

# APPENDIX

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## VINDEDZIS' FAMILY

### Article about the Vindedzis

Probably from the *Waterloo Courier*

On a dairy farm in Butler County, Iowa, owned by G.B. Eckles, lives a third family of displaced Latvians. Milda Vindedzis, the wife, had grown up under prosperous circumstances. She told of having attended the opera at Riga in her younger days.

Milda and her first husband had owned a 148-acre farm and had milked 12 cows. Her husband was killed early in the war, when the Russians overran Latvia. Later, the Germans pushed the Russians back. But finally came the Russians again, as they chased the Germans back toward Berlin.

Caught between the two fighting lines, Milda and her present husband, Evalde, attempted to flee. One wagon, containing part of their household goods, was blown up on the road by a land mine. For three months the family kept on the move - between the advancing Russians and the fleeing Germans.

The flight finally ended in a DP camp in the American zone of Germany. It was five years before they got an opportunity to come to America.

Milda would like to be back in her native country—if the Russians were driven out. "Here it is very good, but it is better in Latvia," she says with a touch of homesickness. The Vindedzis' have received letters from other displaced persons on American farms who don't like it. Some fail to get adjusted to what is expected of Iowa farm help. But Evalde and Milda said their three children are happy here.

They definitely have a farm background," explained their employer, Mr. Eckles. "And they are good church people. But anyone who goes into sponsorship of a D.P. family should realize he is taking a chance. "I think a lot of trouble in getting displaced persons adjusted in the United States is due to misunderstanding."

Our minister, Gene Siekmann, has been very helpful," Eckles continued. "He could speak German, and these people couldn't speak English when they came. He explained to Evalde that men help with the milking in America. In the old country women do all that - men seem to think it's beneath them."

What do these people think of the way we farm in Iowa? Milda's answer was echoed by all of them: "Here all is done with Machines."



**Vindedzis' Gravestones**  
**(Grandma) PAULINA KELPE**



**MILDRED and ED VINDEDZIS**



**GEORGE VINDEDZIS**  
**(U.S. Army – Vietnam - 1948-1978)**

WATERLOO COURIER, Sunday, May 1, 1977

### HIRED MAN, FARMER BUILD STRONG BOND (By Lawn Griffiths, Courier Farm Editor)

APLINGTON - When he was finally found on the farm, Bob Immings was using his wire pinchers to unravel a chunk of old woven wire clinging to a wood post he needed to fix fence on a creek bottom.

He's the kind of hired man that'll work steadily without someone supervising him, says his boss of nearly 27 years, retired Aplington farmer Bruce Eckles, who helped this writer find Immings in a pasture far from the homestead.

In an age when farmers may write off hired labor as undependable or apt to pick up and move on quickly, take stock of Immings, whose steady work and long loyalty to the Aplington cattle feeder has won him wide respect around this Butler County community.



(Courier photo)

**Aplington cattle feeder Bruce Eckles, right, and his wife, Dorothy, say they've been lucky to have had Bob Immings, left, as their hired man for 27 years. Immings thinks he's been also lucky in being able to stay with the Eckles.**

The 64-year old farmhand was readying a pasture for summer last Wednesday when he laid down his tools, pulled off his leather gloves, and sat down on the side of an old manure-spreader to talk.

"I never could have worked for a better boss than Bruce. And when my paycheck was due, I knew I'd get it. There are guys I worked for where I had a dickens of a time getting paid," Immings says. "He's been good to our children too."

The Eckles have good things to say of Immings, too. "He's as honest as they come," says Bruce Eckles.

Eckles' wife, Dorothy, adds, "He's a hard worker. When it's time to quit, he's not interested in leaving. Work has been all he has known. He was raised to work like that." She says he sometimes doesn't quit at night - even when told to do so."

Immings lives in Austinville with his wife of 41 years, Ella. He daily drives 2.5 miles east on Highway 20 to the sprawling 1,000 acre Eckles farm where he gives most of his attention to the cattle operation.

Several winters back a snowstorm

blocked the highway, which the Eckles say has only happened twice in their memory. Bound by a sense of duty, Immings started toward the Eckles farm, but found he couldn't make it through the drift by car. So with a scoop shovel in hand to break the wind, he marched through the snow to the farm to do chores.

**He'll work** when he hasn't felt right," says Mrs. Eckles. "Others would have just stayed in bed."

Immings says he has enjoyed employment on the Eckles farm largely because he's been given the leeway to work for a farmer who doesn't treat him like a subservient hired man.

I started here in 1950 working for Bruce. It's a good place to work," Immings says. "I'm darn near my own boss. No one's down your back all the time. Bruce has been a good old fella to work for."

So the relationship has lasted past a quarter century. "I'm as well off as I'd be if I were working for myself," Immings says.

The five-foot, eight-inch man with his hat bill typically bent upward, was born near Shell Rock, moved at an early age to a now-gone town of Swanton north of New Hartford. He went through eighth-grade in a rural school.

"I worked for various farmers for quite a few years. When I was 18, I went to Green and worked for Wallace Jones for four years and then his son, Paul Jones for four years," he says pausing to unroll his pant-leg to empty silage collected in the cuff.

Then I was married and farmed near New Hartford for four years on my own. After that I farmed for my wife's uncle, and then I moved to Aplington and worked for Glenn Stockdale for four years.

That moving about ended in 1950 when he started with the Eckles.

He doesn't regret that he couldn't continue farming on his own. Farming requires the kind of capital he says he never had an opportunity to obtain.

Until about 10 years ago, the Immings and their two children lived in a farmhouse on the Eckles farm. Immings later bought a house in Austinville where he and Mrs. Immings live now. A daughter, Mrs. Robert (Betty) Jurs lives in Albert Lea, Minn. Their son, Capt. Barton Immings, is concluding 20 years as a career intelligence officer and lives in California.

Immings says he's "never had time for hobbies," except for fishing when his children were growing up.

Mrs. Eckles says Immings "is just as cooperative as can be. He's willing to do anything and he'll do anything for anyone."

Eckles says there's piece of mind farming with a man who's had so much experience around the farm. "He's here season after season. At haying time, for example, you don't have to tell him how to put the hay up or where the rope is. Our son-in-law, Lee (Meyer) doesn't have to tell him what to do. Bob takes care of it himself.

"And he's always busy."

It's a farmer-hired hand relationship that genuinely works, they say.

#### **Bert (Bob) Immings' Obituary**

AUSTINVILLE, IOWA – Bert (Bob) Immings, 87, of Austinville, died Thursday, March 28, 2002 at Maple Manor Village, Aplington, of natural causes; **survivors** include his wife, Ella; a son, Barton, of Cumming, GA; a daughter, Betty Jane Jurs of Albert Lea, Minn.; 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren; family graveside services will be 2:00 p.m. today at Coster Cemetery, rural Parkersburg; Redman-Schwartz Funeral Chapel, Aplington, is in charge of arrangements; Mr. Immings worked as a farm hand for Bruce Eckles and Glen Stockdale for 35 years, retiring in 1975.

#### **Ella May Immings' Obituary.**

FLOWERY BRANCH, GEORGIA - Ella May (Bertram) Immings passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at the age of 91 years, following a brief illness.

Mrs. Immings, formerly of Austinville, Iowa, was preceded in death by her husband of sixty-five years, Bob Immings. Bob was employed for 35 years by Bruce Eckles Farm, Aplington. He passed away in 2002.

She was also preceded by her sister, Minnie Rieman of Clarksville; brothers Henry, August, John, Fred, Carl and Chris, all of Butler County; a great-granddaughter and a granddaughter.

She is survived by her daughter, Betty Jurs of Albert Lea, Minnesota and her son, Barton Immings, Sr. of Cumming, Georgia, and ten grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 7 great -great grandchildren.

Mrs. Immings' remains will be carried to the family cemetery plot in Parkersburg where a family memorial will be held in the near future. Her family asks that her friends and loved ones remember her in thought and prayer as she passes into the sweet embrace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

## DOROTHY A. ECKLES

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### MASTER FARM HOMEMAKER – 1970 AND A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

#### Iowa's New Master Farm Homemakers

*Wallaces Farmer*, November 28, 1970

Seven outstanding farm wives have been named Iowa's Master Farm Homemakers for 1970. They represent the many women in rural Iowa who take time from the exacting tasks of raising a family and making a home for their husbands to contribute their own unique abilities to their communities. Master Farm Homemakers are selected by a qualified panel of judges from the nominations made by a group or organizations. Letters from friends and rural leaders support their nomination.

#### **Mrs. Bruce G. Eckles, Butler County**

Dorothy Eckles is involved in many local projects. Their charming farm home has many family antiques that she has refinished or preserved during the years. Bruce has been active in Farm Bureau, the Aplington school board for 27 years, and American Field Service committee.

Dorothy has had several terms on Farm Bureau county women's committee, received the 20 year 4-H pin, is a past president of Aplington Federated Women's Club, and recruits for Red Cross, cancer, and heart fund drives. They are members of Aplington First Presbyterian Church, and she has taught a church school class for many years.

She is interested in Youth for Understanding and has been a hostess for foreign students. They provided regular support for an 11-year old boy in Taiwan through Christian Children's Fund. Dorothy is precinct committee woman.

The oldest daughter, Doreen, lives in Princeton, NJ. Donna is Mrs. B. J. Ukena, whose husband is a Presbyterian minister in Ankeny, Iowa; Mary is Mrs. Leland Meyer of Aplington; and Milo is majoring in engineering at Iowa State University.

The Iowa chapter belongs to a National Master Farm Homemakers Guild, associated with Country Women's Council and Associated Country Women of the World.

This is the 30th year that Wallaces Farmer has sponsored the Master Farm Homemaker program

#### **A Biographical Sketch**

Dorothy Allen was born in Jefferson County, Iowa on December 22, 1905, the daughter of W. O. and Effie Jones Allen. After graduation from high school in Pleasant Plain, IA, she attended Iowa State College for two years. She taught Home Economics at Lake Park, Iowa for two years. She then returned to Iowa State College where she received a degree on June 15, 1931. On the same day she was married at the Collegiate Presbyterian Church in Ames, Iowa, to Bruce Eckles who had graduated two years earlier, with a degree in agriculture, having majored in animal husbandry. They came to his farm at Aplington where they farmed for many years. In 1960 the farms were incorporated and their family was involved in the corporation.

Dorothy was active in the Farm Bureau organization, serving as a township chairman and county officer. She served in 4-H for 27 years as a leader and a county committee woman. She was active in leadership in Federated Women's Club, in the Aplington Presbyterian Church and in her community.

In 1971 she was chosen as one of six Iowa Master Farm Homemakers of the Year which was sponsored by Wallaces Farmer.

Dorothy Eckles now lives in the Maple Manor Nursing Home in Aplington, Iowa. Her hobbies included sewing, gardening, and quilt making.



## GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS

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### **Willis Oscar Allen & Effie Hannah Belle (Jones) Allen Parents of Dorothy (Allen) Eckles**

W. O. Allen met Effie Jones while he was helping Hervey Jones (Effie's older brother) with the harvesting. He came to court Effie, by horse. When he was ready to go home (near Richland, in south-east Iowa), the horse was gone. He walked home (6 miles). The next morning he found the horse was still at Veo, so he had to go back and get the horse.

They were married on January 1, 1900. They had four children. Edith (1901-1990) married Gilbert Smith, a farmer and later he owned a hardware store. They had three children: Joan, Charles and Verna. Faye (1902-1984) married Gilbert Fleig, a dentist. They had three children: Marian and twins, Margaret and Milford. Mother had a twin brother, Donald (1905-1986) who married Hazel and was a manager in highway construction. Don had three children: Bill, Dick and Kathy who has been in an institution since she was three or four years old. The family lived on a farm near Veo which had three houses, theirs, Grandma Jones and one other.

