

# **YESTERYEARS**

A publication of

**The Jefferson County**

**Historical Society**

**April 2025**

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*Yesteryears* editor, April 2025: Jane Hoskinson

*Yesteryears* is published online as a PDF document and made available on the Jefferson County Historical Society website: Publications (under the “Research” tab): <https://www.jchsk.com/publications>. Individual articles from past issues of *Yesteryears* are posted online in the *Yesteryears* blog (under the “More” tab):

<https://www.jchsk.com/yesteryears> and at [storiesofyesteryears.blogspot.com](https://storiesofyesteryears.blogspot.com)

Established in 1966, the Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) connects people to the history of Jefferson County, Kansas, by collecting, preserving, and sharing artifacts, materials, and information. The society provides education and research, maintains an extensive genealogy library and an online archive of artifacts, and manages and maintains [Old Jefferson Town](#) history museum, a unique collection of historical buildings from various locations across the county.

Follow our pages for news and updates: [www.facebook.com/JCHSKS](https://www.facebook.com/JCHSKS) and [www.facebook.com/OldJeffersonTownKS](https://www.facebook.com/OldJeffersonTownKS)

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Explore the resources of the Jefferson County Historical Society website: <https://www.jchsk.com/>

For more information, or to volunteer, contact the Jefferson County Historical Society, P.O. Box 146, Oskaloosa, KS 66066. Contact JCHS for appointments, group tours and events, or chapel reservations: email, [oldjefftown@gmail.com](mailto:oldjefftown@gmail.com)

## **In Memoriam: Irene Mary Rottinghaus Malone**

**November 25, 1942 – June 23, 2024**

Irene Mary Malone passed away peacefully at sunrise on June 23, 2024, just one day shy of celebrating her 57th wedding anniversary with her beloved late husband, Joseph. Born Irene Mary Rottinghaus on Nov. 25, 1942, in Axtell, Kansas, she was the daughter of Benedict B. and Marcella Stallbaumer Rottinghaus.

Irene grew up on the family farm near St. Benedict, Kansas, alongside her twin sister and four other siblings. She met her lifelong love, Joseph “Joe” Malone, in Maryville, Kan., at a wedding dance. They celebrated their nuptials at St. Mary’s church in St. Benedict, Kan., on June 24, 1967.

Irene and her twin sister Eileen graduated from St. Benedict High School in 1960, and together earned their R.N. degrees from St. Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing in 1963. Irene furthered her education, graduating from the University of Kansas in 1966 with a Bachelor of Nursing. Her nursing career spanned an impressive 55 years, marked by dedication to her profession and a deep commitment to patient care. She received many accolades and certifications for her work and was actively involved in professional nursing organizations.

For 35 years, Irene served at the Colmery-O’Neil Veterans Administration Medical Center in Topeka, Kan., where she loved serving the veterans and they loved her. She also worked at Jefferson County Memorial Hospital in Winchester, Kan., for four years. Irene’s professional life was complemented by her enduring love for farming alongside her husband, Joe, near Oskaloosa, Kan., where they resided for 56 years.

Beyond her career and farming, Irene was a talented quilter, generously sharing her skills with her grandchildren and members of the Jefferson County 4-H. She was known for her delicious cinnamon rolls, pies, and “Mimi cookies,” and took great pride in her expansive garden, always eager to share its bounty with others. Many visitors to the farm were surprised when they got home with more than they expected as Irene packed their car as they left. Active in her community and church, Irene held various positions in the American Legion Auxiliary, was a dedicated member of the Kansas Prairie Quilt Club, and served St. Theresa Catholic Church in Perry, Kan., in multiple capacities, including as a Eucharistic minister. She was a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society.

Irene’s greatest joy was her family. She is survived by her children Ann (Brian) McDanel of Shawnee, Kan.; Susan (Sean) Wheeler of Olathe, Kan.; Joseph II (Karen) of Country Club, Mo.; and John (Cindy) of Meriden, Kan. Irene adored her 15 grandchildren (Mary, Christopher, Ryan, Sammy, Katie, Lydia, Ellie, Lauren, Jane, Ben, Megan, Macy, Maggie, Nora, and Zack), and one great-grandchild (Wade), breaking land speed records to attend and cherishing every moment spent at their events across the United States. She is also survived by her sisters Vera (Mel) of Fruita, Col.; and Evelyn of Holly Ranch Lake, Tex.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe; her parents, Benedict and Marcella; her twin sister, Eileen; her brothers, Mark and Eddie; and her granddaughter Olivia. A mother, a wife, a nurse, a farmer: Irene lived a life of service. It was her way of giving love. Judging by the large group of people that have reached out in her last days and celebrated her life, she spread that love everywhere. Our beloved cattle farming, weed slaying, salsa-making, seamstress, independent, “all gas/no brakes” Mimi will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Memorial contributions may be made to Midland Hospice and Jefferson County Friends of 4-H, care of Barnett Family Funeral Home, P.O. Box 602, Oskaloosa, KS, 66066.



## **In Memoriam: Dr. Richard “Dick” Eli Bowen**

**September 27, 1932 – September 26, 2024**

Dr. Richard “Dick” Eli Bowen, age 91, of Greenfield, Indiana, passed away Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, at Springhurst Health Campus in Greenfield, Indiana. He was born in Oskaloosa, Kan., on Sept. 27, 1932, to George Eli and Sara Emily McCaslin Bowen. He graduated from Washington County High School in 1950 and furthered his education at the University of Kansas, graduating with a B.S. in Bacteriology in 1954. Dick obtained an M.S. and D.V.M. at Kansas State University in 1961. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts in Virology in 1965. Dick proudly served in the United States Army with honor. He married the love of his life and his best friend, Joan “Joannie” Krueger Bowen, on Jan. 31, 1954, in Washington, Kansas.

Dick worked at Eli Lilly & Company as Manager of Animal Science Regulatory Affairs for 28.5 years until his retirement. He was a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society. He was a devoted Cross of Grace Lutheran Church of New Palestine, Ind., member. He was the Greenfield, Ind., Sertoma charter Vice President in 1965, then President in 1966, and District Governor from 1976-77. Dick volunteered as the Executive Director of Edelweiss Equine Assisted Therapy Center for nine years. He was a founding member of St. James Lutheran Church of Greenfield, Ind. He was the Hancock County 4-H Veterinary Science Club leader for 17 years. Dick won the Jefferson Award for Public Service from WRTV Channel 6, honoring his many hours of community service. Dick was also artistic. He enjoyed working with stained glass and painting with watercolors in his free time. He dabbled in woodworking. Dick was an avid sports fan and enjoyed keeping track of KU athletics. In his later years, New Palestine High School honored him with the Fan Appreciation Award for supporting high school athletics.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Joannie Bowen; daughters, Kelly (Jay) Wickliff of Woodbridge, Va., and Elisa Bell of Greenfield, Ind.; grandchildren, Megan Bell of Greenfield, Ind., Jonathan (Renee) Wickliff of Plymouth, Mich., and Brittany (Rodney) LaCour of Corsicana, Tex.; and four great-grandchildren. His parents and his sisters, Janet Jones and Joan Abercrombie, preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cross of Grace Lutheran Church or to the Parkinson's Foundation, Donor Services, 5757 Waterford District Drive, Suite 310, Miami, FL 33126.

## **In Memoriam: Virginia Anne Manville Winsor**

**January 25, 1946 - December 29, 2024**

Virginia Anne Winsor, 78, of Winchester, Kan., passed away Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, in her home. She was born Jan. 25, 1946, in Chicago, Ill., the daughter of Gibson Henry and Nelle Laverne Curry Manville. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Francis Henry Winsor (Winchester), Fritz as she affectionately called him. She is survived by her children, Rebecca Stoecklein (James) of Blue Springs, Mo., Jennifer Watts (Robert) of Madison Kan., Brian Winsor (Skip Schneider) of Cathedral City Cal.; her grandchildren, Bailey Talkington, Sydney Lowe (Braden), Grayson Davenport, Andrew Watts; and great grandchild, Tatum Miller. She is also survived by one sister, Dr. Carolyn Baum of St. Louis, Mo., and one brother, Bill Manville of Winchester. She was preceded in death by her parents.



Virginia attended Winchester High School and graduated with the class of 1964. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1969 from the Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia.

Virginia met her lifelong partner, Fritz, shortly after he returned from service in Vietnam in 1967. One memorable first date experience that she always enjoyed sharing with her grandchildren was the time that he took her out on his brand-new motorcycle. Fritz encouraged her to take it for a spin, with his assistance of course. She laid on the throttle and up the front steps and off the side of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Easton they went! Virginia married Francis Henry Winsor on February 15, 1969, in Leavenworth. She began teaching primary education in the Leavenworth School District. They moved to Winchester shortly after and started their family. Virginia was a beloved educator and advocate for children, she taught at Jefferson County North School district #339 for 30 years until she retired in May 2005.

She loved attending her grandchildren's special events, and they enjoyed keeping her busy. Between Bailey's volleyball, Grayson's marching band, Sydney's rodeo, and Andrew's music programs, she always had a full calendar of activities. She enjoyed socializing with the Wednesday morning breakfast group and dinner with friends each week. Her hobbies included quilting, basket weaving, and painting; she especially enjoyed adding her artistic touch to the wood working pieces Fritz made in his shop. Virginia was a Polaris Ranger manager and certified supervisor of the cattle operation at their farm making sure they were all accounted for.

Virginia was a caring and compassionate homemaker, always cooking and baking and filling their home with love. Her love and care for others was unmatched as she spread it throughout her community, volunteering with Meals on Wheels and a variety of other local organizations. She was a member of the Winchester Library Board, County Line EHU, City Council member, and served as Mayor of Winchester. She was a life member of the Jefferson County Historical Society and followed in her mother's footsteps serving as curator of the John Steuart Curry House at Old Jefferson Town in Oskaloosa. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

Memorials are suggested to Winchester Public Library or to Jefferson County Historical Society designated for care of the John Steuart Curry Boyhood Home.

## Surely You Should Know about the Shirleys

By Shirley Janice Bower Tompkins

There's a reason my first name is Shirley. Yes, I'm from the Shirley Temple era, but that's not the reason. I'm Shirley Janice because my great-grandmother was **Nancy Jane Shirley**. The Shirleys had southern roots — Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky — and they were farmers.

**Moses Shirley**, the earliest Shirley ancestor we're sure of, was born about 1780 in Abbeville, South or North Carolina. On December 3, 1798, in Warren County, Kentucky, Moses married **Nancy Dale**, daughter of a respected southern family with roots going all the way back to Jamestown. Moses had a land grant in Barren County, Kentucky, in 1799. Moses and Nancy had 10 children, most of them born in Kentucky.

After the Shirleys left Barren County, they are recorded as buying land in Hamilton County, Illinois, as early as 1818. They were charter members of the Ten Mile Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Hamilton County, Illinois. Primitive Baptists are sometimes known as "hardshell Baptists," because they opposed Sunday schools as interfering between parents and their duty to teach their children. They sang hymns *a capella* because they only allowed musical instruments mentioned in the Bible. An 1827 listing of pastors for the denomination shows Moses Shirley as an ordained pastor at Ten Mile Creek, Hamilton County. During the year, the report says, Ten Mile Creek lost two members to death, received seven members by letter, excluded two members but restored one. When Moses died in 1861, he was buried at Ten Mile Cemetery at McLeansboro, as was his wife, Nancy, when she died a year later.

Of their 10 children, the one we're most interested in is **Isaac Shirley**, the second son, born in 1805 in Barren County, Kentucky. He married **Elizabeth Cox** in 1828, likely in Kentucky. Apparently the younger Shirleys moved from Hamilton County, Illinois, to Shelby County, Illinois. Records of land transfers for Shelby County (from *Illinois Land Purchase Records 1813-1909*) show Isaac Shirley buying 80 acres of ground on March 20, 1830, for \$1.25 per acre, or a total price of \$100. On April 14, 1836, he bought another 40 acres at \$1.25 an acre, and on November 14, 1836, he bought 80 acres at \$1.25 per acre. Isaac was one of the purchasers at an estate sale in 1842 in Shelby County, Illinois.

Then Isaac heard of "cheap land in Missouri" around Linn County and moved his family there sometime after 1842. More children joined their family in Missouri. (**Moses Jr.**, Isaac's brother, was one of the early settlers at Eagleville, Harrison County, Missouri. Most of the other family members apparently stayed in Illinois.)

In the 1850 census records, Isaac's family is in Linn County, Missouri. Isaac is 45, born in Kentucky, a farmer, and his net worth is \$1,500, the highest net worth figure on that page. Elizabeth is 42, born in Kentucky. "**William**" is 21 and a farmer, born in Illinois. **Martha A.** is 17, and **Hannah E.** is 14, both born in Illinois. **John W.** is 12, **Nancy J.** (my great-grandmother) is 9, **George W.** is 5, and **Mary E.** is 1; all these children were born in Missouri. There's also a **William Dawers**, 63, born in Pennsylvania, living with the family; he is described as having "no occupation." (Is he a relative?)

