From the Kossuth County, Iowa Plat Book published in 1896
GRANT TOWNSHIP

By Pat Klemm

The first settlers in Kossuth County came in 1854, however as early as 1835 the first white people to come through the area were three companies of Dragoons. Three detachments were sent. Lt. Colonel Stephen Kearney along with Capt. Nathan Boone, Capt. Edwin V. Summer, Lieut. Jefferson Davis, and Lieut. Albert M. Lee led the men to the mouth of the Raccoon River. After deciding that it was a suitable site for establishing a military post the men were then ordered to march toward the headwaters of the Mississippi. From that point they were to march westward and then follow the Des Moines River south on the west side of it. In July of that year they marched across the southern tier of counties in Minnesota and crossed into the “Iowa District” at a point somewhere in either Eagle or Grant Township from the north. From there the march went south toward Des Moines. Even though Kossuth County had not yet been established it was in this area that the first white men explored and had it not been for these men and a notation in one of their journals the “Iowa District” may have been referred to as the Wisconsin Territory.

Grant Township was the last township to be established in the county even though according to Ben Reed’s history of the county it was the first area to be explored. The township was established in 1894. It had been part of Harrison Township since 1890; before that it had been a small part of Greenwood and old Algona Township.

Before any settlements were formed, large herds of cattle roamed and fed on the grasslands of the area. Cattlemen from the southern part of the county herded their cattle here in the summer to graze on the lush grasses. According to Reed’s history of the county one of the most noticeable buildings was a herd shanty built by the Chubb Brothers on section 20 in 1885.

The first settlements in Grant Township were formed along the Minnesota border. The first recorded building was a shanty, a first home for a Mr. Peter Strandberg in March of 1884. It was located in the northeast corner of section 8. Approximately 3 years later two men of English descent, Dick and Harry Paulglaze settled in the north half of section 9. At about this same time an individual by the name of Bruhman and his family built a homestead on the southwest corner of section 17 and lived there for a short time.

C. H. Keilleg established another homestead on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24 in 1891. In the following years R. R. Stockman settled on the southeast quarter of section 7, L. A. Swanson settled on the southeast quarter of section 8. He later moved to Swea City the land was then purchased by W. L. Joslyn. Other early settlers were James B. Sexton, section 17; Alfred Nelson section 12; H. A. Jennings section 33; John Speicher, section 21 then section 9; Alex and W. H. McAninch on 31. Other names mentioned in Ben Reid’s History of Kossuth County, Volume 1, were: L. J. Vaux, N. H. Beard, Louis A. Swanson, N. W. Griffith, Lark Reynolds, Thomas Clendening.

All of the individuals mentioned in this article were considered to be very influential in the township and its affairs.

According to the 1896 Plat book of Kossuth County the following names appear as owners or as occupying large tracts of land: Drake & Newcomer had land in sections 7, 11, 13, 18, 19, 22, 27, 28 totaling nearly 1000 acres. Next was C. C. Chubb with more than 900 acres in sections 10, 14, 15, 20, 28 and 29, Geo. E. Roberts with 720 with 640 acres in section 16 designated as school land.

Other names appearing in the 1896 Plat Book of Grant Township were:

L. C. Barber, sections 21 and Section 22
N. H. Beard, section 30
J. M. Beckworth et al, section 10
James Beem, sections 27 and 34
S. M. Beeson Est., sections 24, 29, 32, 33, and 34
J. C. Briggs, section 29
Nick Bruer, sections 23 and 24
Butler & Danson, section 7

Geo. C. Call, section 34
James Callanan, section 15 and 22
Christen Brothers, section 25
George E. Clark, section 28
A. D. Clarke, sections 8, 10, 15, 34, and 35
Andrew D. Clarke, sections 10 and 15
Fred Clarke, section 9
Mary J. Clarke, sections 10 and 15
The above information does not specify the number of acres in each section, because the number of acres owned or operated by these individuals did not always total the customary 640 acres allotted to a section.

Since the state of Iowa began recognizing Century Farms in 1976 several Grant Township farms have been recognized including the following:

1997 Thomas Purdy Trust, Section 29, 32 and 33
2001 John Pederson Trust, Section 35
2005 Thorsen Family Trust, Section 21
2008 Norma and Orville Beenken, Section 36
Congratulations Century Farm Families!