Later, Grandpa and Grandma moved a mile west of Richland but continued to farm the Veo farm and the Richland farm. He was quite crippled with arthritis and as long as we can remember he used two canes. Later they moved to a dairy on the east edge of Richland. He had a hired man or two who did the milking. He and Grandma processed and bottled the milk. Grandpa delivered the milk, but he had a boy on the truck who did the running. Donna Belle and Doreen went with him sometimes. One summer there was a fair in Richland and they delivered milk to the gypsies (fortune tellers) that were with the fair. Grandpa and Grandma later moved to a house north of the Richland square.

Grandpa Allen was a substitute mail carrier. He had quite a sense of humor. He said that it took a day longer to deliver postcards because he had to read them first! He was also a drayman and ran a taxi service.

Grandpa and Grandma Allen attended the Quaker country church near Veo rather than the Pleasant Plain Friends church of the Allen family. Then they attended the Methodist church in Richland.

We celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 1, 1950. In 1997 Donna and BJ hosted a reunion of the 12 Allen grandchildren.

### **Reminiscences as told by Joan Smith Jones<sup>1</sup> At the Allen Grandchildren Reunion - 1997**

One of my mother's favorite stories was of Grandpa and Grandma Allen making a special trip to Fairfield, about 14 miles from Veo, so the children could see Santa Claus and enjoy the festivities. Even though bundled with many warm blankets, the family must have had a long, cold journey. Mom said they arrived home long after dark. She remembered her parents were disappointed in the meager amount of candy the children received from Santa Claus.

Remember Grandma Allen's nervous energy? One of my favorite memories is of Grandma dealing cards. The game was usually Rook. Grandpa and Grandma's social life often included playing Rook with friends. Grandma might start dealing one or two cards to each player; then the fun began. She might deal two cards to one player, three to that player's partner, one to her partner. The next round of dealing might have an entirely different pattern. During this chaotic dealing she might suddenly stop, exclaim "Oh dear, that's not right", and move one or two already dealt cards from one player's pile to another player's pile. All this was accomplished with quick, nervous movements, chatting all the same time. When all the cards were dealt, she would stop suddenly, say "There" and put her hands in her lap--but often not before making a last switch of cards. We would watch with fascination as she dealt the cards, and then shake our heads in disbelief as we picked up our cards and found the correct number--ALWAYS!

Most of us are aware that Grandma was 'frugal.' I doubt this frugality was necessary after they moved into town from the dairy. I can remember the wieners cut into 2 or 3 portions at meals, and we were growing children! And there is one sound I shall never forget--the 'clink, clink' as Grandma, with a metal spoon, repeatedly--and furiously--scraped the last vestiges of juice from the mason jar of canned fruit.

I recently learned of the reason for Grandpa's and Grandma's moving into Richland from the farm. The barn had burned down. This must have been sometime after Dorothy graduated from Pleasant Plain. Apparently the farm, or at least where the house and barn were located, was owned by all or some of the Jones family, and they refused to build Grandpa a new barn. Dad hinted that there were some hard feelings. I do know that I cannot remember any Jones family reunion, except when David came back from Cody, Wyoming. However, I do have a photo of a group of the Jones relatives taken at the house in Richland.

Grandpa and Grandma must have placed much importance on higher education, as the three girls went to college, certainly unusual at that time. As Mom told me, "They put Faye and me in the car and drove us to Cedar Falls, the

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<sup>1</sup> Joan was the oldest Allen grandchild, born in 1924. Their family lived near Richland where Grandpa and Grandma Allen lived all the time we knew them.

location of Iowa State Teachers College, and left us."

David Jones' daughter, Eugenia, a single lady, was a Home Economics teacher in Glendale, CA and she often sent her "hand-me-downs" to Grandma. The arrival of the 'box from Eugenia' was a big event. There were beautiful clothes finely tailored from the best fabrics. Mom would select those items that could be taken apart and remade into clothing for her children, and Grandma would take the rest for her own use--possibly for Sunday best, and finally for 'everyday.' I don't remember seeing Grandma in the usual cotton house dress, just Eugenia's crepes and silks (**Note picture of Grandpa and Grandma with our cousin Marian Fleig**). Grandma was fairly tall and very thin. We used to say the only shape she had was in her elbows. One year Eugenia's box included a blue and tan chinchilla coat, and I have photos of myself, and of Verna, wearing the "made-over" chinchilla coat, and it's very possible other girl cousins were included in this hand-me-down.



Do you remember Grandpa's pocket watch? He always refused to wear a wristwatch, having his own reasons for not wearing that "new-fangled thing." He loved to place the watch by a little child's ear to have them listen to the tick-tick.

Occasionally we were allowed to accompany Grandpa on his milk delivery route. First the milk bottles in their wire carriers were loaded on to the bed of the pickup truck. One of the town's young boys would ride in the back and make the deliveries. It was a rare treat, and often after some begging, that we were allowed to ride in the back with the delivery boy and perhaps make a few deliveries. I have talked with several of

Grandpa's former delivery boys, and they have fond memories of working for Billy Allen on the milk route.

Grandpa also had a dray business, which consisted mainly of meeting the trains at the Minneapolis & St Louis Railroad in town and the Milwaukee Railroad one mile north of town and delivering goods to the town's merchants. The dray wagon was built low to the ground for easy loading. In the early years there would also be passengers, and he kept a horse and covered wagon to use when the roads were muddy. Later he served as a substitute mail carrier on the rural routes and Grandma would accompany him. Since most of the rural roads were still dirt roads, he would resort to horse and buggy when they were muddy. Anyone who has experienced the rich black dirt of Iowa knows how deep that mud could be. Grandpa was known as a good 'horse man', taking great pride in his horses and having the best of harness, which was always oiled and well-maintained. In later years, with no railroads or bus service at Richland, Grandpa had a taxi service, taking persons without cars--often elderly widows--to the county seat towns of Fairfield, Sigourney, and Washington for shopping, doctor's appointments, etc.



Since it was difficult for him to walk, he would park on the town square and wait for his passengers. He said he never minded the long waits, finding his enjoyment in watching the passing parade. He infrequently made longer trips to Des Moines, Davenport, and to the University Hospitals at Iowa City. He was sorely missed by his regular passengers when he gave up this service. When Grandpa was refused a driver's license, the townspeople signed a petition and, with Dr. Wolf's recommendation, he was allowed to drive only in Richland. I have a photo, which I treasure, of Grandpa sitting in his pickup on Richland's square. If Grandpa wasn't home, we could

expect to find him there. I never heard a harsh word spoken about Grandpa. The people of Richland had great respect for Billy Allen, our grandfather.

The family celebrated our grandparent's 40th anniversary at Bruce and Dorothy's new home on the south side of Highway 20, west of Aplington. Grandpa and Grandma were married the first day of the new century, January 1, 1900, so this was probably over New Year's Day, 1940.

#### Summer 1940

**Front:** Margaret and Milford Fleig, Verna Smith, Doreen, Donna and Mary Eckles  
**Back:** Gilbert and Edith Smith, Gilbert and Faye Fleig, Charles Smith, Bruce Eckles, Effie and Willie Allen





My only memory of this event is that those people in the upper bedrooms shut the warm air registers after retiring. Therefore all the heat went to the basement where the grandparents were located, and the next morning they complained of a rather sleepless night.

In 1950, all the family celebrated the grandparent's 50th anniversary in Richland. This was also the 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary of Marian (Fleig) and Jim Karsjens.

An annual event was the Allen reunion held at great-Grandmother Mary Allen's home in Richland sometime in June, as June 19 was her birthday. The last reunion was held at Woolson Friends Church sometime in the late 1950s with a small attendance.

Grandma Allen suffered a stroke and was cared for by Helen Hadley. Helen's mother was Cora Mae Allen, Grandma's sister. Helen had established a nursing home for 2 or 3 ladies in her home, which was only a block away from Grandpa's home. Grandpa would go over every day to feed Grandma. After she was gone and he was unable to be alone, he went to a nursing home in Fairfield where he died. Many of the personnel there attended his services.

**January 1, 1950**



**Front Row: Dorothy Eckles, Milo Eckles, Don Allen, Dick Allen, Faye Fleig, Effie Allen, W. O. Allen  
Edith Smith, Bill Allen, Marian (Fleig) Karsjens, Mary Eckles, Joan Smith  
Back Row: Doreen Eckles, Milford Fleig, Margaret Fleig, Bruce Eckles, Hazel Allen, Kathy Allen,  
Gilbert Fleig, Jim Karsjens, Gilbert Smith, Verna Smith, Charles, Smith, Donna Eckles**

**JULY 1997, REUNION OF TWELVE ALLEN GRANDCHILDREN - TWIN LAKES, IOWA**



**In front: Dorothy (Allen) Eckles, 92 years old**

**Front row: Mary (Eckles) Meyer, Milo Eckles, Doreen (Eckles) Duba, Joan (Smithj) Jones, Verna (Smith) Yourd, Margaret (Fleig) McIntosh;**

**Back row: Bill Allen, Dick Allen, Charles Smith, Marian (Fleig) Karsjens, Milford Fleig, Donna (Eckles) Ukena**



## Great Grandparents – Allen and Jones

### Mother's side of the family

Grandpa Allen's father was **Wesley W. Allen**<sup>2</sup>, one of the first residents of Keokuk County, Iowa. In 1846 he came with his widowed mother and two sisters and a brother from North Carolina to Iowa and settled in Richland Township. He was of Quaker ancestry. He married **Mary Louise Schelp** in December 1866. She was a native of the state of Maryland. She was the oldest of eight children. When she was twelve years of age, her parents died and she was raised by a Quaker family, the Andrews, of Pleasant Plain, Iowa who had arrived in 1840. She was of the Quaker faith.



**1887 – Wesley and Mary Allen Family**  
**Front: John, Wesley, Walter, Mary, Willis**  
**Back: Grace, and 4 other daughters**



**1886 – James and Phoebe Jones Family**  
**Back: David, Alda, Leila, Alson**  
**Front: Phoebe, Effie, Jimmy, Harvey, William**

Grandma Allen's father was **James M. Jones**<sup>3</sup>, a Baptist. He was born in 1839 and came to Iowa from Indiana in 1845. Her mother was **Phoebe Rosetta Coffin**<sup>4</sup>. She was born in Elwood, Indiana, in 1840. She came to Iowa in 1856.<sup>5</sup> Her parents settled in a community of Quakers near Pleasant Plain, Iowa. They were married in 1858 at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. James Shortridge, Archbishop Emry officiating. The Jones' were known for taking in sick and homeless people. Mother always said that Phoebe was excommunicated from the Quaker church when she married a Baptist.

<sup>2</sup> *The Allen Family: Descendants of John and Amy Cox Allen with Allied Lines*, Lester M. Allen, 1987, p. 171.

**Allen Lineage:** John Allen I of Dublin; Ireland; John Allen II (1694), **immigrated to Chester County, PA in 1713**; John Allen III (1720); John Allen IV (1749); Peter Allen I (1781); Peter Allen II (1809); Wesley Allen (1839).

<sup>3</sup> **Jones Lineage:** Richard Jones (c. 1700) *lived in Chester County, PA in 1720*; Evan Jones I (1740); Evan Jones II (1770); David Jones (1801); James Melvin Jones (1839).

<sup>4</sup> *The Coffin Family*, Edited by Louis Coffin, (Nantucket, Mass: Nantucket Historical Association) 1962, p. 303.

**Coffin Lineage:** Nicholas Coffin of the County of Devon, England (1561); Peter Coffin (c1580); Tristram Coffin (1609), **immigrated to New England in 1640**; John Coffin (1647); Samuel Coffin (1680); William Coffin (1720); Bethuel Coffin (1756); Zacharias Coffin (1782); Hervey Coffin (1810); Phoebe Rosetta Coffin (1840).

<sup>5</sup> See pp. 64-69 for the diary account of their trip from New Lancaster, IN to Pleasant Plain, IA.