The census listing for "William Shirley" presents a puzzle. Is this merely a misunderstanding of **Wilburn**'s name? Or is there really a William, one year younger than Wilburn? For that matter would Wilburn be living with the family in 1850 in Missouri? Or had he already joined the California gold rush?

Says the Lecompton *Bald Eagle* (summer 1991) about Wilburn:

"[In 1849] he became interested in the discovery of gold in the west, and joined a train with his ox team and went to California. There he mined gold for two years, and was successful. He decided to return home with his gleanings...."

In 1852, the *Bald Eagle* says Wilburn came to eastern Kansas on horseback and did some prospecting:

"...being favorably impressed with the country, he went back to Missouri, sold his real estate and moved his family to a place west of Lecompton..."

Isaac Shirley followed his son to the Lecompton area. Isaac built an impressive two-story rock house (the ruins of which still stand) for his family a few miles from town.

These were the days of Bleeding Kansas, when pro-slavery Missouri militants were harassing anti-slavery folks before the official beginning of the Civil War. Anti-slavery Kansans led by **Jim Lane** were shooting back at the Missourians. Even the county sheriff — a Democrat partisan — was making war on our Free Staters. The Shirleys were on the abolitionist, anti-slavery side. Says the Lecompton *Bald Eagle*:

"Isaac was an avid Free State proponent, so when trouble loomed between the North and South, they sold their farm and went to Kansas Territory, where they pre-empted 160 acres near the Kansas River, about 2 ½ miles west of the present town of Lecompton. As he was an outspoken abolitionist, on numerous occasions, for his personal safety, he was compelled to hide in brush heaps to avoid ill treatment by the border ruffians."



One of our family's favorite stories comes from the *Bald Eagle*:

"... **Alex Glenn** was working at the **Isaac Shirley** farm cutting wood near the river, when Isaac's little son and his dog came to the timber to play near where [Alex] was working. The boy had a little tin whistle. While he was busy and the boy nearby, he heard what he thought to be Missourian raiders coming up the river bank. Alex's first concern was for the boy, who suddenly blew his whistle. One of the raiders, upon hearing the whistle, yelled 'Let's get out of here — that's Jim Lane and his men!' They left, and Alex was saved by a boy and his whistle."

At the time, Lecompton was expected to be the capital of a slave-state Kansas. Congress itself allocated \$50,000 to build a capitol building there, and construction of the foundation was actually begun, then abandoned. One history of Lane University (named for **Jim Lane**) says:

"It was also from here that the 13 stone masons who were working on the building picked up their guns and headed south on the Lecompton road to meet **Col. Shombre** and **Captain Walker** [Free Staters], in their projected attack on Lecompton. This was to be known as the Battle of Fort Titus."

Located about two miles south of Lecompton on the east bank of Coon Creek, Fort Titus wasn't really a fort. It was the heavily fortified cabin of pro-slaver **Col. Henry T. Titus**, who had actively participated in the sacking of nearby Lawrence, Kansas, on May 21, 1856. His cabin is described by the *Civil War Muse* as a rendezvous point for pro-slavery ruffians. The battle at Col. Titus' cabin, which occurred August 16, 1856, may have been either a retaliatory or a preventative measure.



*Painting of the Battle of Fort Titus by Ellen Duncan in the Territorial Capital Museum in Lecompton, Kansas.*

After the Free Staters' "advance guard" was fired upon by a company of pro-slavery men led by Col. Titus on the California road, Wikipedia says:

"Early in the morning, a party of Free-State cavalry made a charge upon some tents near the cabin, the inmates of which ran for the cabin, and were followed by the horsemen, who went too near the cabin, when they were fired upon by those inside...."

The battle was brief, the *Civil War Muse* tells us, because the Free Staters brought in their cannon and fired it.

"Ft. Titus and its 34 defenders, including Colonel Henry Titus, surrendered. Also surrendered were 400 muskets, a large number of knives, 13 horses, several wagons, a large stock of household provisions, farm equipment and \$10,000 in gold and bank drafts. Slaves and servants owned by Titus were set free and instructed to go to Topeka."

Still, my Shirley family stayed on and prospered.

At the height of its prosperity, according to one Town of Lecompton history,

"Lecompton was quite a flourishing town (1857-1858). It was the Seat of [Kansas] Territorial Government. It had several large hotels, four church groups, the United States Court and Land Office and was headquarters for seven stage lines to Kansas City, Leavenworth, and St. Joseph, Missouri. At this time the population was over 1,000."

Isaac Shirley died April 27, 1858, at the age of 53, before the Civil War officially began. (Anything that doesn't happen on the East Coast, doesn't count.) His wife and family stayed on.

During the Civil War, the town of Lawrence was sacked again, on August 21, 1863.

According to the Lecompton *Bald Eagle* (summer 1991):

"In 1863 when **Quantrill** and his men sacked Lawrence, the people near the Shirley farm were warned as to what was happening and rushed to the Glenn farm to ask for help, as at that time nearly every able-bodied man and boy were away from home, fighting in the campaign against **General Price**'s confederate raiders in the Battle of the Blue. Old Mr. Glenn had them take his best team of horses to the nearby creek, and hide them in the brush. The cows were then driven to the woods and scattered. He suggested that all the people go to the corn field and brush to hide.

"They spent the entire day there, singing hymns and conjecturing what they'd do if Quantrill came. One woman brought her valuables with her in an old copper pot; this she buried in the presence of others, so that if she were killed others would know its location. They stayed hidden until eleven o'clock that night, with the little ones hungry and crying and everyone miserable. Finally it was suggested that they go back to the house as they did not think Quantrill would kill them all. The next morning a man rode out from Lecompton and told them Quantrill had left. That same day, some of the men who had been fighting Price, returned home."

Shirley men and their neighbors were part of the Kansas State Militia. The militia was separate from regular army units from Kansas. The Kansas Historical Society tells me that the KSM

“...was primarily used in emergencies and the periods of service were usually very short. Therefore there was no need for extensive records and paperwork, and no pensions resulted...”

KSM records show:

“**Shirley, W**

4"Sgt, Co G, 4th Regiment, KSM

Enlisted September, 1863, in Jefferson Co.

Mustered in October 8, 1864, in Jefferson Co.

Mustered out October 24, 1864

Period of actual service: 15 days”

“**Shirley, John**

Private, Co A, 9th Regt KSM

Mustered in October 11, 1864

Mustered out October 29, 1864

Period of actual service: 19 days”

and their brother-in-law, married to **Mary Elizabeth Shirley**, Isaac’s daughter:

“**Brown, Wm R**

Priv. Co A, Second Regiment, KSM

Enlisted May 10, 1864, at Topeka

Mustered out October 30, 1864

Period of actual service: 20 days”

**Wilburn Shirley** didn’t stay in Douglas County forever. According to the Bald Eagle:

“...He had a very successful farming operation going, but his cattle would frequently swim the Kansas River, to pasture on the north side [in Jefferson County] and eat the grass there. As a result, he sold his 160 acres he had pre-empted and located in Jefferson County across the river from the previous farm. There he prospered in his farm operation and lived on that farm the rest of his life, rearing ten children.”

Now, how does my great-grandmother, **Nancy Jane Shirley**, fit into all this? Nancy Jane was Wilburn Shirley’s little sister. She was born May 14, 1843, in Shelby County, Illinois, the sixth child of **Isaac** and **Elizabeth Shirley**. When she was nine, she moved with them to Linn County, Missouri, and then to Douglas County, Kansas. She may be the grandma who told stories to my mom about hiding under the bed during Quantrill’s raid, though by that time she would have been a married woman. Nancy Jane married **Smith Champion** at Lecompton on January 12, 1862; they had six children, one of whom, **Frederick Champion**, was my grandfather.

Mom remembered Nancy Jane as the great grandma who always had peppermints in her apron pocket to share with the little folks. She died January 24, 1916.

And she’s the reason my first name is Shirley.

## **Bovine Concert**

*From the Winchester Argus, Nov. 12, 1881*

**David Smith** gave an open air concert (?) on Monday night. He yarded a couple of loads of cows and calves for the purpose of ship[p]ing, and of all the music you ever heard that just took the cake. There were no two in the ya[r]d that had the same tune, and they all sang at once, the citizens were kept awake all night. Dave expla[i]ned that the concert was for the benefit of **Judge Fulton**. We have not heard from the Judge but if he is in a good humor about it he is the only man in the city that is. David, if you will just advertise your next show you can herd in the streets, as the inhabitants will leave the town for the night and take to the woods.

## Ella Galena Hull Fulton

Cattle grazed on the prairie under an azure sky. A girl on a pony rode herd. She loved the prairie, her home since she was nine years old. She rode her pony across streams and through herds of wild cattle. She had walked six miles to pick up the mail through grasses and sunflowers tall enough to scratch her sunbonnet. She wove shapes and stories from cloud shadows racing across the land. She dreamed of writing books and seeing great cities.

**Ella Galena Hull** was born Nov. 10, 1854, in Licking County, Ohio, the daughter of **William Wilton Harrison Hull** and **Elizabeth H. Street Hull**.<sup>\*</sup> In March 1864, the family moved from Ohio to Jefferson County, Kansas, where William had an appointment as an Indian agent. They bought a house one mile south of Boyle in Jefferson Township.

Their first year in Kansas, the Boyle-Spring Grove area had no school. Ella and her siblings studied at home. A formerly enslaved man came to learn with the Hull children, and Ella often visited his cabin to teach his wife and son. Ella later attended the Spring Grove school. In August 1869, Ella's mother, Elizabeth Street Hull, died. Ella was 14 years old.



*Ella Galena Hull Fulton*



*Spring Grove school, no. 14. Photo courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.*

In 1868, 24-year-old **Thomas Henry Fulton** came to Jefferson County with his brother **Joseph**. He met Ella Hull while he was working as a stagecoach driver between Fort Leavenworth and Topeka. The couple courted on horseback. On March 15, 1870, they rode to Oskaloosa to be married by **Rev. L.D. Price**.

Tom Fulton bought 80 acres of land east of Boyle from a **Mr. Pickens** but did not have enough money to build a house. He worked as a railroad grading contractor on the right of way of the Union Pacific from Fort Leavenworth to Holton and on the Santa Fe grading project from Topeka to Newton. After persuading him to take her with him, Ella wrote, "I took my honeymoon on the Santa Fe grade in 1871."

With their four-month-old son, **Stewart**, the couple traveled in a covered wagon to find work on the railroad. Ella wrote, "We were a

week on the road, fording all the streams after leaving Topeka and obtained work with the graders at \$4 per day." For five months, they lived in a tent along the line, at Cedar Point, Peabody, and Newton. Ella thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet people of different nationalities and backgrounds. Quaker pastor and temperance leader **Drusilla Cox Wilson** preached to the railroad workers. By fall, the Fultons had enough money to build a cabin on their land.

In twenty years, Ella and Tom Fulton had nine children. Their farm became a social hub for the Boyle area. Ella wrote that she "had six boys of her own of different sizes and we quite often had as many more of the neighbors' boys." Tom farmed in the summer and taught school in the winter. The family attended the Reformed Presbyterian church in nearby Winchester.

Social events at the Fulton farm drew the neighbors for sewing circles, ice cream socials, and sleighing parties. Ella was active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. In July 1894, about 60 members of the group met at the Fulton home. The *Valley Falls New Era* reported, "Mr. Fulton had his hands full caring for the ladies' horses but he seemed very good natured and will vote that women may vote."

In 1910, the Fultons bought two lots in Winchester and began building a house, moving to town in 1911. Ella began to write for the local newspapers. At first, she wrote obituaries and neighborhood news, but soon her columns made their way into nearly every issue of the *Winchester Star* and *Valley Falls Vindicator*. Her descriptions of early life in Jefferson County attracted many readers.

On June 22, 1928, the *Star* reported, "Mrs. Ella Fulton, of Winchester, is becoming quite widely known as a writer of articles of much note. One of Mrs. Fulton's articles entitled, 'The Ladies Aid of Centerville' recently appeared in 'The Farm and Ranch' published at Dallas, Texas. For the article the Texas publication sent Mrs. Fulton a substantial remittance, with a request for more articles."

*From the Oskaloosa Sickle, Jan. 18, 1879*

<sup>\*</sup>Ella Hull was a first cousin of William D. Street of Oberlin, Kan., author of *Twenty-five Years Among the Indians and Buffalo*.



