There were no electricity when we had program-pie and box suppers – the Teacher and our Parents would bring kerosene lamps & lanterns, for light. Some people had cars – the lights would not stay on unless the motor was running – we had a horse drawn carriage with kerosene lights on our side by the front seat; all of children were always very happy at these times.

The Teachers had to put in long hours, for they taught all of grades through 8th grade, had to know how to bank the furnace to held the fire over night, be to school, I guess

about seven so the school would be warm when we got there, do all the cleaning except before school started in fall the dorector would give the school a good cleaning, when any of us were sick or got hurt she had to Doctor and nurse, and if any of us had trouble she had to straighten us out. I am sure all of them walked to school, and every thing had to be keep in order for you never knew when Miss [Lucy] Hall the Supt. would come; she drove a big touring car, in winter Miss Hall worn big, big black fur mitten with a very heavy black fur coat when it was cold. Miss Hall was Supt. for years. If some thing was wrong when the teacher got to school she could not leave for some of the children might come, so they would wait until some of the children came and have 2 of them to go over a hill  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to a farm house – we could not see, but the only house I guess with in 2 miles, they had to go the long way around. The dorector would be called, and he would come or tell us what to do. Each Father took his turn at being dorector, I do not think any Father was dorector more than one year – no law said, but they all worked together.

#### My Teachers – (Mrs. Wyett)

Our 1<sup>st</sup> teacher at Cherry Creek was a older lady – Mrs. Wyett, She was a real Lady; we all liked her, she had so many cows to milk (those days they milked were by hand). Mrs. Wyett lived just a little west from Newton, on the main road from Newton, Iowa. The house which is large and a very large barn was still there when I was back there in '78 or '79. The Farmers that rented a farm from 1<sup>st</sup> March until the following March. We wanted to keep Mrs. Wyett, but she had too much work to do, she just finished that term out, March until May or June, to do us a favor.

#### My Teachers – (Miss Blanch Holms)

I think my Father was dorector when he hired Miss Holms – if I remember. Miss Holmes had just graduated from Newton High School, and came very highly recommended. We all loved her so much – Miss Holms was like our second Mother, and us Kids were like Brothers and Sisters. I do not ever remember Miss Holms getting very mad at any of us, did scold a little once in a while, and we would feel real bad. Miss Holms never whipped any one. Miss Holms was a wonderful teacher she treated ever the same, she was so wise and knew all of the book well. Miss Holms lived with her Farther, who ran a dairy, and a Sister at end of Newton by the rail road on the main road going west.

Miss Holms helped her Farther with the milking and bottling of the milk before she walked over two miles to Cherry Creek School, and helped her Farther at with the milk at night; Miss Holms Mother pasted a way, her Father did not marry again until his two Daughters had married. One day a big bull snake got wrapped around the bar on one of the windows in the basement; we were all afraid, but Cecil Moffitt was not afraid of any thing, killed the snake. Cecil was always playing hooky from school; when Cecil got to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mrs. Moffitt sent Cecil away to school. Cecil's Mother did not have to worry about him for all he had to do was open his book and he had his lessons. In the spring on Fri after recess we would go to the woods my Farther had rented, to pick flowers – sweet Williams, May Flowers, duchmen britches, lamb tongue, blue bells, violets, and many more flowers, we all loved to go pick flowers. On some Fridays we would do art, sew, make things from wood, and a lot of things. When it was bad weather we play games up stairs or in the basement. At Christmas, Miss Holmes always had a real tree with candles – we always had our Christmas in the afternoon on Friday before Christmas. She was always very careful when she lite the candles – our Parents always came to the program, we all loved this time to. Miss Holmes would [hold] a program and pie and box supper 2 or 3 times a year – they would be at night, and there were always big crowds, a lot came from Newton, Miss Holmes made a lot money from these and got