## Raymond Bruce and Ena (Burnham) Eckles (Parents of Gordon Bruce Eckles)



Grandpa was born on August 6, 1876 on a farm in Marshall County. He was educated in rural schools and graduated from Iowa State College (now ISU) in 1896. He was affectionately known as R.B. He married Ena Burnham in 1900. For two years he taught Agriculture and Dairying at a farm school for Jewish boys, National Farm School, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Then he came to Aplington to farm his father-in-law's farm. He was a member and President of the School Board for many years and active in the Presbyterian Church. He served as an Iowa Representative from 1925 to 1930. He died in 1933 of a stroke, three days after Doreen was born. We never knew him, but Mother always spoke so highly of him.

**1932 - 56 years old    1956 - 78 years old**

Grandma was born near Aplington on April 20, 1878. She attended local schools and the Lennox Preparatory School in Hopkinton, IA. She graduated from Iowa State College in 1898. She was active in the Presbyterian Church teaching the Ladies' Sunday school class for years. She was also involved in other community activities. When Grandpa was in Des Moines, she and a hired man ran the farm. Janelle Willis has letters that they wrote back and forth. We remember her as a worker, but not very efficient. For example she sat in the yard picking the seeds off the weeds while we would have whacked them off. She kept sugar cookies in her cookie jar. She became hard of hearing and had poor eye sight and lived with the Willis family the last years of her life.

They had three children. Lester Burnham (1902-1905), an electrical engineer and farmer, married Dora Shaw. They had three children: Robert, Oliver and Nancy. Daddy (1907-1980). Dortha Maryena (1911-2005) married George Willis, a civil engineer and a farmer. Dortha had six children: Raymond, Roberta, Elaine, James, Paul and David.



**Gordon and Lester**



**Gordon Bruce**



**Lester, Grandpa & Grandma, Dortha, Gordon**

## Great Grandparents - Eckles and Burnhams

### Daddy's side of the family<sup>6</sup>

**Robert Eckles,**<sup>7</sup> the son of Marmaduke Eckles and Hannah Levitt, was born on July 2, 1842 in Eastholm, Yorkshire, England, the sixth child born to Marmaduke and Hannah Eckles. He was educated in the common school in England and the public schools in Illinois after migrating with his family to America in 1850. He was a frail child but worked on the farm, and after the death of his father, he and his brother Charles carried on the farm work for their mother. Due to his physical disability, he did not serve in the Civil War. After the Civil War ended, he and Charles and some friends drove through with teams as far as Marshall County, Iowa. They bought a small tract of timber land near Quarry in 1866 and lived there two years. Robert purchased prairie land north of Marshalltown, Iowa where he brought up his family of three sons, a daughter having died in her first year.

He married **Susan Amoret Randall** on January 14, 1875. She was born in Wisconsin on March 5 1853, the daughter of Isaac Wilmarth and Emily (Bruce) Randall. See the map of Vienna Township, which is south of Conrad on p. 70. The Eckles and the Randall farms adjoined each other.

The 1870 Census of Vienna Township lists Robert Eccles, a farmer in Section 19. Also listed at the same residence are his brother, Marmaduke, also a farmer, three sisters: Hannah Eccles, "keeping house", Sarah Eccles (these were born in England), and Emma, 15 years old, born in Illinois. On the same page of the census is the Randall family: Isaac 47, a farmer, Emily 46, "keeping house."

**Julius James Burnham**<sup>8</sup> was born on March 30, 1845 and educated in New Haven, Vermont. Later he came west, first to Wisconsin where he taught school and then on to Aplington, in 1870, where he continued to teach school. He also farmed, first 2 miles west of Aplington on what we called the Van Loh farm. He later bought the farm one mile west of Aplington, the one we refer to as Grandma's farm in our stories.

He married **Mary Prall Smith**<sup>9</sup> on June 10, 1872. She was born in Reading, Pennsylvania on June 28, 1846, the daughter of George Bevan Smith and Elizabeth Prall. Great Grandma Burnham<sup>10</sup> was the only great grandparent we knew, was born in Pennsylvania. She came with her family to Aplington in 1866. We called her Great Grandma, but couldn't understand why because she was smaller than our grandmother. She was well-educated, but could be quite critical, reprimanding the grandchildren and telling her son-in-law what she didn't like about his farming. She traveled quite a bit and had souvenirs from all over. She attended several World Fairs by herself.

See pp. 70-73 for her letter with details about the trip the Smith family made from Rochelle, IL to Aplington, IA in May of 1866.



Donna, Mary, Doreen with Great Grandma Burnham – November 1938

<sup>6</sup> See pp. 9-17 in *Dotha's Family Stories* for more information about our great grandparents.

<sup>7</sup> *Genealogy of Marmaduke and Hannah Levitt Eckles*, Compiled and printed by Lulu Irene Waters Hare, 1962; Scanned, edited, reformatted and reprinted by Doreen Eckles Duba, 1999.

**Eckles Lineage:** Marmaduke Eckles, (1811) **immigrated from Burstwick, England to Dixon, IL;** Robert Eckles (1842).

<sup>8</sup> *The Burnham Family; or Genealogical Records of the Descendants of the Four Emigrants of the Name, Who Were Among the Early Settlers in America.*, Roderick H. Burnham (Hartford CT: Case, Lockwood & Brainard), 1869.

**Burnham Lineage:** Thomas Burnham (1558/60); Robert Burnham 1598; Thomas Burnham (1519) **immigrated from Herefordshire, England to Connecticut or Massachusetts;** William Burnham (1652/58); Rev. William Appleton Burnham (1583/84); Appleton Burnham (1724); Wolcott Burnham (1762); Almon S. Burnham (1796); Julius James Burnham (1845).

<sup>9</sup> **Smith Lineage:** Thomas Smith of Monmouthshire, England; George Bevan Smith (1805) **immigrated from Monmouthshire, England to Hunterdon County, New Jersey.** He moved to Aplington, IA in 1866.

<sup>10</sup> **Prall lineage:** (1647), a Huguenot born in Nardy France (North France), **immigrated from Netherlands to Staten Island, NY;** Pieter Prall (1672); Pieter Prall (1700); Abraham Prall (1723); Peter Abraham Prall (1751); Abraham Prall (1770); Eliza Prall (1809), Mary Prall Smith's mother.



## JOURNALS AND MAPS

### HOW OUR ANCESTORS ARRIVED IN IOWA

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1846

#### WESLEY AND MARY ALLEN

##### Our Great Great Grandfather and Grandmother

**Wesley W. Allen** was born on December 7, 1839. He was one of the first residents of Keokuk County, Iowa. In 1846 his father died. His youth was spent at the home of his grandfather, Joseph Hadley, who lived in a Quaker community in North Carolina. In 1846 Wesley came to Iowa with his widowed mother, two sisters and a brother, and his grandfather and grandmother, Joseph Hadley and Mary Hinshaw. They settled in Richland Township in Keokuk County. Wesley was the oldest of the four children. When Wesley was nineteen years of age the Civil War was in progress and he offered his service to the government which was unusual for a Quaker. He enlisted in Company F, Thirty-third infantry where he was a private. Later, he received appointment to corporal. He served until the close of the war, when he received an honorable discharge at Davenport, Iowa. He went to Miami, Kansas and began to farm. He remained there for five years. He then returned to Keokuk County and settled in Richland Township. After farming for five years, Wesley sold his farm, and moved to the town of Richland and engaged in the insurance business. He was the mayor of Richland for 11 years, became Justice of Peace in Richland Township for 28 years and in 1897 he was appointed Postmaster. He died on April 20, 1924.

**Mary Louise Schelp** was born on June 17, 1846. She was a native of Maryland, of German ancestry. She and her parents came to Keokuk County when she was 1 year old. She became the wife of Wesley in December 1866 and died on March 17, 1938.

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#### MARMADUKE & HANNAH ECKLES FAMILY

Our great great grandfather, Marmaduke Eckles, was born in Gilberdike, England on July 11, 1811. In the **1841 CENSUS** in Eastholme; Civil Parish: Burstwick, Hundred: Holderness (South Division); County: Yorkshire, England is found the following information<sup>11</sup>:

##### Household Members:<sup>12</sup>

Marmaduke ECKLES --- age 30 --- born in England --- Profession, Trade, or Employment: "Brick & Tile"

Hannah ECKLES --- age 30 - born in England

Richard ECKLES --- age 7 --- born in England

Joseph ECKLES --- age 5 --- born in England

Mary ECKLES --- age 3 --- born in England

Henry ECKLES --- age 2 -- born in England

Charles ECKLES --- age 9 months --- born in England

William ROBINSON ---- age 25 --- Occupation: "Brick & Tile"

William BAINBRIDGE --- age 15 - Occupation: "Brick & Tile"

William TEINFELD --- age 25 --- Occupation: "Brick & Tile"

John JACKSON --- age 20 --- Occupation: "Brick & Tile"

George ROBINSON --- age 15 - Occupation: "Brick & Tile"

Ann LYALL --- age 15 --- Occupation: family servant

#### MARMADUKE & HANNAH ECKLES FAMILY CAME TO AMERICA IN 1850

The Marmaduke Eckles family<sup>13</sup> lived about 10 miles from Hull, England. When Sarah was six weeks old, the family, with 10 children, sailed on the ALLEN BROWN from Hull, England to America. They were on the boat 8 weeks, 6 weeks out of sight of land. Following is the Passenger List of the Allen Brown.

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<sup>11</sup> In the Registration District: Patrington (Census Piece: # 1221; Census Book: # 17; Folio: # 3; Census Page: # 3).

<sup>12</sup> The 1841 census of England was the FIRST census to contain actual names and genealogical information. Marmaduke Eckles had several workers who "roomed and boarded" with his family. They also had a 15 year old servant girl to assist with household, cooking, cleaning, laundry and childcare duties. This document was found by Darin Wooters, cousin-in-law of Jim Willis.

<sup>13</sup> See their Ancestry Chart following the Appendix for additional information.



## 1850 PASSENGER LIST: ECKLES FAMILY<sup>14</sup>

Heading of Document: "DISTRICT OF NEW YORK,

PORT OF NEW YORK"

Sworn Statement From The Captain:

"I, Jonathan HARRIS, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly swear that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all Passengers received on board the ALLEN BROWN (ship's name), whereof I am master, from Hull, England.

So help me GOD,

(Capt.) Jonathan HARRIS

To This 11th Day of July 1850 (arrival in New York Harbor).

List of Passengers From 1850 Includes:

Marmaduke Eckles -- male - age 36 - from England - destination America -- occupation: Brick Layer

Hannah Eckles - female - age 35 - from England - destination America - occupation: wife

Richard Eckles - male - age 16 - from England - destination America - occupation: Brick Maker

Joseph Eckles - male - age 15 - from England - destination America - occupation: Brick Maker

Mary Eckles - female - age 13 - from England - destination America - occupation: (daughter

Henry Eckles -- male - age 11 - from England - destination America - occupation: (son)

Charles Eckles - male - age 9 - from England - destination America - occupation: (son)

Robert Eckles --male - age 6 - from England - destination America - occupation: (son)

Marmaduke Eckles - male - age 5 from England - destination America - occupation: (son)

Thomas Eckles - male - age 3 from England - destination America - occupation: (son)

Hannah Eckles - female - age 2 - from England - destination America - occupation: (daughter)

Sarah Eckles - female - age: infant - from England - destination America - occupation: (daughter)

*Historical Note: Please notice that the father is listed as a Brick Layer, whereas the 2 eldest sons are Brick Makers.*

## ABOARD THE SHIP ALLEN BROWN Journal Written by Marmaduke Eckles, 1850<sup>15</sup>

My Dear Nephry,

May 15: As I promised to write you a few lines every day, I now for the first day make the attempt, but you must make every allowance for every imperfection. First, then I scarce have any light at our end of the ship; then you know I am not competent to write much.

You will remember that we had a shilling a day allowed as subsistence money while on board ship. Now I and my family came on board on Thursday - on Monday morning I and several others applied to Baxter & Tall for the same, but as we expected they refused us but after much ado they paid me seven and sixpence per day for three days. Then we did not sail till Wednesday morning when we sailed into the rouds and there lay to stow away a part of the cargo which they had on the deck.