**Thomas Fulton** died on May 25, 1927. Ella wrote, “In the fall of 1868 he came to the Spring Grove district to teach school. He bought his first 80 acres there. In the spring of 1870 he was married to **Ella G. Hull**, and they made a home on the land he purchased. Six sons and three daughters came to live with them and share the home so dear to them all. In 1911 they moved to the present home in Winchester. The family remained unbroken for 48 years. Then death came in the fall of 1918 and took **Ernest**, the youngest son. In February 1920, **Robert** was taken — two promoted to the heavenly home. His wife of 57 years remains to mourn the loss of a good husband, always faithful and cheerful. His children, **William Stewart**, of Hiawatha, Kan.; **Dr. John S.**, of Emporia, Kan.; **Mrs. Sadie Trimble**, of Winchester; **Chas. M.**, on the home farm; **Dr. James Albert**, Kansas City, Kan.; **Mrs. Mary Koons**, Valley Falls; **Mrs. Bernice Hogan**, Kansas City, Mo.; mourn the loss of a good father.”

**Ella Hull Fulton** died Nov. 26, 1937, at 83 years of age. The *Winchester Star* reported, “Her education was limited to only the pioneer schools of Kansas, yet she was always a reader of periodicals and books, and always was well informed on current events; and because of her wonderful memory was often consulted on passing events of local interest; and the articles in the local newspapers were much appreciated by their readers. She also opened her heart to all young people of her neighborhood and so dear was she to so many of them, they honored her by calling her ‘Mother Fulton.’ ”

In her articles, Ella often styled herself “Ma Fulton.” With her children scattered around the area, she made extended visits to their families. After her husband’s death she spent some time with her youngest daughter, **Bernice Hogan**, in Kansas City, Mo. They visited the new statue in Penn Valley Park, “The Pioneer Mother.” Ella wondered, “did she see the prairies with their flowers, the clouds with their shadows on the grass; the red of the morning sun, the purple and gold of the evening, did she enjoy dreaming of the future?”

One of her grandchildren once asked, “Grandma, why did you not write the book you dreamed about?” She answered that farming and raising children left her no time to write, but she did read. “I could read and rock the cradle and read and churn, and read to my children, and one of the pleasures of my visit to the city were the new books I got to read.” At least 200 articles and news items by Ella Hull Fulton are posted on *newspapers.com*.

Ella never went far from home, but she fulfilled her girlhood dreams by writing them for everyone in Jefferson County. Her idea was to make a place better by living in it. She wrote, “we grew up with the fine Kansas air and learned to see God in the trees and flowers and clouds and shadows and the beauties of the Kansas land.”

—Jane Hoskinson

## The Ladies Aid at Centerville

*From the Valley Falls Vindicator, Nov. 5, 1926*

(By Mrs. Fulton)

Recently I entertained my dear little old lady friend from Centerville. Every state has a Centerville, as every town its main street. It’s just a small town with good schools and churches of the leading denominations. Well, my old time friend lives there and she came to visit me. And we talked of all the things that interest old ladies — our children, our grandchildren, our old time friends, mostly on the other side now, and finally came to our churches. Mrs. M. is a life-long Methodist and as good and faithful as lives and has always been a great worker in Ladies Aid or similar organizations. It really has been said that if Mrs. M. would cease her activities a certain church in Centerville would cease to live. I asked her about her Ladies Aid. Well, she said, the younger women have taken it out of our hands and that’s all right.

They say us older women gossiped but what harm was there in asking after the sick folk and the new babies and a little delicious gossip about the new dresses or about the new people that moved in a house on West street, they looked poor and might need some help before spring. There might be a new baby there that might need a few left overs.

Now when we meet they (the young set) read long papers to us on Art, the lost Mona Lisa and some of us don’t know or care; it might be a pet calf but they tell us it was a very rare specimen (*sic*) of Art that got lost, but we are sure none of us have the lost Mona Lisa. Another reads a paper on the terrible housing conditions of Chicago and the lamentable lack of bathtubs in the Italian settlements, and the reader said they even used their bathrooms for the storage of potatoes and coal — all of course the younger set were horrified at, but I felt the blood mount to my face. Was I so uncivilized as little Italy for only for a few years had I possessed a bathtub and in cold weather it could be used very well for a refrigerator. And they discussed China and Africa and the far off Islands of the Sea. They articulated, they literated and musicated. We older ladies pieced nine patches for the Jews and we hardly dared whisper for fear we would disturb the younger set that articulated, literated and musicated for our entertainment.

I never got the chance to ask Sister Brown about her son over seas or her new grand baby or the sick man out her way and then it came time to go home to get supper for our husbands.

But let’s go to bed, we have had our day and we don’t let the young set have a care.

## Funeral Hymn

*From the Winchester Star, May 7, 1926*

Back in 1869, when we stood by our mother's grave, a friend sang, "Shall We Gather at the River," a beautiful, comforting hymn, sang with a fine voice. Some years later the same friend sang again the same comforting hymn at the grave of a brother, and then the singer, **W.C. McCleny**, was gathered at the river with the others. Later on his daughter, **Mrs. Becker**, came and sang for us as we laid our son away. This family sung comfort to us for three generations — not only to us but for many others. Do we appreciate the memory of this family of Kansas pioneers. We surely do, and they gave freely of their talent to comfort and cheer and there are times in life when a friend that can bring comfort brings the most to you.

Mrs. T.H. Fulton

*[Editor's note: **George Lynn** sang this hymn at the funeral of **Ella Hull Fulton**, at her request.]*

## Pioneer Mother

*From the Winchester Star, Dec. 2, 1927*

While in Kansas City we looked with admiration on the beautiful statuary, in Penn Valley park, called the "Pioneer Mother" with her child on her tired horse.

She stands in a high windy bare place without protection, asking no favors; her face is not the face of a martyr, but like one going on a trip reassured that come what will she is ready; that she has God and her husband and child, and what else matters. Was it, do you think, for wealth she looks toward the great west? We think not. She has left all perhaps to follow the man she loved to a far country with its dangers and hardships, perhaps for just a plain home.

As I stood and looked I wondered, did she see the prairies with their flowers, the clouds with their shadows on the grass; the red of the morning sun, the purple and gold of the evening, did she enjoy dreaming of the future? Others did, she must have had a God-given vision of better things to come or she could not have endured, but her faith in God and in the love of her husband and children kept her faithful and ready to endure for their sake, and who can say she did not have the best things of life.

Mrs. Fulton

*[Editor's note: The sources for information about the life of Ella Hull Fulton are the newspapers of Jefferson County, Kansas, from 1869 through 1937. Her columns, articles, and reporting appear in the Winchester Star, the Valley Falls New Era, the Valley Falls Vindicator, the Oskaloosa Independent, the Oskaloosa Sickle, and the Jefferson County Tribune, among others. Thanks to Rick Nichols and Leanne Chapman for research assistance.]*

*[Editor's note: The Pioneer Mother statue by **Alexander Phimister Proctor** stands in Penn Valley Park, Kansas City, Mo., near a branch of the Santa Fe trail. It was presented to the people of Kansas City by **Howard Vanderslice**. The inscription reads: "To commemorate the Pioneer Mother who with unfaltering trust in God suffered the hardship of the unknown west to prepare for us a homeland of peace and plenty." Vanderslice's own mother had traveled across the plains in search of a better life. Proctor created the piece in California, had it cast in Italy and the molds and casts were destroyed after completion.]*

<https://kcparks.org/places/pioneer-mother-memorial/>



## Did Your “Formal Education” Cover the Courthouse?

By Rick Nichols

The 1981 booklet produced for that year’s Kansas Courthouse Architecture Traveling Exhibit is 24 pages in length and includes 35 photographs of various county courthouses across the state, including the Jefferson County Courthouse in Oskaloosa.

Jointly sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission and the Wichita Public Schools’ Office of Museum Programs, the exhibit highlighted nine distinct architectural styles that were represented by the courthouses pictured in the booklet.

The photo of the Jefferson County Courthouse is the first of three photos that appear under the heading for the last architectural style the booklet looks at, New Formalism. Also pictured there are the Shawnee County Courthouse in Topeka and the Neosho County Courthouse in Erie.

Here is how the booklet describes New Formalism:

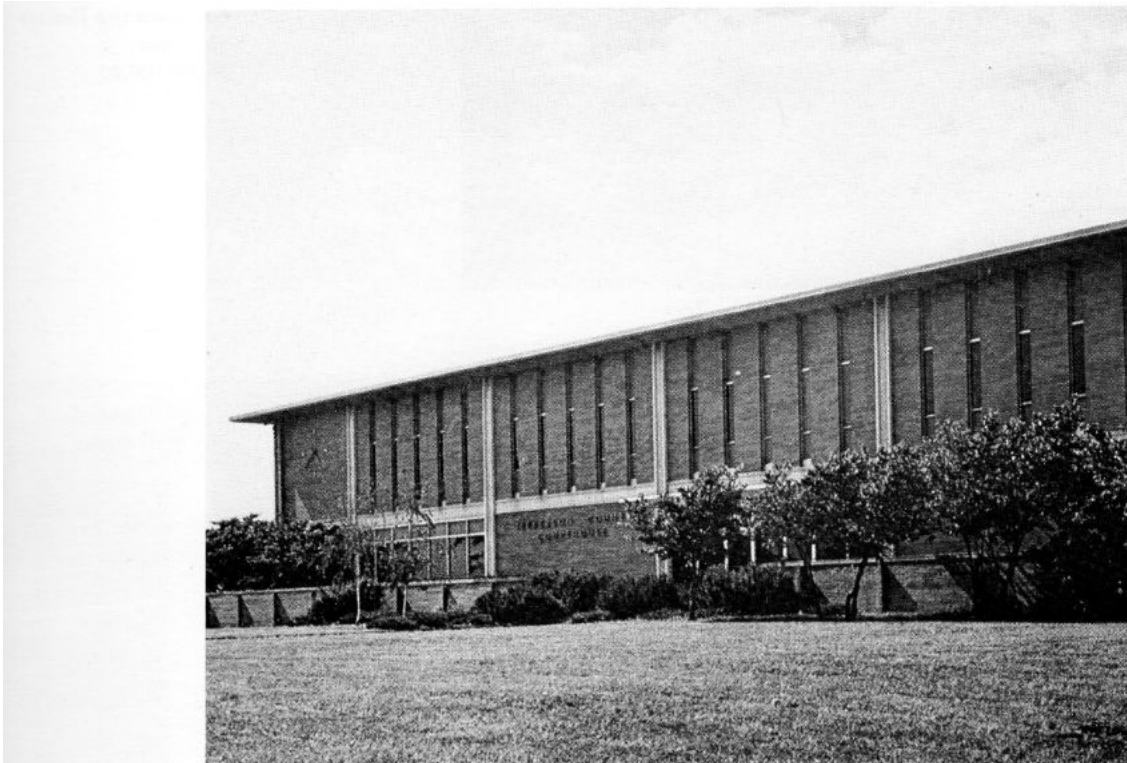
“The buildings of the New Formalism style are typically self-contained, free-standing blocks, with strictly symmetrical elevations. Skylines are level, the building often being defined at the top by a heavy projecting roof slab. Wall surfaces are always smooth and often glossy. Ornament is employed most frequently in the form of patterned screens or grills of metal, cast stone, or concrete. The New Formalism style lends itself to the use of expensive materials as well as materials that only look expensive. The style was very popular in the United States during the 1960s.”

Designed by Keine and Bradley and constructed in 1962, the Jefferson County Courthouse replaced the picturesque courthouse that was heavily damaged by the infamous May 1960 tornado and had to be torn down a few months later. The earlier courthouse had gone up in 1867 and was the oldest Kansas courthouse still in use as a courthouse when the twister had its way with the two-story building topped by a cupola.

According to the booklet, the Shawnee County Courthouse was built in 1965 at a cost of \$4.5 million, while the Neosho County Courthouse, like the Jefferson County Courthouse, dates back to 1962.

A photo of the Chase County Courthouse in Cottonwood Falls graces the front cover of the booklet. Erected in 1873, this courthouse is reflective of the Second Empire style of architecture and in 1960 succeeded the former Jefferson County Courthouse as the oldest courthouse still in use in the state. The structure, a popular destination in “Flint Hills country,” is now 152 years old.

The other seven architectural styles the booklet looks at are Vernacular, Victorian Gothic, Italianate, Richardsonian Romanesque, Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Art Deco.



## Bygone Remedies

*From the Winchester Star, Jan. 20, 1922 (From the files of Raymond Riley)*

### TO THE OLD-TIMERS.

Gather round, you old timers of Winchester, you fellows who pride yourselves on your memory, and answer a question or two. How long since you went to the store and asked for a bottle of "Godfrey's General Cordial," or "Dr. Radcliffe's Tincture for Toothache," or "Genuine Haarlem Oil," or "Levine's Eye Water," or "Bloom of Circasaia," or "Long Life Bitters?" Quite a few years, we dare say. And yet, there are many in this neighborhood to whom those names sound familiar, and who recall that back several years ago, when they were in the bloom of youth, those remedies were household words.