a lot of nice things for the school – 1 thing we got was a Victrola to play records on. After Miss Holmes left there one of the doerector did not take the Victrola home with them and some one broke in and toke it. During the war [W.W. I] us children took orders for magazines and got 3 large pictures with part of the flag under the glass just above the pictures; they were pictures of Washington, Lincoln and Wilson – us kids sold the most of the orders we had the most Aunts and Uncles. I sure like to had them, they hung above the black board up high. All of the country children had to buy their own books, and they were high. Gale and I had a horse Bell we rode her, or some time hitched to a buggy, carriage, sleigh or sulky. Bell was such a good horse, she loved to trout, she would swing her head from side to side like she was keeping time. Gale and I fool around and be late for school, we would tie her to a tree while we were getting ready, it got time for school Bell would untie her herself and go on to school and us crying and running after tell her to stop, she would swing that head from side to side and trout on look around to if we were, about to catch up she trout a faster, she never stopped until she got to school. Miss Holmes told us if you don't when school starts, Bell does. After running 2 miles after her we would be on time for a while, but when it got time she would go to school. We sure all missed that horse when she got so old she had to be put to sleep. The girl's out side toilet was on the south side of the yard – boy's toilet was straight across the yard on the north side, they were quite a distance from the school house. The barn was pretty well up in the south west corner of the yard. Most of the time we played on the north side of the school house. If we would ask Miss Holmes she would stay one night with us, each year, we sure thought that was a great honor to have her spend the night with us. Miss Holmes taught at Cherry Creek for 6 years, and she quit to marry Stewart Guthrie. We sure did hate to give her up. I can not say enough to do justice to this wondful Lady. Cecil Moffitt told me that she had pasted away. I got to see Cecil and Tommy Johnson when I was back in '78 or '79 – Maude Jontz – Cecil's friend had us over – did we ever have a good visit – the 4 of us – Tommy, Cecil, Gale and I always spent so much time to-gether – riding horses. (My Brother has pasted on). Those were wondful days at Cherry Creek School with Miss Holmes.

#### My Teachers (Miss Margret Little)

I think Miss Little just came out of high school when she began to teach at Cherry Creek School – I think it was very hard for her and us to – we were use to Miss Holmes and her ways and of course she had learned a lot there and we had to. I was in the 7th grade and there [were] others to, but they all moved away. That was her first school and to have people in higher grades is hard. But I guess we made it for I pasted the state [tests] next year so I could go to Newton High school in 1924.

Miss Little lived with her Mother, I think not far from the High school – I think her Father had pasted away a Sister Mary who was a wondful news reporter for the Newton Daily News – a little Brother Bobbie who was 4 or 5 – I think she had a older brother to. Miss Little talked a lot about Bobbie. Miss Little also walked to school. The last year there not very many children who went to school – Cecil quit at end of his sixth grade, Tommy had to stay home and farm as his Father was blink, and gals stayed home part of the time to help farm – he did not like school. Miss little was a good teacher. My last year I had to go to the court house and in Miss Hall's office and take the state tests for 2 days in Dec. and what I did not pass I had to go back in Feb. again and take them. We had to past ever subject before we could go to high school. I will never forget the last day of school at Cherry Creek, we always had a picnic in a grove, and this year I sure did not feel good, come to find out I was taking the mumps, did not even know I had been near any one with them – our next door lady (Kate Morris) called and said her 72 year old Sister Lizzie had the mumps, she had not been any place to get and no one had been

there with them. I had been to see them, so I got the mumps – no one took them from me. I do not think I ever saw Miss Little after that day.

O; yes I think Miss Holmes was still at school or Miss Little might have been there – [when] people traveled over the country in covered wagons, one week and they broke into the school, put a bunch of chickens in the hall, so you know what a mess it was. They were gone Monday Morning chickens & all.

Another time the teacher called the director, there was blood all over a porch, they decided some one had tried to get the lock off and had cut them selves; there was not one in the school, you never knew what you would find.

Cecil told us (My Daughter Mary, grandson Jim, My cousin Naomi (Osborn) Pollock and I) that they had came to him and told Cecil that they were giving the land back to him and how much would he give them for the building, Cecil bought the building, it was leaking, and the windows were broken, he did not know what to do with the building, so he sold it to a fellow in Colfax to build a garage. Cecil said all that was left of the school as the hole where the basement was, so that is what happen to our Cherry Creek School house. Cecil drove out to the land and we followed him, we could see the yard looked the same, but school house was not there – we drive on up past Cecil's home places. My cousin Naomi said it looks sad with out the school house. I agreed.

P.S. – My Grandma Amanda Jane (Smith) Somerville who lived across the field from us wanted to give us our first school lunch pail and our first lunch to take to school, and was it ever good – crackers and ham she had smoked herself, that was the best ham I ever ate – I do not remember what else she fixed – and she was a Grand lady – the very best.