I took a boat and went on shore to see for the 7/6" due for Tuesday, but I could get nothing. I find this part of the act is to be evaded - as they will pay no more than they are forced to do. We have not had any subsistence served out as yet; I cannot tell you what sort of stuff it is. They are taking the cargo down and I do not know when we shall sail.

The Captain and Pilot came on board at half past five o'clock this evening and they talk of sailing in the morning. The Captain called all hands on deck and counted all the passengers - we have 52 in all, men, women and children and we have a good round number of children. The passengers are all from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire with the exception of one old, old woman and her son who are Scotch and they are not very good company.

The Allen Brown is an American built ship. She is only four years old but she is not considered a very strong vessel. She carries Captain and Mate and eleven seamen.

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<sup>14</sup> This document was found by Darin Wooters, cousin-in-law of Jim Willis.

<sup>15</sup> *Genealogy of Marmaduke and Hannah Levitt Eckles*, Compiled and printed by Lulu Irene Waters Hare, 1962; Scanned, edited, reformatted and reprinted by Doreen Eckles Duba, 1999, pp. 7-10.

You will remember that you and I took a great deal of trouble to find some salt water soape; it is called Murine Soape. I called at a druggist and got a small quantity, all they had. We had a policeman come on board to search for a man who had absconded from Pukriny, but we had no such man on board.

May 16: This morning we set sail for our destination - the Packet came on long side at 9 o'clock with the Master and Humber pilot on board. It is a beautiful morning - not a ripple on the water but as smooth as glass; the wind from the southward - the thermometer stands at 55 degrees. We got our water but not any victuals this morning.

Half past six P.M. This has been such a day as I never experienced in my short life. We cleared the Spurn at half past 12 o'clock - were all at dinner and as soon as ever the ship touched the sea, almost all the passengers fell sick; first one and then the other. There are twelve of us and eleven sick and while I write I am not very well. It is very cold, the thermometer little more than 50 - we have wind from the southeast - nice breeze.

May 17: Fine weather. All the passengers much better - no land to be seen - one ship in sight. Some of the passengers are fishing. Half past seven P.M. This afternoon they served out the allowance, and they are equally as good as I expected, yet they are not first rate. We have had a schooner in company all the day and another crossed our bow; we cheered her - they returned the compliment.

John Meadley very poorly. I think John and Moltby Meadley are almost on the rue of coming to America. We made some oatmeal crowdy this morning and liked it very well.

Half past six o'clock. Wind from the south blowing strong - most of the passengers sick. Hannah not very well - self rather poorly and just going to bed - all the rest of my family gone. Ship running seven miles an hour.

May 19: This is Whitsunday. We have not forgotten Keyny and all the friends there. The children talk much of them. Ship running more than eight miles an hour. Saw an auk light on the ship rigging - we set it off and it lit on again, two or three times. They say we are somewhere near Scotland, but I cannot see land.

This has been a very dull Sunday - most of us have been sick and I am very sick while writing this. The ship rolls very much, the sky is clear. It is very cold and we have never seen land since we left Spurn. We should have seen Scotland by this time.

May 20: Wind southeast, fine morning. Ship rolled but slept well. I suppose we are just going through Pentland Firth. We have had land on each side since ten or eleven o'clock - we are just losing sight of it at one.

May 21: Stiff breeze. Ship running nine miles an hour, been a good deal of rain during the night. We left the land last night at ten o'clock and do not expect to see it again until we see America.

Most of the passengers talk much about the comforts they left at home - they begin to long for the fleshpots of Egypt. I believe if all had the chance to return, we should have very few left in the ship. There are three men who left their wives - one old man, he rues very bad. Some are so homesick that they talk of coming back as soon as they get there. But I suppose it is a regular thing on board ship, especially while seasickness lasts. For my own part I have not rued in the least as I expected to be seasick.

Whit Tuesday has been a very dull day with us. We had a bit of Keyingham Breatt given to us by Moltby Meadley. Both he and his brother John are very poorly, and he is in bed almost all the time. The sailors have prepared a harpoon to catch some porpoises. Yesterday we saw a quantity of them and the Captain says we shall see plenty of them by and by. Wind fare, yet the ship rolls very much.

May 22: Scarce a breath of wind, but the ship rolls. It is warmer than yesterday, the thermometer has risen five or six degrees. The Captain and some of the passengers saw two whales.

I have often read and heard talk of being becalmed, but now I know of it by experience. The water is as smooth as glass, yet the vessel rolls a good deal - all the passengers are stirring, some reading and writing, some cooking, some washing and indeed a little of all sorts going forward. The sailors are busy mending their sails. There was a little bird that came and lit on a man's hat and he knocked it into the sea and there was a general laugh on deck.

But alas, how strange is mirth sometimes, for in another moment it was shouted that the ship was on fire and so she was, for the grate by which we cooked was standing close to the windlass and had set it on fire, but it was soon extinguished. Soon after this we spied a huge whale - he came up to blow and make all smoke again. This is the first whale I have ever seen - we have several sorts of birds that come and light on the ship. I think May month quite soon enough to come out in - I am glad I did not come sooner.

May 23: A very nice breeze. Ship going six miles an hour and quite steady - all hands seem to be quite well - just breakfasted - all our lads up and stirring. We have a Brig in company with us - she seems to sail a little faster than us.

May 24: There is scarce any wind this morning, but the ship rolls most awfully. We scarce can keep upon our legs. It upset our teapot while at breakfast and spilt all our tea.

Half past eight o'clock P.M. This has been a bad sailing day. Nothing but roll, roll, roll.

May 25: Light breeze, going very slow. Hannah washing today with her salt water soap - it lathers very well - the common soap is no use in salt water. I and Moltby Meadley made and painted a chess board today. This I shall keep if Please God we land, as a remembrance of the voyage.

May 26: Sunday has come around again and we have nothing but water and sky to look at. The wind is quite fare and we are going at a fare speed, but the vessel rolls very much. This is Caue Fare Sunday, a day which I used to think much of when I was younger.

Seven P.M. This has been rather a pleasant day - we have had rather more sun than usual. I have been talking to the Captain and he says that we have only sailed about fifteen degrees and that we have to sail sixty-five yet, so that at the rate we have come we have to be prisoners for more than a month yet.

May 27: This is the finest day we have had since we sailed - fine sun all the day with a light breeze - but not very fare. The ship goes quite steady - the sailors making new sails and the passengers washing and lines in all directions. Our little Robert very poorly - he has cold.

May 29: You will observe that I have written nothing yesterday. As I said before, Monday was a fine day. The wind began to blow at nightfall and by twelve o'clock the ship was running from ten to twelve miles an hour, but by four it had increased to a storm and I never did wish to see a storm at sea, nor do I wish to see another. But this was not all.

The cargo had been taken in at Hull all hurley burley - and not half stowed and when the ship began to toss about some part of it began to move about and it did move about. It flew from side to side and frightened all the passengers very much. But the mate went below with a large number and stove seven or eight casks in and let all the oil out (for it was linseed oil which they contained) and then they set the pumps to work and pumped it into the sea, and while they were flying about we expected them to come through the bulkhead. Indeed they struck so hard I and everyone aboard thought they actually had come through and our berth was second from the end.

All the passengers jumped out of bed screaming and running in all directions. I never wish to see such a sight.

And with the smell of oil and the oil running about the decks and the ship rolling most dreadfully, the women and children lay in. The sea ran very high all the day - we had no fire till quite late when some boiled their kettles, and one old man never stirred till this morning.

I feel very poorly myself. We have slept very badly this last night. Hannah never pulled her clothes off at all, nor many more for they were so frightened. It was about eight o'clock in the morning when the mate stove in the casks - the wind was from the south and I think it blew the hardest about that time. They say the oil, which was wasted was really about 200f, but this I know nothing about. I was sorry to see it.

May 30: Today we have a strong breeze from the North, ship running seven miles an hour - very cold. We have caught a little rainwater and Hannah is washing a few things, although she is very poorly. I do not like the "Allen Brown" - she is a bad weather ship, but the Captain is a very nice man and all the crew are very agreeable men.

This has been the stormiest night we ever had - it has blown very heavy all the night. I went on deck this morning and my heels flew up and I got such a fall which made me very ill that I near fainted and I had to go to bed and am very poorly at present. Hannah is only poorly and little Robert is very poorly and many of the passengers. Ship out of the course - stormy breeze.

May 31: Foggy this morning but soon began to clear and the wind sprung up to a nice breeze. We made very little way today. This is the day for serving out the allowance and we got it accordingly. The biscuits are very coarse and we do not enjoy them - we have too much oatmeal and all the other things we can do with. We had a good deal of rain during the night - since the oil was wasted we have not been so comfortable as before - the decks have been so slippery that we can scarce walk about and everything seems to smell and taste of oil. It is a great nuisance.

June 1: This is Hannah's birthday and thank God that she has lived to see another such day and that she is in pretty good health to look after her family. She is always busy just as she was at home - she must be doing. She stirs about more than any other woman on board.

This is a fine sailing day - ship running at eight miles an hour. The ship lays over much - one passenger got a very bad fall - he was walking on deck, fell and cut his eye very bad. There is a great deal of speculating as to what time we shall be in New York but it is all to no use as no one can tell.

June 2: Eight o'clock. Another Sabbath has passed away. It has been very stormy. We have been laid down almost all the day. Ship going about six or seven miles an hour. Hannah rather better tonight.

June 3: This has been a fine day, but we have made but little progress as the wind has been unfair and has died all away tonight. We saw an American ship this morning. She hoisted her colors and we did the same.

June 6: You will see that I wrote nothing yesterday - I upset my ink and could not till I got some from the mate. We had nothing spectacular happen. We do not expect to see New York in less than three weeks from this time. We have been out three weeks today.

June 7: The Captain has been making a calculation as to where we are and he says that we shall be 750 miles from Newfoundland - we expected to be there before this - puts us in bad spirits. All is well and the ship goes steady, but makes very much water. This is the day for serving out the subsistence. Most of our provisions, which we brought with us, are off so we have to use the ship allowance.

June 8: Saw an American Barque today and saw six sails in all. The ship spoke - was from Philadelphia bound for Glasgow - it is the first we have seen since we left Hull.

June 9: Very stormy today - wind ahead. Saw a Brig to windward - she passed us but we soon passed her again, then she bore up to us. She hoisted her colors and we did the same - she then came close and spoke to us. She was a Brig from Glasgow for Quebec with passengers, 82 on board, all well. We kept company with her all the day.

Hannah in bed most of the day - very poorly myself today. Very rough sea and they say we are only half way to America, more the pity. Sabbath days very dull days with us as we have no religious people on board.

June 10: I am sorry to say that our provisions are getting very scarce - all our flour is off and we cannot buy any of the Captain or anyone else - we have plenty of ham and beef. We are worse off for breadstuff - we cannot make anything of the oatmeal, only a little gruel at times. The biscuits are very coarse, but sweet and wholesome. If I had to provide for another voyage I should do very different from what I have.

June 11: Another thick morning and wind right ahead. We are all well, but begin to be very anxious to see America - our victuals are getting so scarce. Just a month today since we sailed from Hull. The mate says that we shall make fifty or sixty miles today if all be well.

June 12: This has been the stormiest night we have had since we sailed. The wind began to increase yesterday till twelve o'clock at night, when it blew a gale and the ship rolled about most dreadfully. We never got a wink of sleep all the night. This morning it began to clear and the wind is settling. It is a fine day, still it blows strong right ahead.

Last night I and another man went on deck to look at the sea while the storm was raging for we were told that it looked to be all on fire and so it did. It sparkled and shone just like fire - it is a phenomenon I can in no wise account for.

June 13: Last night was a fine night as ever we have had since we came on board, but it began to blow this morning and blew quite a storm. I was very poorly myself. The wind is still ahead and it is a fine night at present. They are serving out the subsistence tonight and most of the passengers are beginning to need it. We saw the most porpoises we ever saw - we were all very much amused with them. They are just like a pack of hounds after a fox.

