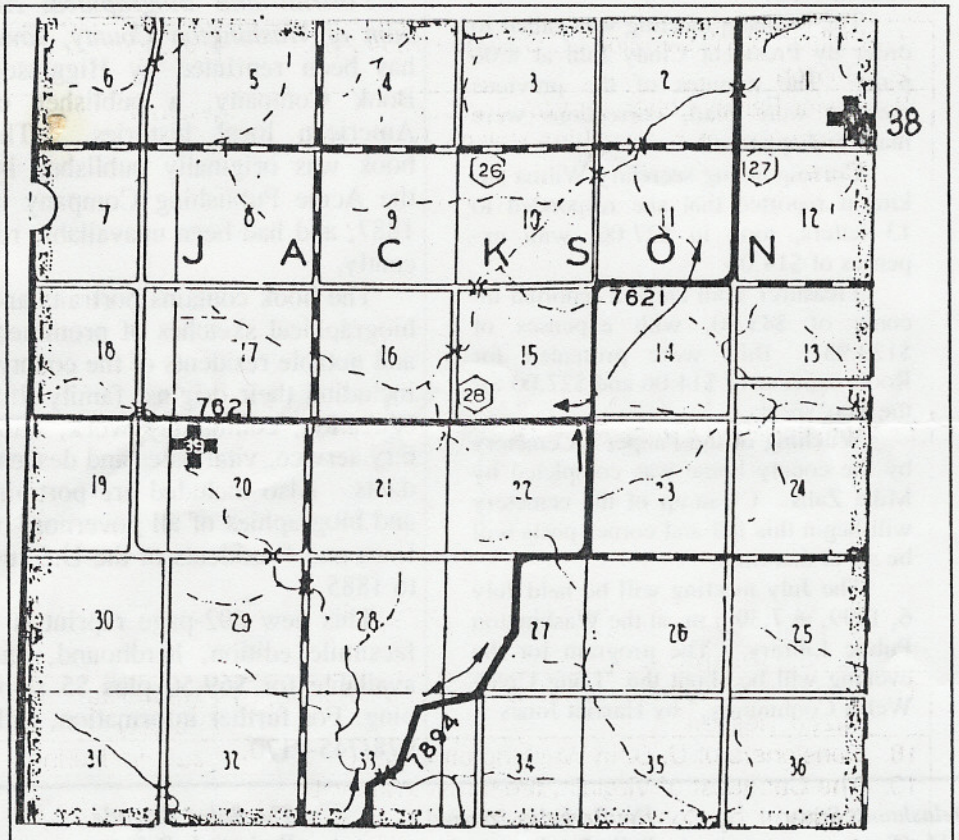
Washington County Cemeteries -- Jackson Township



Cemeteries in Jackson Township, Washington County, Iowa. #38 - Cumberland (Havel); #39 - Gibson (Pleasant Plains); Grand Prairie - originally in Section 14, but no longer in existence.

This was one of the last townships to be settled with very few settlers before 1852. Even though its prairie soil was very rich, broken only by occasional sloughs that led into the creeks -- Goose creek, which drains east, Long creek south, Davis creek southeast and Camp creek northeast -- the reason for late settlement, of course, was the superstition about timber. And this township had only a narrow strip of timber on the line covering Sections 13 & 24.

The township has no towns, although two were platted. On December 3, 1857, Abijah Nickerson plated Glendora in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 1. The plat contained 12 blocks with Block 5 designated as a public square. But the plat was never developed.

On April 8, 1858, the plat for Genoa was laid out in the northwest quarter of Section 14 by Alvah Scott. It was the largest original plat for a city ever recorded in the county, and consisted of 30 blocks with over 150 lots. Block 8 was designated for a "public circle" to be 255' in diameter. Seventy foot wide streets were planned, but nothing ever came of it.

Records show three churches were built in the township. Pleasant Plains (Methodist) was the first built. A $2300 frame building was erected in the northeast corner of Section 18 and dedicated on November 11, 1865. And although at one time it was the largest country church in the county, it was discontinued about 1905 and the building torn down.

Grand Prairie (Presbyterian) was the first church formally organized, on August 22, 1859. But early services were held in private homes and the Jackson Center schoolhouse. The $3000 frame church was not built until 1867. And, although many social activities centered around the church, by 1908 the congregation had disbanded and the building had been converted for use as a barn.

Living Lake (Presbyterian) church was organized in 1868 and a $3500 building was erected on two acres given by Samuel Meek in Section 34. The church was know for its mission giving. It was disbanded in 1915 and the building sold to George Foster.

Early histories say a fourth church (Baptist) was built in the township, but no records are in existence to note when or where.

Only two cemeteries are located in the entire township although a third existed earlier.

Cumberland (Havel) (Also known as Rownd or Locust Grove): Located in section 1. From Washington, go northeast on the Riverside Road (G61) to G26. Turn east to G6W then north for one mile.

Gibson (Pleasant Plains): Located in section 20. From Washington, go north on Highway 1 to G26. Turn east one mile. The cemetery is located on the south side of the road.

Grand Prairie: The cemetery was located in Section 14 near the Grand Church. Burials were made in the cemetery from 1864 to 1892. It was closed in 1908. Most of the graves were moved to Elm Grove cemetery in Washington by Louis Jones in 1918-1919. In 1953, the area was bulldozed and returned to farmland.

Editor's note: Information is a compilation of materisls from Burrell's 1909 *History of Washington County* and Fisher's *In the Beginning There was Land*