Published in the Algona Upper Des Moines

Left: Thomas Purdy Trust
September, 1997

Below: Norma and Orville Beenken
September 4, 2008

IFBF president Ed Wiederststein, left and Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran presented a Century Farm Award to Purdy Trust of Corwith. Pictured are Thomas L. Purdy, Jr., middle left, and Thomas L. Purdy III, middle right.

Norma and Orville Beenken and family from Kossuth County received a “Century Farm” certificate and yard sign from the Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureau during the event.
NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

We have had a very interesting fall at KCGS. In October we were pleased to welcome Connie O’Kane as a speaker. She recounted her experiences in documenting her family history and publishing two different books on separate “limbs” of her family tree— one on the Radig family and one on the family of August Krause. Not only did Connie share some of her research experience, she also gave pointers on publishing family histories and what she would change or perhaps do differently if she were to do it again. All who attended her presentation enjoyed it very much.

For several of our meetings this year we watched videos featuring the famous genealogist Dr. George K. Schweitzer. He has a very entertaining manner of instruction. We thank the Palo Alto County Genealogical Society for lending these videos to us.

We were also contacted this fall by the Kossuth County Historical Museum regarding several boxes of materials they had received from the descendants of the Ingham family. Anyone who is familiar with the founding of the City of Algona has heard of William Ingham. Much of the material that was enclosed in the shipment was duplicative of items the historical museum already owned, so they were kind enough to give it to us if we could make use of it. We were thrilled to go through it and among other things found two volumes of the book “Early Algona” as well as “Three Towns” and several other publications. Although copies of these books have been in our genealogy room at the library, those copies were not owned by KCGS. We are very thankful to now own these books. In addition, there was much information on the Ingham family including a genealogy, books on the home they built in Algona and concerning the 50th wedding anniversary of William Ingham and his wife, as well as numerous photos. We are in the process of putting together a binder on the Ingham family for inclusion in our family genealogy section. Our thanks goes out to the Woodham family who so generously shared these items with us.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held in March as our annual business meeting. Membership dues will also be due at that time. If you have any suggestions for future speakers at meetings or for articles you would like to see in the newsletter, please don’t hesitate to send a letter or email.

Merry Christmas from KCGS!
The State Library - Main Library is located in the Ola Babcock Miller Building at the corner of E. 12th St. and Grand Ave. in Des Moines. It is open 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday except holidays. For more information call our information professionals at 515-281-4102, 800-248-4483, or email is@lib.state.ia.us.

*************************In these tough economic times, library services are more valuable than ever. Some of the services we offer include:

*A wide variety of online resources for journal articles, maps, Iowa inventors, medical information, and more at www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/resources. Biographies of famous, and not so famous, Iowans may be checked out from the State Library. To see a list of available biographies go to http://library.booksite.com/7168/nl/?list=CNL8.

To make a request go to www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/bkrequest. If you have a State Library card you may check out books in person or request them through their local public libraries. Don’t have a State Library card? Any Iowan can register online at www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/state-library-card.

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Are you looking for information about Iowa history and culture on the Web? At the Iowa Heritage Digital Collections (IHDC) http://iowaheritage.lib.uiowa.edu/ you'll find photos, postcards, cartoons, student newspapers, letters and more at your fingertips.

State Library staff works in collaboration with libraries and museums across the state to create collections of interest to history buffs, teachers, genealogists ... in short, anyone interested in Iowa history and culture. To find out more about the collaboration go to http://ihdc.statelibraryofiowa.org.
WEBSITES OF INTEREST

http://programs.iowadnr.gov/ims/website/basic/viewer.htm This link is in the Des Moines Register website. You can click on the interactive map and bring aerial pictures from the 1930s, 1950s, possibly 1960s, 2002 and 2008. You can't zoom in too close to see up close details, but you will be amazed at what you can see.

Do you have favorite genealogy websites? Please send them to us so we can share the sites with our members.

FOR SALE

KOSSUTH COUNTY, IOWA
Death Record #1 - 1880-1897

KOSSUTH COUNTY, IOWA
Death Record #2 – 1897-1919

Transcribed from notes taken from original record

1896 KOSSUTH COUNTY PLAT BOOK
Printed in black & white
With index

Each of the above are $25 + $1.75 tax and $5 P&H

NEW!