June 14: Dull morning - rain - fast wind from the southwest. Ship making very little headway, but they say we are near to the banks of Newfoundland and I think the color of the water is changing. Otherwise I can see no alterations. It is most wretched and cold this morning - the thermometer stands at fifty-two degrees - two days since it stood at seventy.

June 15: This is the fifth Sunday at sea. We have had the Wind ahead for this last fortnight or more. Sundays are the dullest days of the seven - we have no religious service of any kind on board. I would gladly read a sermon but there are few who care for anything of that sort. They like to be talking nonsense on the deck and the sailors swear most awfully. I long to hear the Gospel preached again.

Hannah has gone into the Captain's cabin for the first time to warm the child - it is so very cold. Many of the women have been often, but she has never been in the cabin before. We hope the wind will change tonight, it being the quarter day of the moon. Saw a sail this morning we have not seen lately.

June 16: Very cold, we are almost perished. Barometer stands fifty between the decks.

June 17: Wind still ahead - we have been expecting to be on the banks of Newfoundland and we are still expecting. The Captain says that when we get on the banks we shall get some fish and perhaps we may buy some flour of some of the fishermen for we stand in great need of some. This has been a fine day, but it is much cooler this afternoon. We have a sail to leeward of us and we are all well. Thank God.

June 19: Last night it sprang up to a complete gale from ten to twelve o'clock. The Captain and mate said that they thought that it would have carried the masts away altogether, but happily nothing was much worse. Wind right ahead today and we begin to despair of ever getting to New York. They sounded today but we are not within soundings yet.

June 20: Thick today - ship going near five miles an hour, most wretched and cold - we scarce can keep from perishing. A sail passed us this morning to windward.

June 21: I am happy to say we have got a fare wind this morning. We have not had a fare wind for this three weeks. I hope all will be right and that we shall soon be in New York. We expect that we are on the banks of Newfoundland or nearly so. We have very poor fare - nothing but coarse biscuits and rice to eat. All hands seem to be in high spirits this morning on account of the change of wind. This morning the children are all crying from the cold.

June 22: Wind fare - we have made very good way this last thirty-six hours. We were almost over the banks of Newfoundland. We have seen very few fishermen and do not expect to see many as we are too far to the northward. I suppose that is the reason why it is so excessively cold. They begin to talk of being in New York this day a week, but I am afraid not.

Our dear little Sarah would almost have been starved to death with cold but for the kindness of Captain Harris whom I think the kindest man living in his place. He tells the women to go at any time to warm themselves and the children. He would have taken little Hannah and kept her in New York, but she will not stay on any account, nor will she speak to him, although he has tried every means. Joseph has taken to assist the cook and gets his meal with him - all the rest of us are in good spirits.

June 23: Sunday - this is a beautiful morning as ever shone. Dead calm - I think we have not gone more than ten miles since twelve o'clock last night. All the passengers are on deck reading and talking. I read a sermon to a few persons who listened attentively. Some have got on their better clothes and seem comfortable and happy. The thermometer has risen twelve degrees since yesterday.

June 24: They have just been sounding but can find no bottom. Today I looked at my wheat and I am sorry to say that it has gotten very much damaged. I had to throw part of it overboard. I took the other to the Captain to dry and I hope that it will not be so bad after all. It is supposed that we are about 900 miles from New York.

June 25: Thick and dull this morning. All hands are quite well. 4 P.M. - it is a dead calm. This has put all in bad spirits again - we expect a long passage and provisions get very scarce with most.

June 26: Very little wind. We do not expect to be at America for some time. We used up our last biscuit today and have neither flour nor bread of any sort. We got a stone of the Captain for 1/6, but he has no more to spare. We have 12 stone of oatmeal, but we cannot eat it. The Captain says that he will board the first American ship we come near and try and get some flour or some biscuits.

June 27: Little wind, it is not fare. We were fourteen degrees from New York last night. It will be seven weeks voyage at least and perhaps more. I can observe that the days are not so long here as in England. It is quite dark by nine o'clock and the sky full of stars. It is more like September in England than June.

Another thing I have observed is that although I and the children often get wet through, yet we seldom get cold. There is scarce any person on board ship who has a cough, and if we cut our fingers, after the blood is stopped, they never ail anymore - never rankles as when at home. This I attribute to the saltiness of the air and the water.

June 28: Wind still ahead with very little of it. We have had an American ship in company these last two or three days. The Captain talked of boarding her to see if he could get any flour. I wish he would as we are in great want of some. All the children are very well with Hannah and myself, but not in good spirits in consequence of the length of the voyage, and we do not know what it will be yet. The thermometer stands at sixty-five degrees between decks.

June 29: Wind south and blows very strong. The ship rocks about very much and most of the passengers are in bed, although it is noon. Our family complains as much as most and I feel quite poorly myself. The ship goes seven or eight miles an hour. We are not likely to see New York for some time yet. More rain has fallen today than any day since we set out.

June 30: Last day in the month and it is Sunday again - another very dull morning. They talk of nothing but seeing Halifax, although we can scarce see twenty yards from the ship because it is so thick. I suppose we are somewhere in that part of the world. We have all sorts of speculations among the passengers.

July 1: No wind; therefore, we are making no progress whatever today. All the passengers are getting quite scarce of provisions and the passage must needs be a long one. We have nothing but the ship's allowance and that is not half enough for us, so that it may be truly said that our very Bits and Drops seem to be in jeopardy; but thanks be unto God, I know that He is able to open a way which we know not of and perhaps our deliverance is near at hand. We have just had an excellent dinner of broth and dumpling and meat. I have been reading Bunyan's *Holy War*, which the Captain sent me yesterday and I feel in a better mood than common today.

This morning we liked to have had a serious accident about 2 A.M. It was so thick that they scarcely could see the length of the ship. They had a light hoisted and were blowing a fog horn when they heard another horn and presently

another ship came close to our ship, and but for the vigilance of our Captain, no doubt would have run right into us. Hannah heard it coming before any of the passengers. She woke me and said she heard another, but I said "nonsense," but soon I heard the Captain about "Hard over to starboard" and such a bustle on deck.

Some of the sailors jumped out of their berths and ran on deck and some of the passengers likewise, but I lay still and thanks be unto God for so great a deliverance. She passed us without any harm. Our Captain spoke to her. She was a full rigged ship from St. Johns, New Brunswick, bound for Liverpool. She had been out five days with light winds and told us that we were in latitude 64, north.

July 2: Wind fare this morning. Ship going about four miles. This revives us a little, although all are off provisions. We asked the Captain to let us have some biscuits, but he said there were so many other people wanted some that he could not do it. We have plenty of oatmeal - some have plenty of rice and that is all. Since morning the Captain considered to let us have some biscuits, and we have gotten some. We are all right again, thank God. These will serve us till Friday.

July 3: Sun shines beautiful - wind fare. All well and in good spirits. Timber Wind, our little Charles has been up all night with the sailors. He has been blowing the fog horn. We see several ships every day, so I do not notice them all. When on the western ocean, we did not see a sail for eight days.

July 4: This is the great day in America. We would have liked to have been there this morning. We are on what is called St. George's Banks. Wind is not quite fare, but good and light. We are going very slow at present. A serious accident had nigh happened to our Henry. He fell down the fire hatch right in the 'oules, but as Providence would have it, he was but little worse for it. It gave him a severe shake and frightened his mother almost to death.

July 5: I never saw it thicker in my life. They sounded last night several times and found only twenty-seven fathoms of water. They then touched the ship about and stood more to sea. We have a head wind today. It has just been reported that they have heard the report of a Gunwale. This may be a Pilot from New York. This is the day for serving out the provisions and we stand in need of them, but the sugar is short so that we can only have half quantity, but through the kindness of the Captain we shall have treacle, instead. There is much grumbling among the passengers. They begin to show their true characters.

July 6: I am sorry to say that the wind is right ahead with a fresh breeze. We make little headway. There was a ship passed us to windward this morning. She went past us in good style. She is now almost out of sight ahead - this grieves us sadly - she is no doubt for New York.

About 8 P.M. the Captain saw land ahead, but very few of the passengers believed it was. I did and it proved to be land, for after dark they saw two lights in the same direction. The wind came more fare about 6 P.M.

July 7: This morning 8 A.M. we took the pilot on board and right glad we were, thinking we must be near New York. The pilot boats are smart crafts, carrying six or seven men and pilots. They go out for two or three hundred miles to meet anything they can. Those men agree exactly with the description I had of them. Thin, bony men - very yellow color. I am glad I asked them if they had the cholera in New York. They said "No, all healthy, but very hot."

July 8: Wind ahead as usual. It is very hot and we have little to eat. I have been talking to the pilot and he gives me good encouragement about Illinois, he once having lived there.

July 9: Fine morning with very light breeze and very hot. It has been so that we can scarce sleep during the night. We have several pilot boats around us and sails of different kinds. We have never seen a steamer yet, but hope to see one before long. The Captain is very kind to us, more especially to our family which causes us to get along better than most.

July 10: We are all abustle - land in sight. We expect to be in New York sometime during the night. We have all seen the land from the deck and glad we are to see it once more.

2 P.M. A beautiful day - we are just making the harbor. We have passed the Floating Light and have land on both sides. All is bustle and activity on board, washing, shaving, etc. We shall soon be at Staten Island, where we shall have to stay and be examined by a medical man, then proceed straight to New York.

10 P.M. We have now nearly reached the wished-for haven. We are close by the city and splendid view we have. The entrance is far more grand than I anticipated, although I expected to see something beautiful. There is a store which has been burning since Sunday and is still burning.

July 11: We are still laid up in the bay. I have been two or three times today and walked about New York many miles. I am quite surprised.



My Dear Nephew,

According to my design, I now intend to give you a brief account of our journey to the far west. You will observe that I have kept an every-day log of such things as I thought worthy of notice while on board ship. But you will excuse me from not keeping a journal while traveling up the country. But the truth is, I had so many things to attend to, and I was so ill that I was unable to attend to them that I had no opportunity to keep a daily journal.

So you see that what I now write is from memory; therefore, you will not expect me to give quite so good an account as if I had written down what had passed every day.

As I have before observed, we landed at New York on Wednesday, July the 11th, and just as I had been forewarned, so I found it to be, for when we lay at anchor in the bay of New York, there came on board swarms of boarding housekeepers, all pretending to be Englishmen, Yorkshiremen, Lincolnshiremen, or from any county they thought you came from. As soon as they knew that the ship had sailed from Hull, they were most of them from Yorkshire, but the truth was they were most of them from Ireland.

Every house was the very best house in town, but we did not even give them a call to see which really was the best, but took them all at their words. Those are a set of infernal villains who would rob and cheat you out of the last farthing you had. And although they maneuvered pretty well, yet they are pretty clear to see through. We had some far more cunning foxes to deal with than those.

And now we had to make arrangements for our journey into the West, and I and a person named Ward from Lincolnshire and family, with John and Moltby Meadley, set about it to find out the best and cheapest route, if possible. Now I had a letter of recommendation to James Gates, Mr. B. Gate's brother.

(The last of this letter apparently has been destroyed.)

### **From New York City to Dixon, Illinois to Marshall County, Iowa History of Eckles Family by Hannah (Eckles) Wetherbee (91<sup>16</sup>)**

Father wished to remain in New York for a few days, but the weather seemed intensely warm after the sea voyage and the children did not feel well. Tom and Hannah cried for the ship. Therefore, the stop in New York was only two days, much to Father's regret.

The trip from there to Dixon, Illinois was most trying. At a train station along the way to Buffalo, mother got off to get food for the children and the train pulled out without her. Richard jumped from the train to stay with her. Mary cared for the baby and all went well although there was great anxiety for all parties. The separation was only over-night. At Buffalo, a boat was taken over the lakes to Chicago, Illinois. Some rough weather was met and one night the boat pitched about so much some of the cargo was loosened. Mother was the first to hear it and notified someone. She was thanked by the Captain the next day as much damage might have occurred.