But you can't find them now. At least you don't hear people calling for them, and we doubt if there is a store in all this section that could dig up more than one, possibly two, of the several named if there should be a call for it. Not that they are no longer considered good remedies—they are doubtless just as good as they ever were. But there is no call for them.

And the answer is right here in these few words—you don't hear them called for because you don't see them advertised. As long as they were advertised they were in demand, and they sold by the thousands of bottles. Today few people know anything about them and when they want a medicine that will answer the same purpose as the old ones—they go in and buy something they see advertised. All of which only proves that the things which the public sees advertised are the things the public buys. You can't get away from this argument, and you can't offer any better proof that advertising pays than to try to buy something that isn't advertised.

*From the Winchester Star, Oct. 5, 1895*

**Bucklen's Arnica Salve.**  
The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by J. D. Lemon & Bro

*From the Winchester Star, Apr. 2, 1897*

One Minute is all the time necessary to decide from personal experience that One Minute Cough Cure does what its name implies. Frank C. Broderick.

*From the Valley Falls New Era, Dec. 19, 1896*

Scaly eruptions on the head, chapped hands and lips, cuts, bruises, scalds, burns are quickly cured by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It is at present the article most used for piles, and it always cures them. J. C. Swiler.

*From the Valley Falls New Era, July 8, 1915*

When you're blue Smoke "RUMMY" and forget it. 5c

*From the Oskaloosa Sickle, Aug. 28, 1880*



**KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE.**  
The Most Successful Remedy ever discovered, as it is certain in its effects and does not blister. READ PROOFS BELOW. From  
**Rev. P. N. Granger,**  
Presiding Elder of the St. Albans District. St. Albans, Vt Jan. 20, '80.

*From the Winchester Star, Mar. 22, 1895*

**A Little Tartar**  
On the teeth destroys the enamel and ruins the teeth. Sexafoo will remove this very annoying growth and leave the teeth white and pearly. J. D. Lemon & Bro. the popular druggists keeps it.

## The Practice of Medicine

### Physicians in Position to Help

By Rick Nichols

Time was, and I am old enough to remember such a time, doctors even made house calls if someone was too sick to leave their home to seek medical attention but not so sick as to merit hospitalization.

I bring this up because in the mid-1950s, based on an advertisement that was published in the July 29, 1954, issue of the *Oskaloosa Independent*, Jefferson County was blessed to have at least one doctor in six of its eight cities.

The ad was paid for by Reynolds Rexall Drug Store in Oskaloosa, which claimed to be "The Only Air Conditioned Drug Store In Jefferson County."

This advice appeared at the top of the ad: "If You Need Medical Attention See Your Doctor." And it was followed by a listing of the available doctors.

Both Oskaloosa and Perry boasted two doctors apiece. The former had **Dr. James C. Pike** and **Dr. D.M. Stevens**, while the latter enjoyed the presence of **Dr. Charles J. Bliss** and **Dr. Thomas A. Weldon**.

Residents of McLouth could receive care from **Dr. Robert R. Snook**, and folks in Nortonville the same from **Dr. Willard A. Madison**.

Winchester's citizens could count on **Dr. F.W. Huston** to be there for them, and in Valley Falls the man to see was **Dr. John W. Griffith**.

### NOTICE!

*From the Winchester Star, Oct. 4, 1918*  
(From the files of **Raymond Riley**)

Owing to the fees not being in keeping with the increase in cost of living expenses, The Jefferson County Medical Society, at its last meeting, adopted the following resolutions, namely:

RESOLVED: that on and after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918, the following charges will prevail in this county, viz:--

Day Calls in City, \$2.00

Night Calls in City, \$2.50.

Calls in Country: \$1.00 per mile plus \$2.00 for day visits and \$2.50 for night visits.

Obstetrics: normal cases \$15.00 and mileage; \$1.00 per hour for detention over 5 hours.

Secondary call: regular rates.

Instruments: \$25.00 up.

All other fees 25 per cent to 50 per cent increase.

## Winchester Doctors' Advertisements

*From the Winchester Star, June 10, 1921*  
(From the files of **Raymond Riley**)

### Dr. C. E. Buckley

Physician and Surgeon

Special Attention Given Chronic Female Diseases

Chronic Nervous Disorders and Diseases of the Rectum

Piles Quickly and Permanently Cured

Phones: Office 622 Residence 623

Winchester, Kansas

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### A.L. Pettis, M. D.

Physician and Surgeon

Office phone—382

Residence phone 383

Winchester, Kansas

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### W.A. French

Dentist

Office over Bank

Phone 71

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### A.H. Boyd, M. D.

Physician and Surgeon

Call

Office phone 164

Residence phone 165

Winchester, Kansas

## No Small-Pox Here

*From the Winchester Star, Mar. 23, 1900*  
(From the files of **Raymond Riley**)

Considerable excitement prevailed in Winchester and surrounding community the latter part of last week when it was reported that there was a case of smallpox at the home of **Thomas French**, one mile east of town. The only grounds for such a report is that **Will** and **Bruce French** had come home from Kansas City a few days ago sick, and Bruce had some kind of a breaking out on his face. A physician was called, and the case not being far enough advanced to tell what it was, and in order to be on the safe side (there being an epidemic of smallpox in a great many places) he telephoned Saturday for the county health officer, **Dr. McCreight** came over Sunday, visited the case, and pronounced it measles.

From the time the report was first circulated no one was allowed to go to or leave the house until Monday. There is not at this time nor has there been at any time, a case of smallpox nearer us than eleven miles.

As a result of the scare the physicians have been busy vaccinating people.



## The Linotype

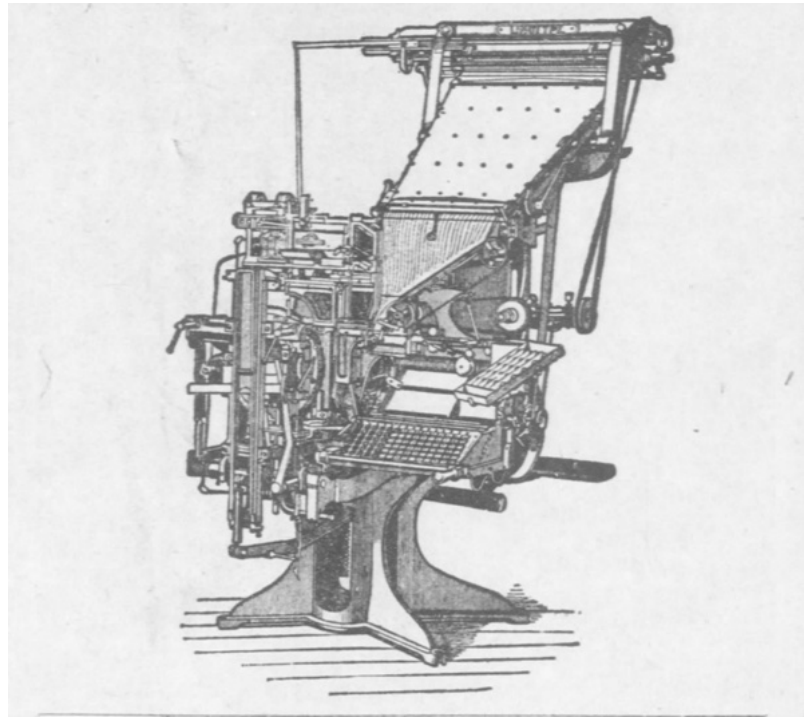
*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Mar. 26, 1915*

The Linotype machine is the invention of **Ottamar Mergenthaler** of Baltimore, Md., and became commercially successful during the early '90s. The machine is less than five feet square, and weighs about 3000 lbs. It consists of a bank of keys, connected with a magazine containing about 1500 brass matrices — small brass plates about one inch wide, the thickness varying with the type character. On one edge is the die from which is cast the letter, and at the upper end are a series of nicks or teeth for distributing purposes. Every character possesses a different combination. Each magazine contains a number of matrices for each letter, and all the usual characters required by a complete font of type, together with spaces, quads, etc., of various thickness. In addition there are also flat, elongated, wedge-shaped spaces, which are inserted between words, and employed for “justifying” each line as it is cast — or tightening the line for casting.

The magazine containing the matrices is an inclined receptacle, 2 feet, 6 inches long, the top being about 6 feet from the floor. Within this magazine are channels in which the matrices for the different letters are stored and thro' which they pass. The machine is so adjusted that as the keyboard is manipulated the matrices are selected in the order in which they are to appear in the slug or casting. When a key is depressed, the matrix to which it corresponds emerges from its channel, is caught upon an inclined traveling belt, and is then carried to the assembler or “stick;” as each word is completed, a stroke of the space key inserts the wedge-shaped space used between each two words. When the line is completed, the operator can correct errors by extracting matrices, or substituting others for those which are in the line. The wedge-shaped spaces are now pushed up thro' the line, securing instantaneous and complete justification. The completed line is then transferred automatically to the front of the mold, extending thro' a mold wheel at the left. Behind the mold is a melting pot heated by gas, containing molten metal. Within the pot is a pump plunger leading to a perforated mouth arranged to close the rear of the mold.

When the matrix line is in position, the automatic action of the plunger forces the metal into the mold and against the line of matrix letters, where it instantly solidifies in the form of a slug. The mold wheel then makes a partial revolution, bringing the mold in front of a blade, which trims and pushes the slug into a receiving galley ready for the proof press.

Having served their purpose in front of the mold, the matrices are returned to the magazine to be utilized in new combinations. The distribution of the machine



permits the composition of one line, the casting of a second, and the distribution of a third to be carried on simultaneously. The casting operation can also be arranged to work independently of the rest of the machine. It is said that this machine is capable of a speed greater than that at which the most skillful expert can operate the keys. The average product of a good operator is 5000 ems per hour, which is equal to the capacity of 5 ordinary hand compositors. Many operators, however, can produce from 6000 to 7000 ems to the hour, and a speed of 13,000 is on record. It is said that this machine can do anything that a printer can do except chew tobacco, drink liquor, and swear.

During the experimental stage, the stockholders sustained enormous losses, about 2 million dollars having been spent before a successful machine was produced. In the past 18 years, however, Mergenthaler stock has been very profitable, about 60 million dollars having been paid in dividends to its stockholders.

Above is a picture of the linotype, a Model 3, on which this description is set or cast. It is one of the best models made, and is up to date in its equipment and a very fine machine. Anybody who is interested is welcome to call and see it in operation.

The machine was purchased of The **F.C. Damm** Co. of Chicago, and Mr. Damm came out personally and installed it and had it running nicely before leaving. We desire to say for this gentleman that he is one of the fairest and most agreeable men we ever did business with and we wish to commend him to the newspaper brethren — he is strictly all right, and knows a Mergenthaler “from the ground up.”

## Soldier of the World War, Corporal J. Henry Irwin\*

**James Henry Irwin** was born Nov. 28, 1893, to **James Henry Irwin** and **Rebecca Jane Hughes Irwin** of Oskaloosa, Kansas. He attended the Oskaloosa schools where he was active in music and track. Irwin graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1915, the first person of color to do so. In September 1915, the *Oskaloosa Independent* reported that Irwin was attending Washburn University in Topeka. He registered for the draft in June 1917, then volunteered for service in World War I. After special training, he was assigned to Company A of the 803<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Infantry. His unit departed for service in France in September 1918. Irwin died of meningitis Nov. 8, 1918. His body was returned to Oskaloosa for burial June 4, 1921. He is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery in Oskaloosa. —Ed.



Corporal James Henry Irwin  
*From the Oskaloosa Independent, June 3, 1921*

*From the Jefferson County Tribune, June 28, 1918*

The adjutant general received an order last week inducting into service 1,000 negroes of this state. They are to go into camp at Funston during a five day period beginning July 16<sup>th</sup>. Jefferson County's quota under this call will be eleven. So far but one negro has been sent to training camp from this county—**Guy Tompkins**, of Oskaloosa. One other negro, **Henry Irwin**, was sent to Quindaro University the fore part of June to take special training.

*From the Jefferson County Tribune, Aug. 23, 1918*

**Henry Irwin**, who was sent to Quindaro University some weeks ago to take training in special work, has been sent to Camp Sheridan, we have been told. When Henry was here a week or two ago he was asked whether he was learning anything at the school and to which question he replied: "Learn something? I sure did. Why I can do anything now that **Harry Johnson** can do and you know he can do most everything."

*From the Jefferson County Tribune, Sept. 20, 1918*

**Henry Irwin**, who has been at school at Quindaro University for some weeks, writes to home folks that he was in New York and that he had just entered "a large white house" for what purpose he could not say. Later he added to his letter that it wasn't a big "white house" at all but that he was on board ship and was on his way "Over."