KOSSUTH COUNTY DIRECTORIES
For the years 1950, 1951, 1953 and 1954

Each year can be purchased for $18 + $1.26 tax and $5 P&H

To order your copies, contact Jean Kramer at jkramer1976@hotmail.com or KCGS by mail

Remember *
Membership Is due In March
Recent Additions to the Genealogy Room:

**Clippings:**
Kossuth County Obits – 2000
Kossuth County Clippings 2001-2006

**Community/Church Books:**
Early Algona (Leather bound)
Early Algona (hardbound)
Three Towns
St. Joseph Parish Centennial Edition
1876-1976, St. Joseph, IA

**Plat Books/Directories:**
Kossuth County Directories—

**School Directories:**
The Wildcat 1947 (Whittemore Public School annual)

**Other:**
Gardner Cowles 1861-1946
Come Into Our Kitchens recipe book

Do you have items to donate to KCGS?

Please consider KCGS if you have any of the following:

High school yearbooks from any high school located in Kossuth County

Community centennial/anniversary books

Church centennial/anniversary books

Family histories

Plat Books

Biographies of Kossuth County residents

As a member of the KCGS, you are entitled to submit queries for publication in the newsletter free of charge. If you are not a member of the KCGS, there is a $5.00 charge per query.

How to Submit a Query

- Type or print your query, double-spaced on 8 1/2” x 11” paper. Please limit your query to 50 words or less.
- Ask questions. What specific information are you searching for?
- Don’t abbreviate. Our queries editor will make the correct abbreviations.
- Read your query. Are the names, places and dates correct? Are they legible to a person not familiar with the information? Can the maiden names be easily identified?
- Did you remember to include your name and address?

Mail your queries, along with the correct monies in the form of check or money order, to:

Kossuth County Genealogical Society
Attn: Query Editor
Kossuth County Library
210 N. Phillips Street
Algona, IA 50511

Or members may email their request to kossgensoc@hotmail.com
- Be sure to put “Newsletter Query” in the subject line.

Queries are printed as space permits, usually only one query per person per issue of the newsletter. The KCGS reserves the right to edit and/or reject material submitted for publication. Thank You!
KOSSUTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Kossuth County Genealogical Society was incorporated in June of 2007 and is a chapter of the Iowa Genealogical Society. The goal of our members is to archive the family records of Kossuth County, Iowa, and make them available to the general public. We collect and maintain genealogy material which is stored in the genealogy room at the Algona Public Library. We do research and answer queries regarding Kossuth County and its residents. We hold regular monthly meetings with a variety of programs and guest speakers and hold workshops. The society also publishes a newsletter several times throughout the year. To submit items for publication in newsletter, please e-mail to kossgensoc@hotmail.com including “newsletter” in the subject line or mail items to KCGS, c/o Algona Public Library, 210 North Phillips Street, Algona, IA 50511.

MEMBERSHIP:
Dues are $10 per year individual/$15 couple and run from March 1 to the last day of February. Membership includes subscription to the newsletter (one per membership). In addition to membership dues, KCGS welcomes donations, both of money and/or genealogical materials.

MEETINGS:
The Society meets in Room D of the Algona Public Library at 7:00 p.m. the second Monday of each month except December unless otherwise notified. The annual meeting is held each March.

RESEARCH CHARGES:
The Society charges a minimum of $5 for one-half hour of research and $10 per hour thereafter, plus copying costs and postage. Your research requests can be mailed to KCGS at the address listed on the front of the newsletter or can be submitted via email to Nancy Yeoman at ncyeoman3@hotmail.com. When the materials requested have been located, a bill will be sent to you and upon payment receipt, the materials will be mailed to you. As a member of KCGS, you are entitled to submit queries for publication in the newsletter free of charge. If you are not a member of KCGS, there is a $5 charge per query. (See the section “How to Submit a Query” in this newsletter).

Application for Membership:
Send this application and the annual dues to Kossuth County Genealogical Society, c/o Letty Henriksen, P.O. Box 16, Lone Rock, IA 50559. Donations are also welcome.

Name: _________________________________________________________ Amount $__________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________________ Year: ____________

City: _____________________________ State ________ Zip Code ____________ Check #: ____________

Phone: _______________________ Email: ___________________________ Date Received: _____

Surnames Researching: ________________________________________ ( ) New ( ) Renewal