In Chicago, a man with a covered wagon was engaged to take the family to Dixon. Heavy chests were stored in Chicago and the family was on its way in one wagon for thirteen people. The older boys and Mary took turns in relieving the load by walking. No fast driving was done, and the little children felt the heat very much. Duke became quite ill and it caused some alarm, as no one knew where help might be obtained if absolutely needed.

When the Bennie Gates home near Dixon was reached, we were received very kindly and taken in until a small house was made ready for us. Father was dreadfully homesick. The house leaked and during heavy rains the small children slept under an umbrella. There is a distinct memory of waking and finding an umbrella over us, and mother smiling as she removed it. The house must have been very poor but was made livable for some three years. Father began making brick but the clay was not what he was used to and did not make good bricks.

While living in this little house, the first sad experience of the family came to us. It was on January 5, 1853. Father and Joseph were helping with thrashing at the Wetherbee home and in some way Joseph's clothing was caught in the machine and his life instantly wiped out. Mr. Henry Brown came with father to tell us and mother ran to father's protecting arms while little ones clung to her dress, not comprehending the terrible grief.

Brick making was not profitable and father turned to farming. We moved to a very comfortable house not entirely finished. When the goods stored in Chicago arrived, it was found that they had been stored in a poor house and nearly everything was entirely ruined, including yards and yards of hand woven linen.

There were ten children to feed and clothe and almost nothing to do it on. The older boys got some work among the neighbors and Mary went from home to help where she could. Schooling was somewhat broken into for all, but father and mother were ambitious for their children and it was school whenever possible. Prairieville was not named

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<sup>16</sup> *Genealogy of Marmaduke and Hannah Levitt Eckles*, pp. 11-23.

until years after, but the neighborhood was mostly composed of eastern people who were anxious to have good schools for their children. For this reason we were very fortunate in school privileges.

The country was new and the open prairie was all around us. At night it was a great sight to watch the prairie fires, which at times seemed to completely surround us although some of them were many miles away. Once a fire did get beyond control and was spreading rapidly nearer our house. Mother was called out to help until all was made safe. When she returned, she was black with the soot on her perspiring face. The children were terrified and father was very anxious until her breath came more evenly.

In February 1854, about four years after the family's arrival in America, Emily was born. She was called Emma throughout her young womanhood.

A year or two after going onto this farm, father's health failed. He was a very good manager and he had accumulated quite a lot of stock, and so he directed the boys in the work. In winter, farmers killed their hogs and after freezing them they were hauled to Chicago or Peoria for market. The winter of father's illness, the neighbors came and butchered 23 hogs and hung them up where they could be seen from his room. There was a jolly set of men at the dinner mother provided, but also some very sober faces as they came from father's room. Our beloved father passed on in April 1855 and was buried in Prairieville, Illinois.

Mother thought, with the good start, the boys could carry on. There was but one team and before a year had passed a horse was lost. That was a great handicap, but in some way another was bought and the farming carried on. Richard found some work and his wages helped. But after part of the crops were in the next spring, the house burned and almost all the contents were lost, including the winter clothing. The neighbors were exceedingly kind and helpful and soon supplied clothing for all.

Mr. Brown came at once to our assistance, offering a log cabin that he had just moved from. As there was a granary that escaped the fire, mother planned she could arrange for the boys on the farm and she would provide food for them. Charlie and Rob were to run the farm and Henry went out to work. The ashes of the house were gone over many times to collect old iron, two watches, some spoons, a little jewelry. These were traded in Dixon for kitchen utensils. Someone contributed a stove and we lived comfortably in the cabin for eight or nine months.

Then a small house was built and Mother and the five younger children lived there. Duke managed to earn his way and went to school most of the time. The first winter in our own house we did suffer some, but children as healthy as we were did not mind much the discomforts. There was plenty of bread and milk and only once for a day or two were we short. We even made a joke of that, but how mother must have suffered. Schoolbooks and shoes were her great trial, there had to be so many renewals.

At the age of 21, in 1861, Charles enlisted in the 34<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry of the Union Army of the Civil War. His brothers, Marmaduke and Thomas were with his company when they marched with Sherman to the Sea. Soon after the close of the war, in the spring of 1866, Charles, Robert, and Hannah, with three friends, all veterans, went to Marshall County, Iowa to look for farm land. Robert purchased prairie land north of Marshalltown.

Hannah Levitt Eckles was born on June 1, 1810 and died on June 17, 1894.

(Descendants of Charles and Robert Eckles and Hannah Eckles Wetherbee still lived on the original homestead or nearby farms in Marshall County, Iowa, in 1960.)

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## **Moving from New Lancaster, Indiana to Pleasant Plain, Iowa - 1856**

**Diary written by: Rachel Mills Coffin,<sup>17</sup> Wife of Hervey Coffin  
(Our great great grandmother)**

Rachel Mills, her husband Hervey Coffin, and family<sup>18</sup> left their home in Indiana to move to Iowa in 1856.<sup>19</sup> Ten children made the trip, Rachel having died in 1850: Ruth, Nathan, William, Sarah Jane, Abigail, Phebe Rosetta, Deborah, Jeremiah, Henry, and Mary. Rachel's mother, Deborah (Hodson) Mills, also made the trip. "Benny" is mentioned, but it isn't clear who he is.

Rachel kept a diary of their trip. Excerpts are below.

April 14, 1856 - We left our home at half-after nine o'clock. Came to the fork of the road that one went to Perkinville,

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<sup>17</sup> **Mills Lineage:** John Mills (c1691) of England, **immigrated to Pennsylvania**; Hurr Mills (1716); Amos Mills (1752); Jeremiah Mills (1784); Rachel Mills (1808).

<sup>18</sup> See their Ancestry Chart following the Appendix for additional information.

<sup>19</sup> See map on p. 73.

Indiana and fed on the hill and Mary Ellit and Rachel Ault (formerly Cook) came to us while we were eating dinner then on, passed through Strawtown 6 o'clock - -drove a mile and took up camp and in the night there came up a thunder gust and it rained and the wind blew right-smartly so that some of us were right smartly alarmed--but no harm done.

April 15 - A clear morning and warm. We came through Noblesville in the forenoon, stopped and got some cheese and a bucket. Came on through Westfield between four and 5 o'clock. Drove on to where the road turned off to go to Aunt Ruth's. Took up camp. Henry, mother and myself and some of the children took the horses and went to Aunt Ruth's to stay all night.

April 16 - Aunt Ruth, Zac, and Solomon Bennett came back to camp with us and went to Eagleton and then they went back, only Zac he went on till noon, took to dinner with us and then turned back. We fed by a man's house whose name was Canady. We had some very bad roads today, sometimes on ruff railroad then on dry road and again in chuck holes of mud nearly up to the wagon hub. We camped in a deding on the left hand side of the road by an old batchelor farm. It rained a little on us while at supper.

April 17 - We came through some bad mud holes this morning. We came through Lebanon about 8 a.m. Wm. had the second team pull a time or two this morning for the first. We have found the worst roads between Eagleton and Lebanon of anywhere. We stopped and fed by a school house on the right hand side of the road 3 miles from Thorntown. I am writing by the side of the road sitting on a log. We had pretty good roads from Lebanon. Came through Thorntown about 3 o'clock and then divided the crowd. Some went to William's and some of them came to Jesse Brown -- we got there between four and five o'clock. Ruth was gone from home to see a sick woman but soon came home and then there was some talking done.

April 18 - Clear and cooler than it has been since we started and the wind a blowing like Iowa if not worse. Henry and Betty came to Jimmy's. Hervey, Henry, Benny and Nathan, Mother, Ruth, Betty, myself and Abigail all went to Thorntown. Mother, with the rest of us, got a dress. We got them all alike. Silk Poplin was the kind. We paid for them with the money of our father's estate. I got Sarah J., Abigail and Phoebe a dress apiece of silk poplin. Nathan and Abigail got their profiles drawn in one case. Then HB, Wm., Mother and myself came to H. and stayed all night and the rest were scattered around at different places.

April 19 - Cloudy and cold and been raining a little through the night. I am writing in Henry R's kitchen. Left Henry's this afternoon. Hervey, mother, and myself came to Elihue's and went to and seen his steam saw which was quite a sight for me to see. Took supper and then came to Wm's and stayed all night.

April 20 - Clear and frosty morning. Some ice. Wm. has apples aplenty. He took his buggy and took mother, Tabitha and myself to meeting at Pleasant Plain (?). After meeting we went to Seth Brown's and got dinner then we came to James Brown's. Cooked some and repacked our wagon and fixed for starting on next morning. There was quite a number of us stirring round. Some of their neighbors and several of the connections.

April 21 - Clear and frosty morning. Henry got the headache pretty bad and some fever. We left Jesse Brown's between 8 and 9 o'clock bidding a long farewell to many. I expect it was a trying time to some of us to see an aged mother bidding farewell to so many of her children and starting a long journey to the West, not knowing how the country would agree with her. We fed in a bottom by Hazel Creek then on through Darlington, a small town, then on past Kenworthy's Mill -- a very large and beautiful building and a little further on, and past a carding machine as we supposed, and then shortly up a very long steep hill on the banks of Sugar Creek. We have come up and down a great many long steep hills today, but the roads have been dry and dusty most of the time. We met Austin Hodson by Sugar Creek meeting house, belonging to Friend's. Today Mary's little kitten left us. It crawled out at the hind end of the wagon, we suppose, when we were stopped some time. We took up camp in the bottom by a creek. I don't rightly know the name of it. We suppose it was Walnut Fork. We came 15 miles today.

April 22 - Clear and pleasant morning all tolerable well. We came through Crawfordsville about 8 o'clock. We have come through a heap of good country since we left Thorntown, big, good buildings, large farms, fat horses. We fed at the forks of the way where the sign board said 22 miles to Attica, then came on past a house where there was a sale, then on, came through Pleasant Hill, a small town, past small patches of prairie. Took up camp on the left hand side of the road in a small grove of timber about a mile this side of the white barn at the one-eyed tavern, as Benny called it. We had dry roads today, tho ruff this side of Crawfordsville. We came 17 or 18 miles today.

April 23 - Cloudy morning, Wm. not right well. We came by a corn field two miles this side of Pleasant Hill, that the

weeds were as high as the corn if not more so, then on through Newtown between seven and eight o'clock. We have come through some beautiful prairie farms. This morning the roads are smooth and even. Not a hill scarcely to be seen. Don't think it very pleasant marching on with a team? Stopped and got a bushel of meal at Shown a Mill Creek. Fed in a long lane in a hollow about a mile from Attica (Wish I had an atlas to look these places up, mother!) then on to Wabash River. Crossed in a horse ferry, then on through Williamsport. The road is hilly this afternoon, then took up camp on the right hand side of the road, by a man's house over five miles this side of Williamsport.

April 24 - Clear and cool. We came about six miles to Samuel Bottoorf. Stopped and stayed the balance of the day and night.

April 25 - Partly clear and warm. Nice growing weather. We left Samuel B's between 7 and 8 o'clock. The family all came a mile or two with us. Came past railroad where there were several hands at work and some shantys. We had ruff crooked roads this forenoon.

Stopped and fed by the side of the road, not a very delightful place, small timber and middling thick. Had tolerable bad roads all day. Took up camp in a lane by a man's house. His name was Hinton.

April 26 - Clear and very warm, quite a breeze stirring today. Came past the railroad again where there was several hands at work with their carts and horses filling up a hollow. Fed by a new meeting house, I know not the name of it, about a mile from Danville. Mary sick and don't eat. Came through Danville about one o'clock, a tolerable small town, tho some beautiful buildings in it. Crossed a stream called Verinom, then up a very long steep hill. We have dry dusty roads today so that it has been very disagreeable and the wind blowing tolerable hard. We crossed the line this morning out of Indiana into Illinois. Camped by an Irish man's house. Paid a dime for wood for we were in a large prairie and timber scarce.