### Death of Henry Irwin

*From the Jefferson County Tribune, Dec. 6, 1918*

Jim Irwin and wife received a telegram last Wednesday evening from the War Department, announcing that their son, Henry, had died of spinal meningitis the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. Henry was one of the finest young men in the county. He was registered in the first draft, but was unwilling to await the call and enlisted under a special call and was sent to Quindaro University where he was given training in blacksmithing. Some month or two ago he was sent overseas and his death occurred in France. He was 24 years of age last month. He was a graduate of the Oskaloosa High School and was a most studious young man. It is with sincere regret that the people of Oskaloosa learn of his death.

\*"Irwin" is the most common spelling, but "Irvin" is the spelling on the family gravestone,  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/93825701/james-henry-irvin>.

## Body Arrives from France—Funeral at Oskaloosa

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, June 3, 1921*

The body of **Corp. J.H. Irvin**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Irvin** of this place, is on its way home from France. He died Nov. 8, 1918. Word of his death was received by his parents Dec. 4, 1918. He was sent by the government to Western University [Quindaro] to specialize in a certain line of military work and after completing the course, he was sent to Camp Grant and assigned to the 803 Pioneer Inf. From Grant he was sent overseas, where he died in a hospital. He was an upright Christian young man and led an exemplary life in the community. He graduated from the Oskaloosa High School in 1915, being the first colored boy to graduate from this school, and stood high with individual members of his class. While in camp he made it his duty to talk love and Christianity to the soldiers. He gave his life that his race might enjoy freedom.

He was born Nov. 28, 1893, making him 25 (*sic*) years old at the time of his death.

The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, under auspices of the colored Masonic order of Oskaloosa.

The remains are expected to arrive today — Friday.

## Funeral of Henry Irwin

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, June 10, 1921*

The funeral of **J. Henry Irwin**, soldier of the late war, whose body arrived last Saturday from France, was held Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Over one hundred of his own race beside two score white people gathered at the Baptist church for the afternoon sermon, which was delivered by **Rev. E.H. Adams**, pastor of the A.M.E. church. The colored Masonic lodge attended in a body. The casket was draped with the United States flag and covered with beautiful flowers. Several hymns were sung by the choir. The sermon, from the text, "Surely the bitterness of death is past," was very impressive and pointed the mourning relatives and friends unmistakably to the one sure avenue of escape from the stings of death. Without overpraising the dead young soldier, the speaker pointed out how he had from a boy developed the sort of character which is worthy to be laid on the altar of his country's service.

The service at the grave was conducted by the Masonic lodge of which the deceased was a member, and was carried out in faultless and impressive manner, some twenty members participating. The [s]ervice at the grave was attended by a large company of local citizens and by numerous friends from other parts of the county. A few Legion boys in uniform got back from the funeral at Winchester in time to attend and "taps" was blown by **R.J. Keers**.



*Oskaloosa High School Graduates — Class of 1915. From Left to Right, Rear Row: Henry Irvin, John Cole, Bertha Miller, Kate Hoskinson, Catherine Judy, Floyd Clark, Walter Cole. Second row: Raymond Quaney, Imogene Snyder, Joy Grayson, Frank Wray, Lucille Phinney, Silva Fletcher, George Frisbie. Third row: George Clark, Lottie Schenk, Alvin Williamson, Susie Humphries, Roy Cole, Rebecca Allen, Ivan Anderson, Rebecca Judy, Frank Roberts. Fourth row: Ruth Decker, Ross Taylor, Daisie Bell, Jim Kilmer, Dorothy Patrick, Everett Brammell, Cenith Standiford.*

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, May 21, 1915*



## Ground That Became Our County Changed Hands 200 Years Ago

[Editor's note: In 1955, the year Jefferson County observed its centennial, multiple issues of the Oskaloosa Independent included information that would have been of at least some interest to readers who wanted to know more about the people who had passed this way before them, some of whom were eventually, well, uprooted, some of whom stayed and somehow survived despite many hardships, and some of whom chose to move on to other places relatively quickly. The following story was published in the April 14, 1955, issue of the paper and focused on the Native Americans who inhabited a large portion of present-day northeast Kansas, including Jefferson County. — **Rick Nichols**]

### Early Days In Jefferson County The Indian History Of Jefferson County Kansas — Kaw Half-Breed

On June 3, 1825, the Kanza Nation ceded to the U.S. lands north of the Kansas River, which included what is now Jefferson County. In return for this they received a grant of land to be known as the Kanza reservation. This land had as its eastern border a line which is approximately the western edge of our county. They also received about 20 grants of one-mile square, called half-breed reservations, beginning at approximately the site of north Topeka and lying along the north bank of the Kansas River downstream toward the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers.

Another provision of the treaty gave the Kanza Indians \$3,500 annually. Either to be in cash or goods. If in the latter, they would be delivered to the reservation villages. In addition to this cattle, hogs and instruments of agriculture were supplied to them, a blacksmith and persons to teach them agriculture.

In agreement with this treaty, **Daniel Morgan Boone** was appointed as farmer to instruct the Indians and with his family moved to Jefferson County in 1827. They built a cabin and lived two and a half miles east of the present site of Williamstown, thus becoming the county's first white settlers, even before the days of Kansas Territory. Their son **Napoleon Boone** was the first white child born in Jefferson County or in Kansas Territory, born August 22, 1828.

The old Agency house and several homes were built at this time. Being constructed partly of stone, ruins were visible for many years.

In 1846 the Kanzas gave up their reservation which bordered Jefferson County on the west and held a much smaller area around Council Grove. The Half-Breed lands were sold by many of their owners to white settlers and were among the first lands in this county to be settled by the whites. In 1854 trouble arose over an order issued by the territory to run the settlers off the Kaw lands. **Col. Montgomery**, Indian agent, ordered them to leave and was refused. He proceeded to burn the



*Sketch of Jefferson County map showing townsites; creeks, railroads, battle sites, road locations & Kansas River. Indicates pro-slavery and free state townsites; platted town sites and existing roads prior to the coming of the railroad in 1864; Kaw half-breed surveys and Kaw agency (first white settlement in Kansas 1827); battle sites of Hickory Point & Slough Creek (1856); land belonging to this county which was annexed to Douglas county by the Legislature in 1865. Original map was embroidered by Jefferson County homemakers Home Demonstration Club. Courtesy of Jefferson County Historical Society.*

homes of many of the settlers. **Alexander Bayne** then went to Leocompton and found that the order applied to the Council Grove reservation. Montgomery was tried for house burning and left the country.

### Delaware Indians

In 1829 the government signed a treaty with the Delaware [ed.: *Lenape*] nation, granting them all the land north of the Kaw River, beginning at its confluence with the Missouri, running westerly approximately 40 miles to the eastern boundary of the Kanza reservation, thence north approximately 30 miles to the Kickapoo reservation, thence easterly to the Missouri River just north of Leavenworth. Reserving only the site of Ft. Leavenworth and a narrow strip known as the "outlet" along the boundary between the Delaware and Kickapoo nations. This strip was later purchased from them for the sum of \$10,000.00.

In 1854 the Delawares ceded their surplus lands to the U.S. This left them holding a strip approximately ten miles wide (north to south) along the North bank of the Kaw (excluding the Kaw Half-Breed lands, which had been erroneously granted to them in the treaty of 1829). Their holdings in this county then were as follows: beginning at a point 1 mile east and 1/2 mile north of the present town of McLouth, running west along a line through South half of Oskaloosa to a point about 1/2 mile south and 1 1/2 miles west of Ozawkie, thence south to the Kaw Half-Breed Lands, thence east to the Leavenworth-Jefferson County line.

The Treaty of 1854 gives the following terms:

- (1) The remaining lands of the Indians, after this treaty, could be surveyed and tracts granted to each existing member of the tribe and the balance of the land (called Delaware Trust Lands) sold by the Government and all money received from such sale placed in trust for the Delaware Nation. (This was done in 1860).
- (2) U.S. guaranteed to protect their lands and rights and to pay them (within 12 months of ratification) \$30,000.00 indemnity for timber that had been cut off their lands by the whites, and \$9,500.00 as indemnity for ponies and cattle stolen from them by the whites since the treaty of 1829.
- (3) That in the treaty of 1829 the boundary included lands already set aside for the Kaw Half Breeds and by that means they had been kept from use of the same. A fair valuation shall be made on this land and indemnity paid to the Delawares.
- (4) The remainder of the lands be sold by the Government and the money received placed in trust. (Trust Lands) These were placed on auction by **Pres. Pierce** thru his Commissioner **Geo. W. Manypenny**. The first sale was held at Leavenworth, beginning Nov. 17, 1856. Lands sold which lay in Jefferson County included all Northeast of Oskaloosa on a line due North and a line due East from the present town. Included were all 121 blocks of the platted town of Jacksonville (1 mile east of present Oskaloosa) and all 94 blocks of Hardtville (Hickory Point).

No event of such interest or importance to actual settlers had ever before transpired. Political differences were forgotten in the over shadowing issue of how to secure titles to their lands. (All settlers in this county at this time (1854) were in violation of the 1854 treaty). Settlers had taken up claims hoping that the pre-emption laws would suffice and squatters rights be recognized. However, the Government said these would not be counted and the sales were to be made to the highest bidder for gold or silver in hand. If not paid within 24 hours after the sale, the land would be resold until cash was received. Patents were given later to all purchasers. The other half of the county lands effected were sold at Osawkee, Kansas, then the county seat, in 1857. (More about land sales to appear in a later issue of this paper).

In the Treaty of 1860 balance of the reserve was granted to the Leavenworth and Pawnee Rail Road, which was to build a road through the territory before acquiring ownership thereof. This they failed to do and many disputes arose over ownership of the land which were not completely settled until 1868. The lands herein considered were mostly in southern Jefferson County and were substantially all lands not settled by the Indians after the signing of the treaty of 1860. The Delawares received a grant of 80 acres for each member of the tribe and to the chiefs for their long and faithful services the following grants were made - 640 acres to **John Conner**, head chief; 320 acres to **Sarcoxie**, chief of the Turtle band; 320 acres to **Rock-a-ta-wa**, chief of the Turkey band; 320 acres to **Ne-con-he-con**, chief of Wolf band; 320 acres to **Henry Tiblow**, interpreter. The Leavenworth and Pawnee Rail Road sold their rights to the land to the Union Pacific Rail Road. This company was later able to give patents to the settlers on the land. Land involved amounted to 223,966.78 acres, valued at \$286,742.15. (This part of early history will be covered in a story on rail roads and the troubles caused by them).

The 1860 Treaty was signed at Sarcoxieville on the reservation (this is believed to be on the land selected by Chief Sarcoxie as his dwelling, which was on the north bank of the Kaw River in the vicinity of North Lawrence, Kansas). This land at this time and until 1865 belonged to this county. John Conner, head chief of the Delawares, selected a 640 acre site neighboring Sarcoxie, as did Rock-a-ta-wa, chief of the Turkey band. On these farms they lived until 1861 when they sold to the white man and moved on to the west. By 1867 all the Delawares had gone to the Wichita agency and were then sent into Indian territory to live with the Cherokees.

An item appeared in the January 16, 1861, issue of the Independent which gives a little idea of some of the troubles which arose between Oskaloosans and the Indians of the Delaware tribe. It is herein reproduced.

**Arrested** — A number of our citizens were last week arrested on a charge of hog stealing. Believing, as we do, that there was no intention of theft, no wicked motive that actuated the accused, we refrain from giving their names. It appears that several persons, at different times, went down on the Indian reservation to shoot wild hogs, as they were supposed to be. But the hogs have since been claimed, and a suit entered against some of the offenders. The examination was set for Saturday, **W.N. Allen** Esq., and **Judge Spivey** attorneys for the prosecution and **Gen. J.H. Lane** for the defense. A motion to dismiss the suit, on the ground that the offense was not committed within the jurisdiction of the Court was sustained. Though we do not believe that in intent the parties committed theft, we never have approved of that method of getting "pork," and we hope the community will frown down any further attempt to commit acts of a similar character.



## Hopewell, Noble, and Trapp Were Early Family Names in Oskaloosa Area

*[Editor's note: In 1955, the year Jefferson County observed its centennial, multiple issues of the Oskaloosa Independent included information that would have been of at least some interest to readers who wanted to know more about the people who had passed this way before them, some of whom were eventually, well, uprooted, some of whom stayed and somehow survived despite many hardships, and some of whom chose to move on to other places relatively quickly. Part of the material that follows was published in the Sept. 29, 1955, issue of the paper, the rest in the Oct. 6, 1955, issue of the paper. Finally, it should be noted here that Slough Creek Township, which no longer exists, of course, was one of the three original townships in Jefferson County. — Rick Nichols]*

### Among the Pioneers

#### Oskaloosans of 100 Years Ago

Of course, there wasn't any Oskaloosa 100 years ago, there wasn't any Slough Creek Township, in fact there wasn't any Jefferson County. These all came one or two years later.