I started to Newton Jr. High school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade fall 1924 – I did not stay in town – I had 4½ miles to go – 1<sup>st</sup> March 1925 we moved closer – 2 miles to school. I go till the last ½ of 11<sup>th</sup> grade, had to drop out – 2 summer classes made my other in last year – graduated June 1928. One of my favorite Teacher was Miss Scotton. If all the schools had man to head them like Mr. [B. C.] Berg and his asst. things would be different – I think parents were better then to. We had to have our books covered with brown paper at all times – they last 2 times as long. One teacher I was afraid of and a lot of others – she taught me one thing – any thing worth doing is worth doing well. I will close with this.

I missed a lot of high school for I was ill so much.

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From: *Iowa Journal of History & Politics, 47<sup>th</sup> Gen. Assembly, 1937*, p. 406 (this series of books can be found at the Iowa Genealogical Society library in Des Moines)

“In recent years, many coal mine accidents have resulted from blasting while workmen were in the mine. To avoid such accidents in the future, the 47<sup>th</sup> General Assembly amended the law so as to place a ban upon such operation. The amended law provides that no person shall do any blasting in any coal mine of this state until all persons except the shot firer or firers are out of the mines.

Source: Acts of the 47<sup>th</sup> Gen. Assembly, Ch. 97.

Can you believe it took mine operators and the legislature so long to figure this out???

## The “Know Nothing” Movement in Jasper County in 1855-1856

It's that time again: mid-term elections will soon be with us. In 2020 Iowans had the opportunity to choose from nine presidential candidates, seven of whom listed an affiliation with some kind of political “party” (Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Green Party, Constitution Party, Alliance Party and, yes, the “Genealogy Know Your Family History” Party). With tensions running so high between the major political parties and voter dissatisfaction with current politicians, we are left to wonder how many new splinter parties will appear on the election ballot this November.

The first successful third-party political organization in our country existed from 1844-1860, during which time it went by several names. Known first as the “Native American Party,” after 1855 its official name was changed to the “American Party.” But it was best known by its nickname, the “Know Nothing Party,” so named because of a secret society within the party, called the Society of the Star Spangled Banner, whose members were instructed to answer “I know nothing” when questioned about the society.

Wikipedia identified the party's ideology as one of American nationalism, anti-Catholicism, anti-Irish, anti German, cultural assimilation, nativism and populism (power of the “common people”). The Encyclopedia Britannica referenced an article on “Basis [sic] Principles of the American Party of Virginia” which noted that party members were opposed to the large numbers of German and Irish Catholics immigrating to the US in the 1840s and early '50s. Party members viewed the immigrants as part of a foreign invasion that could threaten the religious and political stability of our country.

In 1856 the American Party (Know Nothings) had enough support throughout the country to get its first presidential candidate, former president Millard Fillmore, on the national ballot. The party platform declared, among other points, that

- 1) only native-born-and-raised Americans should be allowed to hold a political office,
- 2) immigration numbers should be restricted, especially with respect to Catholic countries,
- 3) there should be a 21-year waiting period before immigrants could become citizens,
- 4) public school teachers should be Protestants, and teachers should read daily from a Protestant Bible to students.

The Know Nothings did not fare very well in the 1856 election. Fillmore won 21 percent of the popular vote but received only eight electoral votes. The party was dissolved in 1860, with its anti-slavery proponents joining the Republican party and pro-slavery supporters becoming members of the Democratic party.

Pages 414-415 of the book *Past & Present of Jasper County, Iowa, Vol. 1*, edited by Gen. James B. Weaver and published in 1912, carried an article on the Know Nothing movement in this county in 1855-56. It is reproduced below. The men mentioned in this article, with the exception of A. T. Alt, were Quakers who resided in the Lynnville-Sully area.

### The “Know Nothing” Political Party

“The present generation knows but little, if indeed anything, of what was of political significance in the fifties in the way of a political party known as the “Know Nothings.” It

was represented from one end of the country to the other and its chief principle was that it forbade the holding of office by other than American-born citizens, all foreigners being excluded from holding any office, either in county, state or nation. Naturally, a party advocating these principles must soon go down in a country like this.

"In Jasper county such a party had an existence for a season or more, and has been well described by "Old Shady" (Joseph Arnold) in one of his reminiscential [sic] stories which runs thus:

"In 1855-6 there was organized in nearly every state in the Union a party known as the Know Nothing party, the object of which was to keep all foreigners from holding office or taking any part whatsoever in the government of the United States. The meetings and lodges were held in secret, with armed force if need be, to prevent any foreigners from entering or to know of the business transacted.