April 27 - First day morning. Cloudy and cooler than it was yesterday. We came by a graveyard this morning on the left hand side of the road with a great many new looking graves in it as if it were a very sickly place. There were some of the largest tombstones in it I had ever seen and among the rest there was quite a curiosity. A tombstone about nine inches square with the names of three twin (sic) babies on it, as we thought. They were born July 22, 1852 and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, two of them died and the other on the 26<sup>th</sup>. One being 4 days old and the other two being one day old. Their names -- Josephine, Emaline and Caroline. There was but one head stone and three at the feet. We supposed they were all buried in one grave if not in one coffin. Came on a little further and heard that measles were raging in the settlement and killing a great many. Came by Goshen meeting house where there was a considerable number of people gathering for worship. I know not what society. Came on a little and fed by a fence -- carried our water a good piece, for we were afraid to stop by anybody's house on account of measles. Then we seen a drove of cattle, a hundred or two. Came on through Homer, drove about three or four miles and took up. Came on the right hand side of the road in a small grove of timber about a hundred yards from the railroad. A very pretty place to camp.

April 28 - Second day morning. Quite cool and clear. Abigail not very well. We came through Sidney about 9 o'clock, a small town. We have been in Peoria all day and the wind a blowing like all rip. The little boys, Jerry and Henry have had several races after their hats, and William has had to drive bare headed part of the time for the wind blowing so hard that he could not keep it on unless he had tied it. He said the wind blew so hard that it pulled his hair till it hurt. There came some movers along with their wagon sheet off. They said the wind blew it off but it did not blow any of ours off, but it blew hard, I can tell you. I reckon as hard as it ever blows on a clear day. We have been in a large prairie this forenoon, not a house near the road since a little in the morning. We were in one of Uncle Sam's big fields, a house here and there scattered over it. Some of them looking like a covered wagon at a distance. Others did not look larger than a big chicken coop and some not so far off would look like a small house. No timber hardly to be seen on the left hand side of the road all day and but little on the right. But what looked to be a good piece off, was that a big farm? We have had good roads all day. With the exception of one or two places, better than I ever saw on Duck Creek for there is no cross bridging to jolt a body. We fed not far this side of Urbana. In the afternoon seen the cars. It is a very thriving looking place. A great many new houses in it and a heap of business going on. Drove about 4 mi., took up camp on the left side of the road in the prairie just this side of Linsies Tavern. Let the cows and oxen run out in Uncle Sam's pasture for the first time. None of them left.

April 29 - Third day morning. Clear and pleasant. Came thro a small strip of timber this morning. Came thro a small place called Middletown. Nothing very delightful to be seen. Are in the prairie again but pretty thick settled along the road, and looks like it might be off the road as well. We met a drove of cattle this morning some of the biggest and fattest I ever seen. We fed in a lane on the left hand side of the road. Nothing very noticeable only the man and woman scolded

and the children bawled. Came through a thin settlement this afternoon only right along the road. Came to timber and camped by a creek. I know not the name of it.

April 30 - 4th day morning. Clear and the wind blowing right smartly. Came through Mt. Pleasant about 7 o'clock not very much of a town and looked to be improving right smartly. We had a shower of rain on this forenoon, tho it did not last long, but rained right hard a little while. It was the first time there had been any rain on us in the day time since the day we started and but very little at night. We fed about a mile this side of Le Roy in the prairie on the left hand side of the road and another family of movers on the other side. They are driving our cows and theirs together this afternoon for the first that we have traveled with any movers -- much that we have seen. A great many, but they still pass us for all have horses -- teams that we have seen, till these that are now with us, and they have only one ox team and 2 wagons with two horses to each. We are in the timber, part of the time in prairie. We overtook a drove of sheep. There was 300 of them. Right smart flock. They were going West and we stopped at the 6-mile tavern and got some corn and oats and seen the Minnesota wolf. It was not very large with small sharp ears and nose and grey colored. Came on about two miles and camped by a branch on a low piece of ground. One of the Kidwell oxen is sick this afternoon. Unyoked them and drove them with the cows. This afternoon there came up a thunder gust. After night rained quite hard and the wind blew right smartly so that Nathan and some of the rest of the children that were under the tent got nearly right wet and the bed too.

May 1 - 5th day morning. Nathan's birthday. 23 years old. Cloudy and spring-like. Came thro Bloomington about 10 a.m. A large town. Quite a stirring place. Wm's sorrel colt got loose in town but was found in the streets after hunting some time for him. Drove 5 or 6 miles and fed in the edge of the timber. Rained a little while. Been very muddy and sloppy today. Came through Pittsburg this afternoon. Almost no town at all. On a little further we came through Concord not much of a town. Camped by a branch, a little this side of a meeting house and Nathan and some of the rest of the youngsters went to meeting. It was Presbyterian.

May 2 - 6th day morning. Cloudy and quite cool. Roads muddy and sticky this forenoon. Stopped and fed on a high piece of ground. Very poor land that we have traveled over today. Scrubby timber. Makes me think of North Carolina. Benny and William had to help McDall's ox team out of a bad mud hole. They were stalled bad enough. The roads have been bad nearly all the time today. We came through Groveland, a little before sundown. Stopped at a baker shop and got some bread and butter and matches. Drove a mile or more to timber and camped on the left hand side of the road in a pretty grassy place. It has been quite cool today. We have been going barefoot right smart but we had to put on our shoes and stockings and then did not keep more than warm.

May 3 - Clear and cool. I do not feel very well. I have a bad cold. Marg' had a colt last night and it was dead when we got up this morning. Put in James Shortridge's horse in place of Marg' and worked him to the wagon and led Marg'. Come on past where the fiddlers and dancers were pictured on the barn looked to be very merry. Come on to the steep hill this side of Peoria. Seen some movers going to Iowa, Dallas County. Came over a long bridge seen the cars to good satisfaction. Came on thro Peoria, stopped and got some sugar and fish. The biggest I ever saw. Come a mile or two and stopped and fed. Cleaned our fish. We have seen a great many movers since we have been on the road. Most of them going to Iowa that we have enquired of. We have had hilly roads most of the time today but mostly dry. Camped in a prairie where there was some scrubby timber so that we made fire by Benny hauling up a back log.

May 4 - First day morning. Mary L. birthday. 5 years old. Cloudy and cool for time of year and the wind blowing right smart. Came through Kickapoos about 9 o'clock, a small town. Seen the Catholic meeting house and graveyard. People were gathering there to meeting. Some of the graves had cross pieces of timber put up by them. Crossed Kickapoo River and fed in the bottom. There were 16 wagons all there at once. One was going East on a visit, and three had come there over night and was laying by on account of the Sabbath so that there was quite a company of us people in the Old Settlement. Have no knowledge how many people there are on the road at this time. We came on through Brimfield, a right smart town. Heard the church bells ring for a 4 o'clock meeting, we supposed. Been in the prairie most of the time today. Some very good looking country and tolerably hilly this forenoon. Come to timber and camped on this side of French Creek. Rained some thro the night.

May 5 - 2nd day morning. Cloudy and still cool. Roads some slippery this morning. Crossed Spoon River on a very high bridge. Quite hilly about the river. Drove to the first house this side of the river and fed at the lane. A high hill before us, looks like a mountain almost. Come on and passed a graveyard on the right hand side of the road that had no fence round it. Some of the graves were paled in and the paling tops painted black. On through Trenton, almost no town. A church rose with the highest steeple on it I ever seen. Last night there was some youngsters came over to our camp.

They had camped a little ahead of us, and one by the name of Daniel Bornhill told the girl's fortune by looking in their hand or at least they said so. We camped this side of Knoxville just in the edge of the timber. It rained all night or nearly so. Hervey got a pain in his back. It was tolerable hilly most of the time today.

May 6 - Cloudy and misting rain. Came thro Galesburg. A very large town. Looked to be improving fast. Came on a few miles and got corn of a man by the name of Mitchel and fed. Seen two trains of cars pass while we were stopped. We can see a great ways in these large (??). Rained a little while at supper.

May 7 - 4th day morning. Cloudy and very cool so that we suffer unless well wrapped up. Came through Monmouth about 10 o'clock, got some flour. A heap of new houses in the town. We have been so we could see cars when we stop. They passed last evening and again this morning and while we were at dinner today the longest train passed that we have seen. We fed in Uncle Sam's fields. Another family of movers by the name of Cambell fed by us. We fed close to a flat-roofed house. Saw two teams of oxen breaking prairie with their plows fixed to wagon wheels. We camped on a high hill this side of a scrubby hickory grove. There were hills and hollows all around us. William and Benny had to help McDollers out of a mud hole again today. Wm swapped Nathan's black filly today for a yoke of oxen, ten dollars in money.

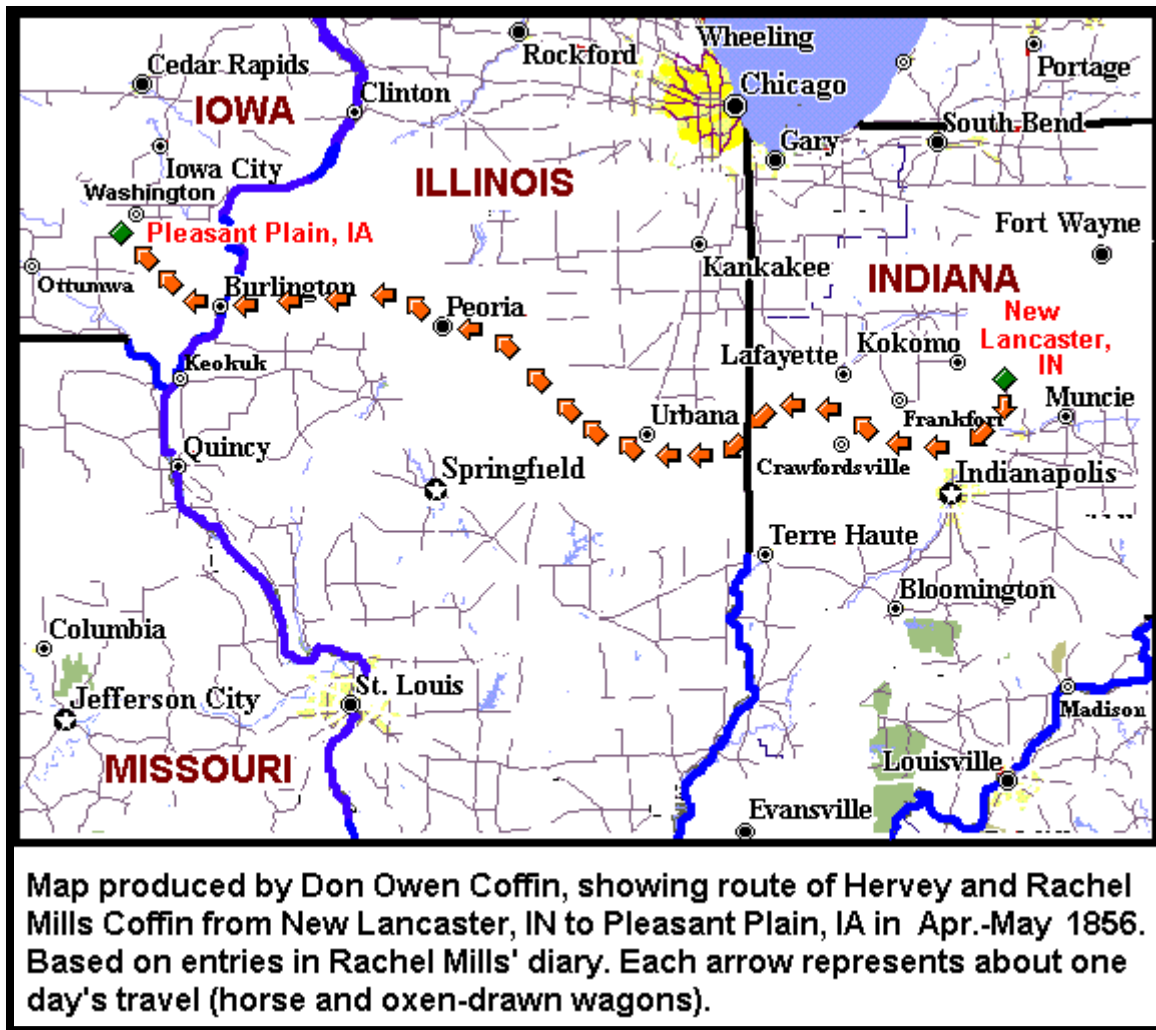
May 8, 1856 5th day morning. Clear and pleasant. Come up a long hill through hazel brush, then in pretty prairie again. Come to the railroad. Seen them loading cars . . .