In the booklet, "First 100 Years of Jefferson County," compiled for benefit of the Centennial celebration, names of early settlers for the most part had to be omitted for lack of space. The Independent will now undertake to reproduce lists of some of the "first families" who settled in this vicinity. We will be limited by two considerations: (1) names of families with descendants yet living hereabouts and (2) families whose "trees" we have been able to secure. For the present, the editor would appreciate submission by readers of this paper of your ancestral tree provided those earliest ancestors were residents of Oskaloosa Township prior to 1860.

#### Settlers of 1854

While there were no settlements in '54 on the future townsite of Oskaloosa there were cabins in various parts of what was to be Slough Creek Township, particularly in the Plum Grove neighborhood.

**Napoleon Bonaparte Hopewell** (b. Kentucky 1821), settled northeast of Oskaloosa. Shortly engaged in law practice at Ozawkee, later returning to the farm. First magistrate of Jefferson County, receiving appointment from **Gov. Reeder** in August '55. Performed first marriage ceremony, heard first criminal and civil cases. Children: **William Henry** 7, **Mary Isabelle** (born Oct. 1851), **Nancy J.** (born Oct. 8, 1855) probably the first white child born in this township.

**Dr. Jas. Noble**, first practitioner in Jefferson County, came to this neighborhood in '54. In February '55 built the first cabin on Oskaloosa townsite. After a number of years residence here he removed to Nebraska, later to California.

**Thos. H. Noble**, son of above, was about 26 years of age when the family came to this vicinity. Took a claim 3 miles east of Oskaloosa, and became one of the first farmers of this locality. Participated with Free State forces in skirmish at Hickory Point, was taken prisoner. In '57 operated a hotel on the Buckmaster corner west of Presbyterian church site. During the war was member of the State militia. In May '67 opened grocery N. side Sq. and continued in mercantile business for many years. In 1852 married **Rhoda J. Trapp**, daughter **Terry Trapp**. Their children who figured in later town history were **Mattie (Mrs. William Wilson)**, **Chas. S.**, long-time clothing merchant, **Annie (Mrs. Dwight Bliss)**, **Arthur**, **Grace (Mrs. John Gibson)**.

**J.H.C. Hopewell**, brother of Napoleon Hopewell (b. about 1825).

Elder **Terry Trapp**, minister of the Baptist church, located 2 1/2 miles N.E. First sermon the following spring. Organized Slough Creek Baptist Church, held services at residence. Children:

(1) **G. Washington Trapp**, a wagon maker. His children: **Will**, **Moses** (father of **Frank**, **Homer**, **Murl**, and **Clayton**), **Ellen (Mrs. Ike) Paddeck**, **Minnie (Mrs. Jack) Newell**, **Nellie (Mrs.) Barnes**.

(2) **William D. Trapp**, farmer (b. 1839). Children: **Lulu (Mrs. Ben) Fletcher**, **Nim**, **Edward**. These brothers were one-time clothing merchants in Oskaloosa.

(3) **John Van Buren Trapp** (b. 1837). His children: **Horatio**, **Bert**, **Elizabeth**, **Sarah**.

(4) **Sarah (Mrs. Lem) Evans**, (Mother of **Louis**, **Arthur**, **Eli**, **Frank** and **Charlie**).

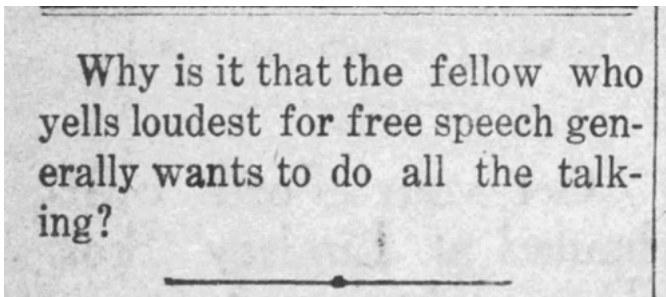
(5) **Job Terry Trapp**, a painter. His children: **Sophia (Mrs. F.S.) Robohn**, **Addie (Mrs. S.E.) Wright**, **John E.**, **Dora (Mrs. Alfred) Dennis**, **Maud (Mrs. Teater)**, **Ina (Mrs. Irwin) Dennis**.

(6) **Rhoda (Mrs. Thos.) Noble** (family listed under Noble).

**George Schuster** (b. Wittumburg, Germany) arrived in Jefferson County 1854, settled 3 1/2 mi. N.E. Oskaloosa (27-9-19) in the Slough Creek settlement. Died on the same farm 1903. Married **Mrs. Somerville Taylor Chase** in '66. Their daughters: **Ada Brooks Bumgarner** (b. '69), and **Tena (Mrs. Walter P.) Clark** (b. '71).

**Robert Carter** (b. Kentucky) arrived in Kansas Sept. '54, homestead four miles north and one east of Oskaloosa, in the Plum Grove neighborhood. Obit. May 3, 1904. Children: **John**, **Charley**, **Ella (Mrs. Dewilton) Jeffries**, **Janie (Mrs. Theodore) Jeffries**, **Washington**, **James**, **Francis (m. Katie Bird)**.

## Mixed Messages



*From the Winchester Star, Apr. 18, 1924*

## Mustaches

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, Sept. 2, 1898*  
(Contributed by **Leanne Chapman**)

Some months ago when **Moses Trapp**'s three-year-old boy first saw **Ed. O'Brien**'s immense mustaches he asked his father what they were and was told that the man had swallowed two fox squirrels but hadn't gotten their tails down. A few days ago O'Brien shaved smooth and clean, making an astonishing change in his appearance. The little boy saw him and at once called out: "He's got the tails down, pa!"

An advertisement for Warner's Corsets. On the left is a black and white illustration of a woman wearing a long, dark corset. To the right of the illustration is text that reads: "WEAR A WARNER'S CORSET and your figure will be correct; your gowns will look their best; and you will still be wearing it long after an ordinary corset would have gone to pieces, for Warner's Corsets are extraordinary corsets, Designed to Fit and Make to Wear Ask for the Warner models. See how well they look. Select the style that fits you and wear a Warner's, conscious that the shape is absolutely right." Below this is a small logo that says "Warner's Rust-Proof". Further down is a guarantee: "We guarantee Warner's Rust-Proof Corsets not to Rust, Break nor Tear, and know the designs to be in accurate keeping with the Season's Fashion in Dress." Below the guarantee are the prices "1.00, 1.50 and \$2.00". At the bottom, in large bold letters, is "HOUSH'S" and below that in smaller letters is "Phone No. 7". The entire advertisement is enclosed in a decorative border.

*From the Oskaloosa Independent, July 3, 1914*

## The Handy Editor

*From the Valley Falls Vindicator, Jan. 13, 1922*

When a man has got a grievance is keeping him waake, (*sic*) some old moldy, tiresome trouble that has made his innards ache, then he comes a-callyhooting to the printing office door, for he wants to share his trouble with the humble editore.

When a man has got a hobby that has put him on the bum, THEN the people flee a-shrieking when they chance to see him come; but he knows one weary mortal who must suffer and endure, so he comes to share his theories with the lowly editure.

When a man has got a story that with age was stiff and stark when old Father Noah told it to the people in the ark, then he comes a-bubbling over, to the Weekly Bugle's lair, for he wants (*sic*) to share his gladness with the soulful editaire.

O, he's always freely giving of the things that make us tired, and he's often pretty stingy with the things that are desired; he might bring a ray of sunlight to a life that's sad and drear, if he'd give the absent treatment to the heartsick editere.

A black and white advertisement for a basketball game. The text is arranged in a vertical layout. At the top, in large bold letters, is "BASKET. BALL!". Below that, in a slightly smaller font, is "Monday Night Dec. 20,". Then, in bold, is "At 8:15 Prompt." followed by "K. U. BOYS" in large bold letters. Below that, in smaller bold letters, is "(Former W. H. S. Boys)". Then, in bold, is "VS" followed by "W. H. S." in large bold letters. Below that, in bold, is "ADMISSION 15C AND 25C" and at the bottom, in bold, is "Young's Hall.".

*From the Winchester Star, Dec. 17, 1915*

## Early Reminiscences of North-Eastern Kansas in 1857

By Isaac Maris

### Chapter IV

*[Edited for punctuation]*

*Published June 19, 1903*

*The Nortonville News*

The spring of 1858 the writer *[Isaac Maris]* put out several thousand grafts of various kinds of fruit trees and shrubs, getting his nursery stock of Phoenix & Company, of Bloomington, Illinois. The next spring he put out another supply of grafts, etc., and continued in the nursery business for several years, raising from the grafts most all the orchards planted in this part of Kansas in that early day, many people coming over a hundred miles for fruit trees.

The spring and summer of the same year was a very busy time with the newcomers, breaking the prairie and getting it ready for crops the next year. Corn was planted by dropping it in a furrow and plowing it under or by cutting a hole in the sod with an ax and dropping it in the crevasse, the rows generally being four feet apart. From ten to forty bushels of corn per acre could thus be raised without any tending and melons, pumpkins and squashes could in this way be raised by the wagon load.

Brother **Joseph's** health failing he left Kansas in July of the same year for our old home in Ohio and also Brother **Caleb** returned the last of December. The writer being left alone as head cook and bottle washer of the Maris Brothers ranch for the next fifteen months, remembered the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be left alone," Genesis 2:18.

Realizing that this is very true and applying it to himself, on December 7, 1858, was married to Miss **Alma Butin** of New York. The ceremony was performed by the **Rev. Pardee Butler**, Brother Caleb and Miss **Chrysanthia Saunders** accompanying us. We drove across the prairie to Mr. Butler's some three miles distance facing one of the sharp cutting north winds, the thermometer standing at about twelve degrees below zero. The late "Uncle **David Stillman**," as he was generally called, had got to the Parson's in advance of us and was sitting by a cozy warm fire awaiting us.

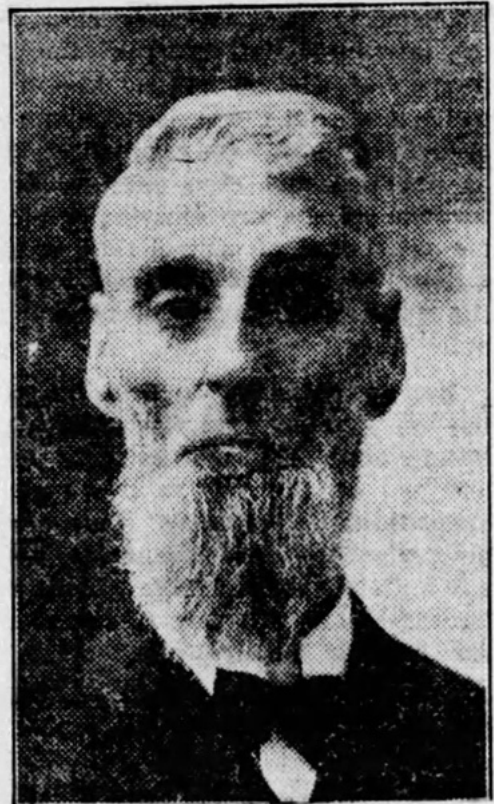
After our marriage we returned to the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. **Anna Butin**, and found the house well filled with relatives and friends, and a sumptuous dinner awaiting us. **Joshua Wheeler**, David Stillman and **Charles Butin** were the champion eaters at that time. We remained at my wife's mother's nearly three months while our cabin was being remodeled and an addition built onto it. We moved into it in the spring of 1859, and began our life work together on our present farm, with happy hearts and willing hands to build us up a future home. Mother Butin came and lived with us until her death some two years later.

## Isaac Maris

By Liz Leech

Isaac Maris, a young Quaker, came to Kansas Territory in 1857 and settled about three miles north of Nortonville, in Atchison County. He had come from Ohio to help Kansas become a state free of slavery. He married **Alma Louise Buten**, a Seventh Day Baptist, the year after he arrived. Maris remained a Quaker and his wife a Seventh Day Baptist, but the couple helped organize and guide young peoples' Bible schools and teacher conventions for other Christian branches. He also was called the "the Pioneer Preacher" for his widespread ministry, filling in for preachers of other denominations around Northeast Kansas. He and his neighbors were involved in the Underground Railroad and wrote historically precious letters for the Kansas Historical Society about nearby enslavers, how many slaves they owned, as well as the people who worked to help the enslaved liberate themselves through the Underground Railroad.