"This gave a favorable opportunity for crafty office seekers to manipulate plans for their own elevation to office. A. T. Alt, the treasurer of the county, whose first term was about to expire, wished to be elected for another term. This he thought an opportunity to immortalize his name and secure his election for a second term. He attended meetings in an adjoining county which was headquarters for Know Nothings and got the appointment to organize lodges in Jasper county. He set a time and place and notified the leading voters and foreigner haters that he would be down in Lynn Grove and organize a lodge and fit them up to do business. At that time there was a log cabin in the midst of the woods located on section 3, one-half mile north of the home of John R. Sparks. In conformity with previous arrangements, Sir Alt came down from Newton with the appliances to organize the American party of Know Nothings. About sunset there was a large gathering of the voters of the township up in the woods near Sparks. About dark we wended our way to the cabin. Alt called the house to order. The first thing done was to place sentinels out to see that no foreigners should know of the business or purpose of the meeting. All being ready, Alt unfurled the stars and stripes, which made a fine display in that dark and forlorn place. In an elaborate speech he told us of the danger that the United States was in from the foreign element. After getting us fully awakened, he proceeded to initiate us as members of this mystic organization. The initiation fee was nominal, not exceeding one dollar for each one initiated. I well remember the pass-word, "Have you seen Sam?" The sign was to take hold of your coat on the right side with all of your hand except the index finger, which should be pointed straight out. Then the arm in a natural movement to be brought toward the left side, the index finger placed on the left breast near the region of the heart.

"After a general hand shaking this meeting closed about ten o'clock without benediction. A. T. Alt was defeated, and soon the Know Nothing party, in all the states, was a thing of the past. This meeting was on Saturday night. On Sunday morning I went to our little Quaker meeting and saw as soon as I got into the yard, Jarvis Johnson. True to his trust, he gave me the sign by taking hold of his shadbelly Quaker coat with his right hand, bringing his index finger near the region of the heart. I, true to my pledge, returned the sign. We both saw we were brethren and no foreigner could have our support, for we were full-fledged Know Nothings, and the government still stands."

## Lawbreakers!

While some people prefer to think of their family tree as composed entirely of upstanding citizens and pillars of their communities, others of us subscribe to the philosophy of "Give me a few lawbreakers in my family – they leave more records!" Here are two instances that support the latter school of thought:

Jasper Co. Mirror, Thur. Aug. 2, 1934

### **WIFE SHOTS FORMER MONROE RESIDENT**

#### **"Tip" Cowman Killed at Home in Alhambra Last Sunday**

"Tip" Cowman, former Monroe resident, was shot and killed by his wife last Sunday, at their home in Alhambra, California, according to word received by Monroe relatives Monday.

Details of the shooting are lacking.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowman were residents of Monroe some twenty-five years ago.

Jasper Co. Mirror, Thur. Aug. 16, 1934

### **ALHAMBRA PAPER TELLS OF SHOOTING**

#### **A. J. Cowman, Formerly of Monroe, Killed by 63-Year Old Mate**

The following is taken from an Alhambra, Ca. newspaper regarding the shooting of A. J. Cowman, on Sunday, July 29, by his estranged wife...

The Cowmans were former residents of Monroe and vicinity and were back on a visit to Monroe relatives a few years ago.

Bringing to a violent end a wedded life of forty-five years, Mrs. Rose Cowman yesterday shot and fatally wounded her husband to climax an angry argument between the two over money and property matters.

Both the 63-year-old wife, booked at the county jail on a charge of murder, and A. J. Cowman, the 65-year-old husband, a retired real estate operator, have resided in Alhambra for the past eight years, coming to California from Toledo, O.

About two months ago the couple, who have no children, separated, the wife going to 1220 South Stoneman avenue to live in property presented to her by her husband, while he lived at 27 North Almansor street.

Early yesterday morning, according to Police Officers Eberting and Reuth, of Alhambra, who investigated the shooting, Mrs. Cowman went to her husband's abode.

Neighbors heard the couple in a quarrel and suddenly a single shot. Alonza Moore, living next door, broke into the Cowman home, and found the husband with a bullet wound in his right side. The bullet had entered the right side of the center of the back and tore out through the middle of the abdomen.

Mrs. Cowman was standing in the center of the room, Moore told the officers, with a 38-caliber revolver in her hand, while her arms and hands were scratched and bruised.