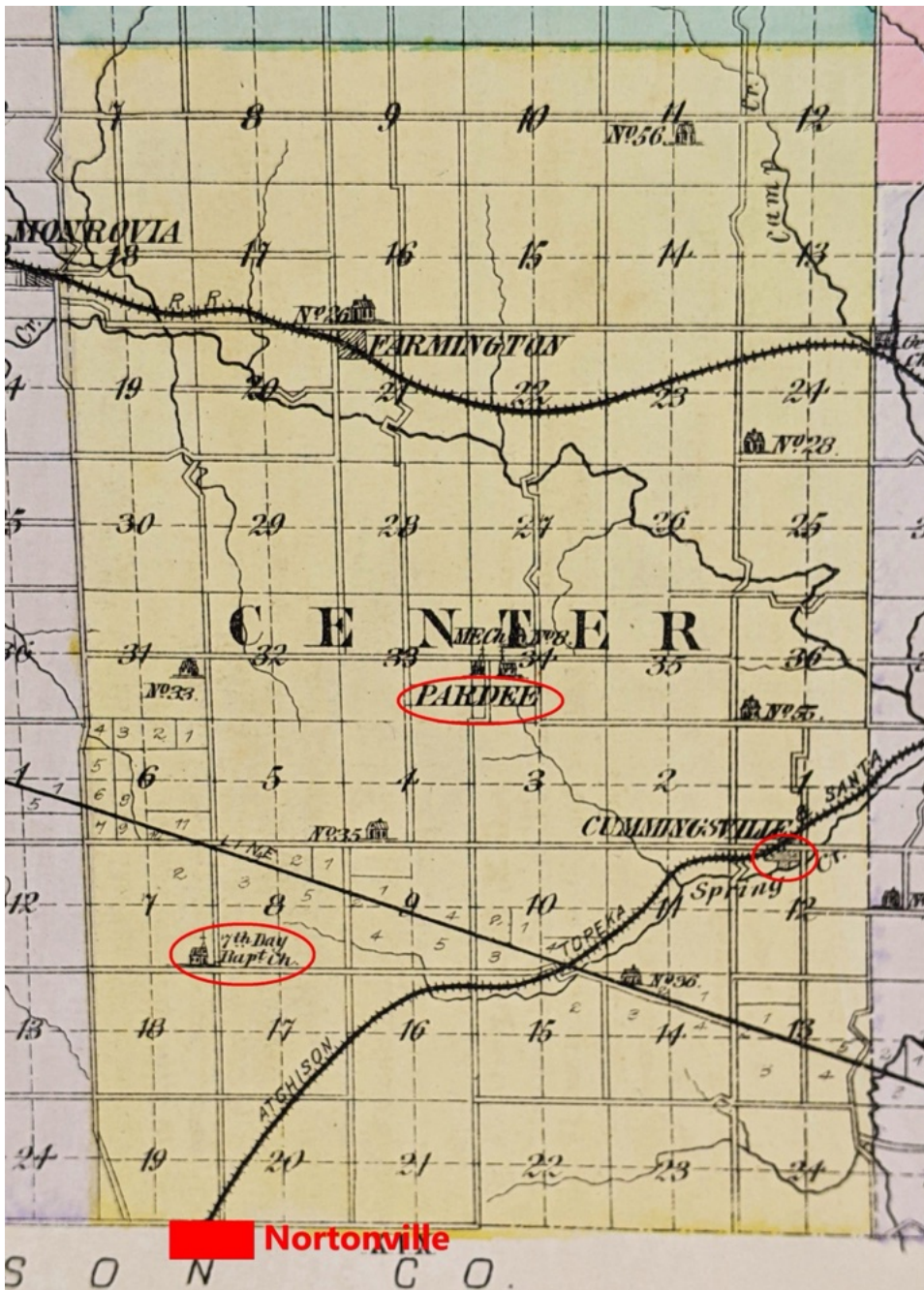
*[Editor's note: See the accompanying stories for more information about some of the people Isaac Maris mentions in Part IV of his reminiscences.]*



ISAAC MARIS.

*From the Atchison Daily Globe, Mar. 24, 1915*





Center Township, Atchison County, Kansas. The Official State Atlas of Kansas, 1887.

The same spring there were four quarter sections of land enclosed mostly with a wire fence, making a field on the north side of the now called Seventh Day Lane [now Highway K-116], two miles long and a half mile wide, including the farms of **J. Wheeler, I. Maris, C.T. Butin, Lyman Saunders and Dennis Saunders**. From this time on, farming had begun in localities and in many parts of the country in a notable degree. New farms were opened and new houses would appear every few days. The farming interest began to spring up and grow, thus showing thrift and prosperity.

Soon after this colony, which I have previously mentioned, became somewhat settled in their new homes, cottage prayer meetings were held, and a little later religious meetings by the christians of the various denominations began to be held at various points. A minister here at that time was at a premium, we would go miles to hear the Gospel preached, regardless of denominations.

There were quite a number of slaves that had been brought by their masters into Kansas in early settlements, but before the close of 1859, things began to look quite critical [It became clear Kansas would enter the Union as a state free of slavery.] for the slavery interest and the slaves were generally taken out of Kansas. Near this time a **Mr. Green**, who kept a store at Monrovia, took a colored woman with her baby, which was about eight

or ten months old, to Atchison, leaving them at the hotel expecting in a few hours to take them across the [Missouri] River into Missouri and have them put on the slave market and sent south.

But in the open daylight this colored woman and child were taken from the hotel by a friend of the colored people and put upon a horse and taken some distance to the station of the under-ground railroad and put upon the train and run out through Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, and finally landed safely in Canada. One of the stations on this under-ground railroad was located in the settlement I have referred to many times.

About this time **Charles Ball** and **Chalkley Lipsey**, two bright promising young men, taking as they did an such an interest in our Literary Society of 1847, sacrificed their lives over in Missouri while trying to help the slaves gain their freedom being betrayed by their captain and leader, Mr. [William Clarke] **Quantrill**. Also about this time **Edwin Coppock**, one of the promising young men, or boys as we called them, while living with us on the Lane, joined **John Brown** and company and was hung with him [for treason against Virginia, murder and inciting insurrection of enslaved people].

Here are brief accounts of some of the people **Isaac Maris** mentions in Part IV of his reminiscences of northeast Kansas Territory. Most of the events he notes unfolded from 1855 through 1859. And much of the action was in extreme southern Atchison County, close enough to Nortonville, Jefferson County, that many of these rural residents eventually were assigned Nortonville P.O. addresses.

Mr. Maris, who was of the Quaker faith, often worshipped with the Springdale Quakers in their church just east of Jefferson County's border, in Leavenworth County. His memories of farming, churches, elections and the secretive Underground Network show us snippets of what life was like in the 1850s just a few miles away from where you might be reading this.

Like many Quakers, Mr. Maris opposed slavery. His friends mirrored his anti-slavery beliefs, particularly the groups of Seventh Day Baptists who came to the Nortonville and southern Center Township area in Atchison County to settle.

**Alma Louisa Buten**, married in 1858 to Mr. Maris in Kansas Territory, was a Seventh Day Baptist. Her Quaker husband sometimes worshipped and preached in the SDB church.

Sometimes these Freestaters (opposed to slavery in Kansas) were persecuted and even killed fighting to make Kansas a free state. Other times they rejoiced in their exhilarating bloodless victories. To help ensure this important but obscure Kansas history would not disappear, Mr. Maris wrote his reminiscences for newspapers, the Kansas Historical Society, *The Nortonville News*, and probably many more publications. His Underground Railroad accounts are especially valuable because helping the enslaved escape their bondage was a secretive business, given that Underground Railroad activity was illegal. In few instances were records kept, and the conductors and stationmasters frequently did not know the names of other participants.

We start with one of the most famous of these tales, the difficulties of the Rev. Pardee Butler, the Christian church preacher who married Isaac Maris and Alma Louisa Buten in 1858.

— Liz Leech

## Reverend Pardee Butler

By Liz Leech

The **Rev. Pardee Butler** and his daughter **Rosetta Butler Hastings** wrote a book about the early Kansas Days, "Personal Recollections of Pardee Butler: With Reminiscences," published in 1889. Much of this article is taken from the book.

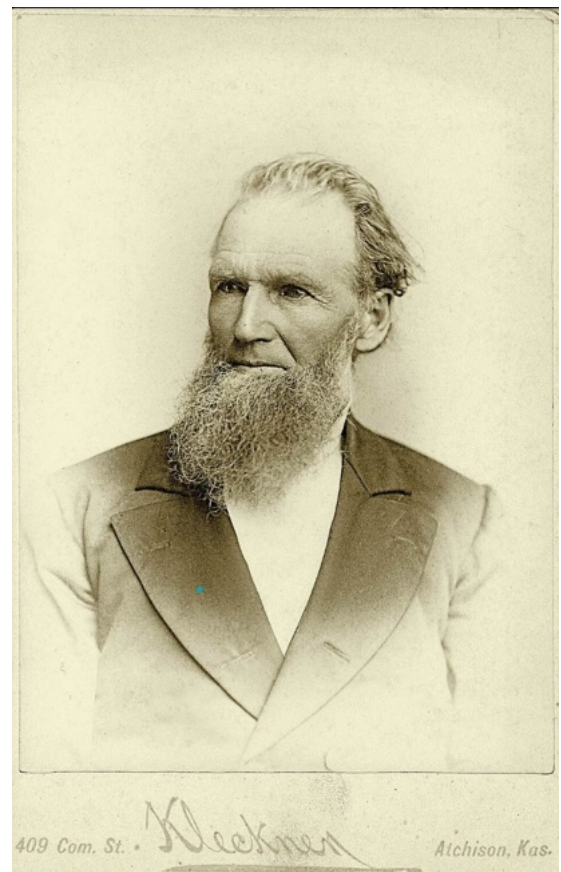
Rev. Butler came to Kansas Territory in the spring of 1855. He immediately was plunged into the desperate fight over whether Kansas should be a free or slave state. Admittedly, a hefty part of his trouble came from his directness in sharing his stance against slavery.

Many people would ask him over the years what had caused the attacks against him, his being set adrift on a two-log raft on the Missouri River, his body tarred and covered in cotton, both by slavery proponents.

"The head and front of my offending hath this extent, no more: I had spoken among my neighbors favorably to making Kansas a free State, and said in the office of the Squatter Sovereign, 'I am a Free-soiler, and intend to vote for Kansas to be a free State'." — Pardee Butler.

At a stop in Missouri on his way to Kansas, Missourians (Missouri was a slave state and proslavers there wanted neighboring Kansas to be a slave state, too.) struck up conversations with Rev. Butler. When they learned the New York stater was bound for Kansas Territory, they wanted to know his position on slavery and he said he opposed it. One man pulled him aside and warned him that if he spoke that way in Kansas he would be hung. More questions were directed to him by others on the same topic and similar warnings about freestaters and abolitionists being driven out of Kansas Territory for their opposition to slavery.

But he went on to Atchison County, locating in 160 acres about 12 miles from Atchison City, heavily populated with Missourians and even some South Carolinians who were bent on creating a new slave state.



Rev. Pardee Butler, image from Wikipedia



He was vocal. In August 1857 he told the main purveyors of *The Squatter Sovereign*, probably the most stridently proslavery newspaper in the territory, that he didn't care for the newspaper urging violence against those who wanted to abolish slavery. One of the newspapermen assured **Rev. Butler** that he would thus not be allowed to vote in the territory elections. Elections were to determine whether Kansas would be a free or slave state.

Rev. Butler had been preparing to move his wife and children to Kansas Territory and spent the night in an Atchison hotel to catch a steamboat for Illinois the next day. He continued talking with Atchisonians, allowing how he thought freestate people had just as much right to come to Kansas as anyone.

Unbeknownst to him, Atchison proslavers met and drew up papers denouncing freestaters and abolitionists. In the morning they demanded Rev. Butler sign the declarations. He refused, and the proslavers began debating whether to hang him or send him down the river on a raft.

On Aug. 17, 1857, Rev. Butler was nabbed, his face painted with a black "R" on his forehead to deem him a rogue abolitionist. The "raft," made of two logs, bore a flag that proclaimed Butler a slaver stealer who worked on the Underground Railroad. Such a flag, visible from the riverbanks, would invite people to shoot the Rev. Butler. The Atchison crowd told the reverend that if he came back to Atchison he would be killed.

He was put on the raft without an oar or other aids and shoved off into the current of the Missouri River.

"Gentlemen, if I am drowned I forgive you," Butler wrote of his parting words from the raft. "But I have this to say to you: If you are not ashamed of your part in this transaction, I am not ashamed of mine. Good-by."

A few miles downstream, Rev. Butler managed to steer the raft with the flag "pole" he had managed to uproot from the raft, and disembarked.

Atchison's proslavers had made nationwide headlines with their attack on Pardee Butler. "A mob action in Atchison" — *New York Times*.

A spin by proslavery newspapers showed concern that the Kansas Territory slavery supporters were committing the suicide of slavery by their violent actions.



Image from Find a Grave,  
provided by **Mr. and Mrs. Paul  
Garrett**

Rev. Butler made his way to Illinois to his family, recuperated and worked in his old parish. By April 30, 1856, his wife and children had already been back in Kansas Territory without him for several months. He arrived in Atchison to stay on April 30, 1856. But true to their word, the proslavers, many of them South Carolinians, recognized him and snatched him from the street. He was recognized and the proslavers, many of them, again, South Carolinians, debated what to do with him: hang him or tar and feather him. They opted for the latter.

"They stripped me naked to my waist, covered my body with tar, and for the want of feathers applied cotton," Rev. Butler wrote. "Having appointed a committee of seven to certainly hang me the next time I should come into Atchison, they tossed my clothes into my buggy, put me therein, accompanied me to the outskirts of the town, and sent me naked out upon the prairie."

The Rev. Butler drove his buggy to his waiting wife and children and lived in Kansas — a state free of slavery — until he died at age 72 in 1888. He is buried in Pardee Cemetery, near Cummings in Center Township, Atchison.

#### Sources

"Personal Recollections of Pardee Butler" by **Pardee Butler** and his daughter,  
**Rosetta B. Hastings**.

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Newspapers.com  
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## On the Underground Railroad

By Jane Hoskinson

After Kansas Territory's free-state Wyandotte Constitution was ratified in October 1859, many slave holders decided to leave the territory with their "property." **Isaac Maris** told the story of a woman and child who escaped from a Mr. Green in a letter to **F.G. Adams** of the Kansas Historical Society in 1895. Planning to sell the woman and her baby in Missouri, Green took them from Monrovia in Center Township, Atchison County, to a hotel in Atchison in October 1859. **John H. Byrd** of Atchison "was the means of her walking out of the hotel and getting on a horse and riding off in broad daylight."

According to historian **Kristen Epps**, "**Duff** Green sold the pair to a slave trader, who intended to take them from the hotel to a steamboat. With the help of an unnamed African American, Byrd took them to the home of abolitionist **Andrew Evans** of Atchison, where they were hidden for about three days. Epps wrote that Evans "hid her and her daughter on a platform that was balanced on the cross-beams of his cabin's roof."

The woman and child were then taken to the home of **Milo Carlinton** of Pardee in Center Township. The next morning at 4 a.m., Maris, apparently acting as an Underground Railroad conductor, met Carlinton, with the woman and her baby on their way to the home of **Lyman Saunders**, son of **Dennis Saunders**, both members of the Seventh Day Baptist church community. Saunders hid them through the day in a dugout beneath his little house.

**Ellen Chrysanthia Stillman Vincent** (daughter of **Chrysanthia Saunders** who attended **Isaac** and **Alma Buten Maris** at their wedding) told a different version. She gave her uncle **David Stillman** and his family credit for sheltering the woman and baby under their house. "There was a deep hole dug in the ground under the house. There was a trap door in the floor. **Mrs. Stillman** helped the slave down into the hole, put the trap door back in place, spread a piece of carpet over it so that no one could see the floor could be taken up. In here she and the baby were carefully hidden from the master who they knew would soon come hunting her. A chair was placed over the door, an apron was used in the baby's mouth so it could not be heard if it cried." Vincent said that the master did come looking for the woman but soon went away. Mrs. Stillman gave the woman some of her clothes to wear on the next leg of her journey.

That night about 9 p.m., **Amos Taylor** and **Charles Buten** (Maris's brother-in-law) took charge of the escape. Taylor was to play the part of slave holder if necessary. Maris says Taylor "was dressed up quite well and had on a slicker or plug hat and carried a cane." Buten drove the team and carriage. The first night out, a mounted bodyguard of four or five men accompanied them. Taylor and Buten intended to take the woman and child to Topeka, but "they were so watched there that they could not get them in" and turned northwest to pass through Holton. They escorted the woman and her baby to an Underground Railroad station in southern Nebraska. The escaping pair eventually "got safe through to Canada." Taylor and Buten "returned home safe after some four days out."

### Sources

Epps, Kristen K., "Bound Together: Masters and Slaves on the Kansas-Missouri Border, 1825-1865," 2010, and *Slavery on the Periphery: The Kansas-Missouri Border in the Antebellum and Civil War Eras*, University of Georgia Press, 2018  
Kansas Historical Society, Kansas Memory, <https://www.kansasmemory.gov/item/3457/page/1>

## Betrayed by Quantrill

By **Liz Leech**, drawing mostly upon "Quantrill and the **Morgan Walker** Tragedy," written by the **Rev. John J. Lutz** for the Kansas Historical Society.

If you recognize the name **William C. Quantrill**, your memory is probably pointing you to the leader of a group of anti-freedom guerillas who massacred more than 150 mostly unarmed boys and men in Lawrence during the Civil War.

But Quantrill — and excuse me while I abandon my objectivity — led another depraved mission that led to the deaths of three young men who operated in the Underground Railroad to help enslaved people leave their Missouri and Arkansas bondage and flee north to safety. He misrepresented himself to these men to lay a trap.

These three men — **Charles Ball**, **Chalkley Lipsey**, and **Edwin S. Morrison** — and two others who survived — **Albert Southwick** and **Ransom L. Harris** — were brought up in Quaker households. All were living in Center Township, Atchison County, where **Isaac Maris** lived, some of them quite close to **Pardee Butler**, Maris, and **Lyman Saunders**. Most of them, if not all, were connected to Springdale, Iowa.

"Springdale was one of the principal stopping places of **John Brown** in his journeys to and from Kansas and the place where he drilled his men for the raid on Harper's Ferry," Lutz wrote. John Brown, portrayed in the dramatic mural in the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka, was a radical slavery opponent who fought to make Kansas a free state. He also worked to liberate as many enslaved people as he could from those who held them as property. In his last months on earth, Brown took it a step further. In 1859, he trained fighters at an Iowa camp to help him arm enslaved Black people in Virginia to build a slave insurrection. Brown and his men held the Harper's Ferry arsenal for an admirable amount of time, but many among his small troop were killed in the gunfight with U.S. troops or later hanged for treason, as was John Brown.

**Rev. Lutz** filtered through numerous accounts of the murders, and the story has been told with an array of conflicting facts. But Lutz's best sense of the story was that the young men living in Center Township, Atchison County, just north of Nortonville, had begun making plans to liberate slaves at the **Morgan Walker** plantation in Jackson County, Mo., near Blue Springs. **Quantrill**, who might have been living near Lawrence at the time, late 1860, found out about the plans and reached out to "help" the men, gaining **Charles Ball**'s confidence.

After working out a plan, four Quakers and Quantrill started for Missouri. The fifth, **Ransom L. Harris**, was to wait in an abandoned cabin to receive his companions and the freedom seekers they would have helped liberate in Missouri.

**Albert Southwick** left Kansas with the group but waited not far from the plantation with a wagon and team of horses for the escape.

Charles Ball, **Chalkley Lipsey**, **Edwin S. Morrison**, and Quantrill approached the Walker plantation in December 1860.

What Ball, Lipsey, and Morrison did not know was that Quantrill had paid the Walkers a visit ahead of time and explained what was going to go down. He was setting up a trap, and he asked Walker for payment for bringing slave-stealing abolitionists to the plantation under his plan. Walker wasn't sure he could trust Quantrill and said he would pay only upon completion of Quantrill's plan. Walker arranged for armed neighbors to be at his plantation the night of the trap.

Lutz wrote that in an interview with Albert Southwick, who was waiting with the wagon, Southwick had said, "The plan of the [Quakers] was that when they had reached a given point they were to halt and remain in concealment until after nightfall, and that Quantrill, it being conceded that he, being the most agreeable and entertaining conversationalist among them, should go forward, visit the house, hold converse with Mr. Walker, and learn all he could that night."

Quantrill did so and returned to take the young men to their doom. They agreed that Morrison would do the talking when the group announced it was taking Morgan's slaves.

"Edwin then informed Mr. Walker of the nature of their call; that they believed slavery to be a great evil, that all men are entitled to certain privileges, among which were life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that they were there to liberate his slaves, peaceably and quietly if possible, but they were to be liberated and taken to a place of safety, that if he offered no resistance he would not be otherwise harmed and no other property would be so disturbed. That they were actuated by no other motive than that of doing their duty as they were enabled to see it ... that there was neither money nor glory in it for them, only risk and hazard of their lives which they freely periled in the line of their duty."

The three Quakers turned to leave the house, but Quantrill turned another direction, opened a door to another room and ducked out of the way. The concealed neighbors fired their guns, killing Morrison on the spot. Ball and Lipsey, wounded, got outside; Ball called for help, and it is presumed that Ball carried his friend into a thicket nearby. The Missourians and Quantrill did not follow, as they had no cover in the night.

The next morning, the Morgan party followed a trail of blood, finding the wounded Lipsey and Ball with him. Ball said he was there protecting his comrade, and he would never surrender. The Missourians shot and killed Ball, then killed the wounded Lipsey.

## **Edwin and Barclay Coppock**

**By Liz Leech**

**Isaac Maris** mentions that **Edwin Coppock** lived with the cluster of anti-slavery Quakers and Seventh Day Baptists in Center Township, Atchison County, just north of Nortonville. Edwin Coppock and his brother, **Barclay Coppock**, both Quakers from Iowa, were with **John Brown** in Virginia when Brown tried to raise a slave insurrection. Like John Brown, Edwin was executed in December 1859 for his anti-slavery role in the uprising.

Census records do not indicate Edwin Coppock lived in Kansas, but an Iowa history program, Teaching Iowa History, says Edwin and Barclay Coppock "... met Brown while he was recruiting for his anti-slavery raids in Kansas."

Additional bits of information indicate the Coppock brothers had a Kansas connection.

Having avoided capture for his Harper's Ferry role (Barclay traveled to Canada and lived there a short time), Barclay mustered in to the Kansas Third Regiment, an infantry company, on July 30, 1861, in the Civil War. He was a first lieutenant. (The Third Regiment became the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Kansas Infantry.)

Barclay Coppock was killed in the war, in Missouri, just a few weeks later, on Sept. 3, 1861.

## **Sources**

Teaching Iowa History, Iowa Museum Association, "Edwin and Barclay Coppock."

U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865; National Park Service; ancestry.com



## New Outhouse at Old Jefferson Town

By **Greg Noll**, President of the Jefferson County Historical Society

When **Ardie Grimes**, a volunteer of the Jefferson County Historical Society, first asked if we would be willing to go look at an outhouse, I thought she was joking. Who would want to take time to go look at a small building which was used for... I think everyone knows what it was used for. However, there was actually a story behind the story which is why Old Jefferson Town now has a “outhouse” on display.

Ardie was contacted by a member of the **Charles Ridgway** family and was asked if we would be interested in this particular outhouse. It was on private property owned by the Ridgway family southwest of McLouth. It was previously located and used by students who attended “the old Woodstock School” which was located east of Lake

Dabanawa. When we went to look at the outhouse, it was obvious that this was not just any outhouse, and it was in need of major repair. The roof was missing most of the shingles, the door was missing boards which needed to be replaced and there was no paint on the exterior. However, it appeared this outhouse had good bones and was sturdy enough to move so we recommended that we accept this donation, and the work began soon after.

Before we moved this outhouse to Old Jefferson Town where we would be able to repair it, we had to decide where it would be located. Since this outhouse was originally used at an old one-room schoolhouse, we decided to place it near the Wellman School building which has been located at Old Jefferson Town for many years. We prepared a base for it to be placed on and we began planning for the move.

This was not a typical outhouse. It was a “double” outhouse. It was larger than a typical outhouse like the one which I remember my grandfather using. This old outhouse was six feet wide and five feet deep and seven feet tall. It was vented, it still had the original seats, and it came with an old Sears and Robuck magazine.

Volunteer **Clifford Burk**, his son **Brian**, volunteer **Tim Mackinzie** and I went to the Ridgway farm, discussed our options and began preparing for the building to be placed on a trailer to be moved. There were bolts in concrete which needed to be cut off to allow the building to be lifted and prepared for the move. Shingles which were left on the roof were removed and bracing was installed in order to keep the walls from moving during the drive back to Old Town. We decided to drive gravel roads and stay off the blacktop and asphalt roads in case the old building was unable to complete the trip. We obviously planned and prepared well for the outhouse to be transported, because we made it to Old Jefferson Town without any issues whatsoever.



*Photo by Greg Noll*

action for anyone who scratched their initials on that wall many years ago, but it adds to the story of this unique old building donated by the Ridgway family.



*Photo by Greg Noll*

Once the relocation and placement of the outhouse was completed, we began repairs. A new roof and new shingles were installed. The Ridgway family gave us permission to gather old lumber, which was stacked by the outhouse, so we were able to use matching lumber to restore the walls with the salvaged lumber. After applying several coats of primer and paint, the inside of the old outhouse was re-constructed using original materials to reinstall the two seats in this very unique outhouse. After the Sears and Robuck magazine was placed back in the proper location between the two seats, the job was completed by installing plexiglass in the doorway which will allow visitors to see inside but will not allow this old two-hole outhouse to be used.

Now that the outhouse is on display at Old Jefferson Town, be sure to look on the exterior of the back wall. Numerous students had carved their initials on that wall and many of those carvings are still visible. No, we will not pursue legal