Cowman was hurried to the Alhambra Emergency hospital, and later to the Alhambra hospital, where he died on the operating table. The fatal shooting occurred about 11 a.m., according to the officers, and Cowman died about three hours later.

While he was being treated for the wound, Cowman told the officers that he and his wife had been in disagreement over property and money matters for some time.

"She came over to talk to me," he said, "and I was sitting in a rocking chair. We had words and as I started to rise to my feet she suddenly pulled out the pistol and shot me."

Mrs. Cowman, crying and near hysteria, was taken to the county jail by the two investigating officers and Policewoman Longbotham. While awaiting the booking formalities, she refused to talk at length about the affray.

"I didn't intend to shoot him, when I fired," she said. "I just meant to scare him," she sobbed.

According to the officers, the weapon used by the wife was an old discarded pistol of the husband. Mrs. Cowman, they asserted, had it repaired. It was fully loaded with only the one cartridge exploded.

While he was lying on the operating table Cowman told the officers that he was surprised when his wife displayed the weapon and shot him. He also said he grabbed her after the first shot and struggled with her, finally falling over her and pinning her arms to the floor.

She broke away from him just as Moore ran into the room and disarmed Mrs. Cowman, the husband said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The deceased, whose full name was Andrew James Cowman (1866-1934), was buried at San Gabriel Cemetery, in San Gabriel, Los Angeles County, California. According to Find a Grave, his wife, Rose, who was born in 1869 and died in 1940, is buried beside him. The couple had one son, Forest, who is buried in the city cemetery at Monroe, IA. Thanks to Sue Cochran for providing the full names of Mr. Cowman and his son.

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Found in "Criminal Docket" of the District Court Record book B, located in the Clerk of Court's office at the Jasper County Courthouse:

Spring term, May 16, 1857 Court met pursuant to adjournment, the Hon. Wm. H. Stone, Judge, presiding...

**The State of Iowa vs. Hannah Smith**  
**Indictment for keeping house of ill fame for Lewd & unlawful purposes**

Warrant of arrest issued served by bringing the body of the Defendant into Court, who being arraigned gave her true name as Hannah Smith. Defendant required to give Bail in the sum of one hundred dollars and in default of giving Bail to go to trial at this term. D. O. Finch appointed counsel for Defendant. Plea of Not Guilty filed by the Defendant.

Cause called for trial. Jury empaneled to wit: Wm. Ritter, James Slaughter, J. W. Parish, A. T. Parker, F. M. Walker, George Blackman, John Murray, Edward Butler, O. S. Post, L. L. D. Kennedy, Nathan Harvey & David Edmondson who being duly sworn well and truly to try the issue joined between the State of Iowa and the Defendant Hannah Smith and a true verdict to give according to the evidence. After having heard the evidence and the Argument extended on the part of the State v. the Defendant, were instructed by the Court and retired for deliberation on the docket and on the charge of Job W. Springer, special sworn Bailiff & came into Court and return this verdict to the Clerk which was "We the Jury find the Defendant Guilty" – signed D. Edmondson, Foreman, & the Court asked and the Jury answered, so we all find. Motion for Arrest of Judgment & Motion for new trial filed. Both of which motions were overruled. The Defendant brought before the Court for sentence.

And the Court doth sentence the Defendant to one month Imprisonment in the County Jail of Polk County, Iowa. And it is further adjudged by the Court that the Defendant pay the costs of this prosecution taxed at \_\_\_ Dollars and \_\_\_\_ Cents [amounts left blank].

## The Origin & Signification of Scottish Surnames

The information below comes from a book titled, The Origin & Signification of Scottish Surnames with a Vocabulary of Christian Names. It was written by Clifford Stanley Sims, in 1862 [sic] and published in 1969 [sic].

In Scotland few surnames were used before the eleventh century, and most originated after the thirteenth century. Originally, all surnames had a meaning, but in very many cases this has been lost because of the corruptions in spelling; the conventional system of spelling has only been fixed in the last two centuries. It is, therefore, probably impossible to correctly determine the origin and meaning of all Scottish surnames. Adding to the confusion of surname origin, in Scotland, whoever joined a particular clan, no matter what his position or descent, assumed the surname of his chief as an act of loyalty. Therefore, it does not follow, that all who bear the same surname are descended from a common ancestor.

Highland surnames are chiefly patronymic, with various prefixes and additions (e.g., Mackenzie, Robertson), but some are derived from localities (Lennox, Ross, etc.), armorial bearings & offices (such as Stewart), and others from peculiarities (Campbell, Grant, etc.).

Lowland surnames were mostly formed through Norman influence and are local in nature (such as Carmichael, Ridell). Others come from baptismal names (Dickson, Henderson), peculiarities (Brown, Douglas, etc.) or from armorial bearings, office, and occupations (Heron, Hunter, Bailie, etc.).

Meanings of a few Scottish surnames:

**ANDERSON** = son of Andrew, which signifies a brave man

**BURNETT** = a little brook. The family is of Saxon origin, but the Scottish branch have been seated for more than 5 centuries in the north of Scotland and are descended from Robert Burnard, 1128.

**DOUGLAS** = The tradition of the origin of this name says that in the year 770 Solvathius, king of Scotland, obtained a victory over Donald Bain of the Western Isles, by the assistance of a man unknown to him. After the battle he wanted to see the man who had aided him and someone told him, "Sholto Dhuglass" (behold that swarthy man). Apparently the name Dhuglass morphed into Douglas. Sir William Douglas entered into the service of Charlemagne and was the founder of the family Douglassi in Tuscany.

**DUN** = the parish of Dun in Forfarshire

**ERWIN** (not Irwin) = beautiful, fair

**GUN** = a plain

**HARRIS** = the son of Henry, which signifies a rich lord

**IRVINE** = Local: from the town of Irvine in Ayrshire, which is situated on the river Irvine, originally *Iar avon*, or west river. The family is descended from William de Irwin (sic), armor bearer to Robert Bruce.

## Jasper County Residents Become Texas Land Speculators

In the JCGS library we have a 104-page book titled **A Tale of Two Counties - Jasper to Pecos A History of the Iowa Realty Trust and its predecessor Jasper County Realty Co.**, by Robert Hoover (1994); printed by the author. The information in the following article has been gleaned from this book.

During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, land speculation was a common form of small investment. A group of investors from Jasper County, hoping to get rich quick, learned the hard way that such a venture is risky business.

In Dec. 1908, acting on the promise that a dam would be built to provide water for irrigation, 44-year-old E. B. Macy of Lynnville purchased 12,800 acres of railroad land in West Texas for \$51,200, or \$4 per acre (the equivalent of \$1,578,941.22, in today's market). He paid \$17,920 in cash, registered the land in his name, and took on four bank notes in his name for the additional \$33,280. He and a group of investors, made up of family and friends, intended to divide the land into parcels and sell it for farming. In March 1909, the investors incorporated as the Jasper County Realty Co., and Macy transferred the land to the company's ownership.

The early investors appear to have been:

**Elgar B. ("E. B.") Macy, Charles O. ("C. O.") Macy, and Harlan Macy** – they were sons of Seth & Abigail (Gause) Macy, who were early settlers of the area that became known as Lynnville. The Macys were members of the Lynn Grove Society of Friends. Doing business as "Macy Brothers", E. B. and C. O. began buying & shipping cattle in 1889, and soon after they added a lumber company and the "Macy Brothers Exchange Bank" to their list of business holdings. Each of these three men was credited with contributing \$3,000 toward the land purchase.

**Earl M. Cary**, who invested \$500. In 1901 he had become the manager of the Macy brothers' bank (which became the First State Bank of Lynnville in 1912). From 1916-1948 he was employed by the Jasper County Savings Bank in Newton.

**W. R. Allee**, the husband of the Macy brothers' older sister, Ella. The amount of his investment was not mentioned.

**Oliver S. Meredith**, a Quaker, like the Macys. Following the Civil War he opened a general store in Lynnville. He later sold it and moved to Newton to begin a law practice. Over the years he served two terms as Jasper County attorney, and two terms (1909-1912) as the mayor of Newton from. Meredith was credited with a \$1,000 investment.

**Zachariah F. Gause**, (Abigail Macy's brother) and **Calvin Macy** (also a Quaker and brother of Seth), who bought out O. S. Meredith's general store in Lynnville.

**Homer S. Rayburn**, who later joined Calvin Macy in the store, replacing Gause. He ran the store until 1900, when he moved to Newton to join his father, J.M., in the hardware business. In 1910 he was elected Jasper County auditor. He later was involved in a real estate and farm loan business. Homer Rayburn, possibly with assistance from his father, contributed \$2,500 for the land purchase. In 1909 he accepted the role of secretary in the fledgling real estate company.



**David S. (“D. S.”) Fleck** (of the firm “Macy & Fleck”, in Killduff), who was named as the president of the corporation in 1909. The following year he moved to Newton and was elected, first, to the Jasper County Board of Supervisors and then to the Iowa Senate in 1916. His investment was \$3,000.

**William S. Gove**, who was elected Jasper County sheriff in 1910. He signed a \$1,000 check from “Macy & Gove”, a firm in which he appears to have been a partner with C. O. Macy.

**Frank R. (“F. R.”) and Oliver (“O. H.”) Witmer**, father and son, of Mingo. Following the Civil War, Frank came to Iowa and opened the Witmer & Marsh dry goods and general store in Greencastle, then expanded the business to a second location in Mingo a few years later. He then started the Mingo Trust and Savings bank, installing O. H. as cashier. In addition to the Mingo bank he also served as president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank at Newton (one of the forerunners of the town’s First National Bank). The Witmers’ investment in the Jasper County Realty Company totaled \$2,500.

**Emmet Awtry**, who was apparently in business with C. O. Macy in Sully for a time. The firm of Macy & Awtry contributed \$500 sometime in 1909.

**J. P. Taylor**, a friend of the Macy boys, who lived east of Sully and kept race horses. The Macys paid the \$3,000 investment that was credited to Taylor.

**Frank or Charles Sparks**, a son-in-law of William S. Gove, of Macy & Gove; Sparks took his father-in-law’s place in the business. A \$500 contribution from Macy & Sparks was listed among the initial investments for stock.

The lowans planned to divide their land into plots of 10 and 20 acres and sell them for \$40 per acre. A ten-acre plot, located near a soon-to-be-built dam, could be purchased for a down payment of only \$16.00, followed by interest-free payments of \$8.00 for 48 months. In the first two months that the land was offered for sale, approximately seventy contracts were written for land purchases, with the buyers coming from nineteen different states. D. A. Laros & Sons, a Grinnell company, was the only purchaser from Iowa.

Unfortunately, the proposed dam on or near the lowans’ land never materialized, rendering their arid West Texas property unsuitable for cultivating crops. This book’s author, Mr. Hoover, asserted that E. B. Macy knew before the land sales began that the dam would not be built. As word got around that there was no plan to build a dam, land sales quickly dried up, and most of the early purchasers defaulted on their payments. After spending nearly \$3,000 preparing their land for sale, the Jasper County Realty Company only garnered \$800 in revenue, and the Iowa investors were left holding the bag. While the company was able to rent out some of the land for grazing, at 5 cents per acre, the money collected was not sufficient to pay the property taxes or satisfy the four annual bank notes used by Macy to purchase the land. Faced with the prospect of losing their investment, the Realty Co. leased the mineral rights to its entire land holdings for a nominal fee to an oil speculator. By the time oil was actually discovered in Pecos County the speculator had defaulted on his payments to the company, and the lowans were later forced to take their case to court to regain a clear title to their land.

As the first of E. B. Macy's original bank notes came due, the company found a new investor, D. K. Unsicker, of Wright, Iowa, who operated a grain business and was president of the Fremont State Bank. In a complicated transaction Unsicker, in essence, loaned the Jasper County Realty Co. up to \$12,000, allowing the company to pay back the first of the bank loans in early 1910.

In Sept. 1910, with another loan coming due, the company's board of directors voted to sell up to 5,000 acres of the Pecos County land for \$10 per acre, one-fourth of its original price. Purchasers were to pay \$1.50 per acre at the time of the sale, with the balance to be paid at a rate of \$1.00 per acre, due twice per year.

Later that same month the realty company's stockholders were notified that they should be prepared to buy stock in the company equivalent to their share of the company's indebtedness. Some bought the stock, while others declined to do so. The sale of stock raised a little over \$11,000, almost enough to cover the group's December loan payment owed to W. C. Bergman, owner/president of the First National Bank in Newton, who had purchased two of E. B. Macy's four original bank notes.

In 1911, the stockholders were forced to buy more stock in order to cover the remaining loan payments. The next year company stockholders, which now included C. F. Sauerman, a former county supervisor, took out a loan of \$12,000 from the State Bank of Fremont (board member D. K. Unsicker's bank), using their stock as collateral.

By 1918 most or all of the original loans had been repaid, but at great cost to the early shareholders, who had been forced to nearly triple their original investment in order to keep the company afloat. Legal wrangling over leasing had also proved stressful for the shareholders, at one time putting the company's title to a part of the land in jeopardy.

After a slow start the company's second decade in business proved to be a bit more profitable than its first. Oil was found in Pecos County in the early 1920s; however, the only successful well, not on the realty company's land, had to be capped following an explosion. After several years of inactivity Jasper County Realty leased a portion of its land, first to a "wildcatter" who defaulted on the lease, and then to Marland Oil Company. The Marland venture finally paid off, but not until additional legal issues were settled.

In 1926 Marland's lawyers pointed out an 1893 Texas law that prohibited private corporations from acquiring or leasing land as their main purpose of business and, furthermore, the law stated that a corporation must dispose of any of its land not needed for [conducting] its business. By this time the Jasper County Realty Company had held its 12,000-plus acres of land for near twenty years, making the land subject to state seizure. To remedy the situation, the company divided its land into parcels, deeding them to its 24 shareholders (the original investors, plus heirs of those who had passed away), who then formed "The Iowa Realty Trust" in 1927. The board of trustees was listed as John Cross, chairman, Homer Rayburn, secretary, E. B. Macy, treasurer, C. O. Macy, O. H. Macy, F. R. Witmer, and D.K. Unsicker.

The Jasper County Realty Company officially closed its books in July 1928. Since its formation in 1909 the company's earned income had totaled \$32,442.08, not enough to offset the \$51,200 original purchase price for the land. Without the additional financial investment by its original stockholders, the company would have defaulted on the land purchase within its first few years of existence.

With the Iowa Realty Trust now in possession of the Pecos Co. land, several new oil leases were executed, each paying a handsome per-acre bonus. In 1928, a lease to The California Company paid the Iowans an \$80,000 bonus on 640 acres of land. The following year a 320-acre lease paid the Trust a \$45,000 bonus. Finally the Jasper County investors began to receive regular dividends, and by the end of 1929 each of them had recovered four to five times his original expenditure.

Also in 1929 Homer Rayburn devised a plan to sell a ¼ section (160 acres) of the Trust's rumored oil-rich land in Section 29 to build a town called Raymacy (an amalgam of "Rayburn" and "Macy"). The town failed to materialize when drilling in the area failed to locate any "black gold." Oil was later discovered in other leased sections of the Trust's land, although none of the wells that were drilled produced "gushers" or huge profits for either the drillers or the Trust.

As it turned out, 1929 proved to be the peak year for the Trust's bonus income, but according to Robert Hoover the Trust has remained a profitable investment over time. It has continued to operate in the black since 1929, with dividends being paid to shareholders in all but three years during the 1930s.

Many of the original investors and their descendants remained active with the Jasper County Realty Company and/or the Iowa Realty Trust for years. Homer S. Rayburn served as secretary of the realty company and then the Trust from 1909 until his death in 1939. E. B. Macy held the office of treasurer until his death in 1947, and he was also listed on the Trust's letterhead as secretary following the death of Rayburn.

Howard H. ("H. H.") Witmer, son of original investor O. H. Witmer who died in 1930, became the organization's third secretary. H. H.'s son-in-law, S. Robert Payne, became a trustee in 1963, succeeding his father-in-law as secretary shortly thereafter. He was the fourth secretary-treasurer in 1994, when Robert Hoover's book was printed.

D. S. Fleck, the realty company's first president and later chairman of the board of trustees, served in that position until resigning due to poor health in 1926. He was replaced by John Cross, who became chairman of the trustees in 1927. Cross, the last surviving member of the Iowa Realty Trust's original trustees, apparently was active in the Trust until his death in 1955. With the last original investor's passing, according to Hoover, the Trust could legally exist for no more than twenty additional years before it would have to be dissolved. Harold Fleck, an attorney and son of the first board chairman, succeeded Cross as chairman, and he helped draft an amendment to the trust deed that has allowed it continue well beyond the twenty-year deadline.

The Iowa Realty Trust appears to still be in existence in 2022, twenty-eight years after Hoover's book was published. A computer search for "Iowa Realty Trust" found it listed in the categories of "Real Estate," "Offices Of Real Estate Agents And Brokers" and "Real Estate Agents And Managers," with an office in Mesa, AZ and a Post Office box address in Encanto-Phoenix, AZ.

NOTE: S. Robert Payne, in his introduction to Hoover's book, wrote that some people who read the book may think the author wasn't very kind to their ancestors, but they should realize that business was done differently at the time.

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

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### Map of Jasper County, Iowa