*The rest of Rachel's diary is missing. However, family legend tells of the arrival in Pleasant Plain, Iowa. The girls were barefoot as they were driving the cattle. One of the daughters ran up to the wagon where their father was riding and asked when they would get to Pleasant Plain so that they could put on their shoes. He told them that the last town they had passed was Pleasant Plain, Iowa!!*

*Hervey Coffin was born in North Carolina on August 4, 1810 and died on June 20, 1873 at Pleasant Plain, Iowa.. He married Rachel Mills on August 19, 1830. She was born on November 3, 1808 and died on August 7, 1873.*

*Phoebe Rosetta Coffin was born on November 15, 1840 and died on July 22, 1929. She married James Melvin Jones on October 30, 1858. He was born on July 14, 1839 and died on November 5, 1911.*





### Moving from Wisconsin to Marshall County, Iowa in 1864

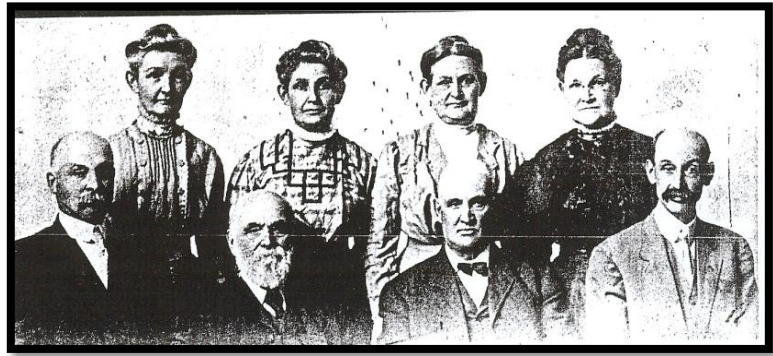
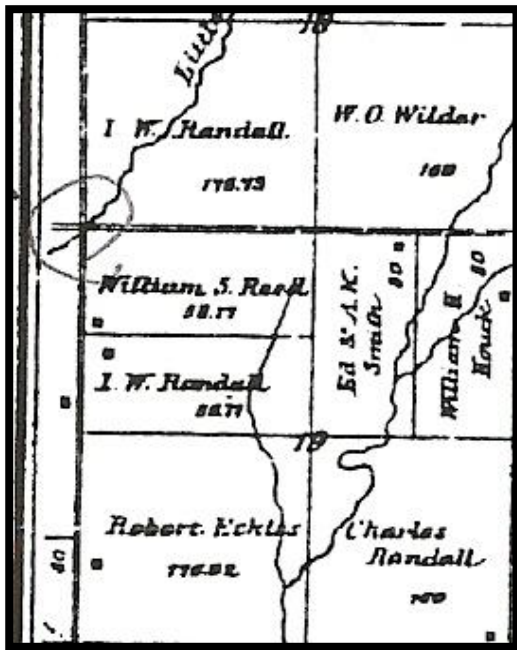
Isaac W. and Emily (Bruce) Randall  
(Our great great grandparents)

Isaac Wilmarth Randall, born May 28, 1823, at Lewistown, Niagara County, New York, and Emily (Bruce) Randall, born April 15, 1824 at Friendship, Allegheny County, New York, came with their family, Rosina (Cleaver), Eudora (Stewart), Susan (Eckles), Minnie, Adlai (married Emily Eckles), Perry and Charles by covered wagon from Wisconsin and settled in Grundy County, north of Conrad. They came in the fall of 1864 and spent the winter at this location. Rozina, the oldest daughter, taught school in one room of their house.

The following spring they moved to an 88 acre farm which they bought in Section 19, Vienna Township, Marshall County. Isaac got a "patent" from the government for the land. After they lived there a few years, Isaac bought 167 acres, one-half mile north in Section 18, for \$1.00 per acre.

In 1900, Isaac and Emily Randall moved to 202 W. Maple in Conrad. Emily passed away January 22, 1901, and after her death, Isaac, along with his daughter Minnie who never married and had made her home with her parents, went to make their home with his daughter, Dora Stewart, in Marshalltown where he died September 16, 1910. Adlie Randall was in the grain business in Conrad for many years.

Compiled by Velma St. Clair Daggett



Back row: Minnie, Susan, Eudora, Rozina  
Front row: Charles, Isaac W., Adlai, Perry

### Moving from Rochelle, Illinois to Aplington, Iowa in 1866 Letters written by Mary Prall Smith (Our great grandmother)

G. B. Smith came to America at the age of twenty and taught school in New Jersey, Dane County, Wisconsin, and Rochelle, Illinois. His wife, Eliza Prall was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 1809 and later moved to Illinois.

A notebook that has been preserved for generations was transcribed by Janelle Willis. It was written on the lines, then over the top, perpendicular to the lines. It tells the story of the Smith family moving from Rochelle, Illinois to Aplington, Iowa in 1866 and a few details of their early life in the little newly started village. In May of 1866, the family<sup>20</sup> consisted of George Bevan Smith, Eliza Prall Smith, Sheridan Prall, Sarah Maria, Jane Hull, Mary Prall, Lydia Francis, and Charlotte Amelia. Ann Eliza Smith, born in 1841 had died in 1847.

"Out of Civilization" May 28, 1866 (written to Judie)

I avail myself of the first opportunity of addressing you a communication, giving information of our safe arrival at our new and distant home, after a laborious and exciting, but I cannot say unpleasant, journey.

Friday morning, May 11. The sun rose to our wish in an unclouded splendor. After an early breakfast, we took up on our line of march - Lottie and I in the lumber wagon, led the van (*caravan?*); Father and Mother in the other, occupying the central position and the others walking, bringing up the rear.

I will not attempt to describe my feelings as I bade Rochelle, my Illinois home, farewell. As we neared the turn in the grove that would obscure the town from our sight, I looked back (as Lottie remarked) to take a last fond look and could not refrain from exclaiming (with a tear in my eye) "Fare thee well, and if forever, still forever, fare thee well."

We reached Ogle about noon, halted and had dinner. Of course "Ogle" (*the county*) favored us with his company. We camped in Dixon grove that night. But I must tell you of an accident we met with before we got to Mr. Mencklers, or rather, discovered a new method for packing butter. The pail that contained the butter fell out and the wheel ran over it and (as Brother so provokingly observed) packed both butter and pail. Camped in Dixon grove at night.

Saturday morning, May 12, proceeded on our way, crossed the river (*Rock River*) at Sterling. The bridge at Dixon broke down a day or two before with a drove of cattle and was not repaired sufficiently to admit our crossing there. We just put up for the night and over Sunday, a mile beyond Round Grove, in a farmyard, beside a large barn owned by a Mr. Knox who we found to be a very nice man. They were very kind to us indeed, so much so that when Monday came we were quite loathe to leave. We went to meeting Sunday afternoon in Round Grove. Heard an admirable sermon from

<sup>20</sup> See their Ancestry Chart following the Appendix for additional information.

the Rev. Mr. Lansing (a Baptist minister). His text was 2 Timothy, 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, 16 and 17 verses.

Monday morning, May 14, resumed our journey. Passed through Morrison, reached Fulton (*near Clinton, Iowa*) at noon, just in time to see the steamer Northern Leine from New Orleans bound for St. Paul sailing up the river and a raft coming down. Camped on the bank. After dinner crossed the "Father of Waters" in a steam ferry boat.

Tuesday, May 15, passed through DeWitt (*Iowa*), Mound Station (*Grand Mound?*) and camped this side of Toronto. It is a beautiful country between Leyons (?) and Toronto, but settled up by lousy Irishmen and a meaner set you never saw. They are a perfect nuisance wherever they go.

Wednesday, May 16, passed through Massillion and Clarence. Put up at noon on the prairie three miles beyond Clarence. Just as we had finished our repast there, passed along a blind man and his family in an old shaky conveyance, drawn by a miserable creature of a horse. They all looked about starved. We gave them some bread and eggs which they devoured with apparent relish. Sherd (*Sheridan*) piloted them over the slough just ahead and they were soon out of sight. We got stuck in a slough that afternoon. One of the horses got down. Had to ungear and pull the wagon out ourselves. Went a little farther and came to another still worse, with water in. All of us got out, took off part of the load and crossed without much trouble. Brother ferried Lottie and Lydia over. The rest of us took off shoes and stockings and paddled over. Camped for the night, four miles this side of Mechanicsville at a farm house (Mr. Blayvez). They kindly offered us the use of their stove and invited us to make ourselves at home.

Thursday morning, May 17, started on our way. Passed through Mechanicsville, Lisbon, Mt. Vernon, and Marion, a beautiful and flourishing town on the East bank of a branch of the Cedar River. Marion and Mt. Vernon are the first in beauty of any of the towns we passed through in this state or Illinois. Camped in woods at Cedar Rapids.

Friday night, May 18, put up in Vinton grove. Saturday night and Sunday camped in woods this side of Waterloo. Went to a meeting Sunday morning in a schoolhouse. Heard a discourse by a Welsh minister.

Monday morning, May 21, resumed our journey and arrived at the beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful village of Aplington at 5 PM. And here we have pitched our tent. Strangers and pilgrims on earth as our fathers were.

June 7<sup>th</sup> (to Frank)

You will perceive by the address of this that we have of length become citizens of the Hawkeye state. It was long a subject of discourse in the camp (*family*) opposed by me but favored by the majority of the members of the family, so, our course, I had to succumb to superior forces.

We left Rochelle (where we had been living the last two years) the 11<sup>th</sup> of May and arrived at our destination on the 21<sup>st</sup>, traveling in that time a distance of 270 miles, averaging 20 miles a day. We are located in the village designated at the commencement of this letter—a beautiful little place situated on the south bank of the Beaver River. The scenery around is very picturesque.

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1866 (to Sue)

You will not be surprised to hear that we have taken our abode in the Hawkeye State. The Mississippi, that Grand old Father of Waters, has at length become a barrier between us. We came out in our own conveyance - we chose this mode of traveling in preference to rail. It is much pleasanter. It gave us an opportunity to view the country. We passed through many beautiful tracts. The emigration westward this year is immense, truly astonishing. A procession of nine wagons has just passed.

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1866 (to Frances, a schoolmate)

By the time this letter shall have reached you, you will, no doubt, have heard of our safe arrival in the land that floweth with milk and honey. It was really amusing to hear the remarks persons would make as we met them on the road or in camp. Some would shout "Nebraskie, Iowa" (*your destination??*) or "There's a jolly load." Or "Old Daddy's goin' too" etc A singular phenomena of the country we passed through in our first two days of travel was that every bridge we came to, a dog would skedaddle from under it.

The village (*Aplington*) is far ahead of Rochelle. I mean in beauty and morals. We don't need a Lodge (*Temperance Lodge?*) here. No indeed! It is a strict temperance town. One of your miserable gray-holes (*taverns?*) would not be tolerated for an instant! No, we won't license men to deal out death to a fellow being. There is one tavern here, but nothing stronger than coffee can be procured. Travelers come along and inquire for beer. They have to go to Mr. Hall's pump to get it. I have not seen but one drunken person since we left Rochelle, and that was in Illinois. We don't have the fume of tobacco puffing in our faces at every corner of the street. There is one person in the town that chews and he has just moved here from Illinois. I have been on the street a good deal and have not heard an oath since we have been here.

The people are very kind and sociable - quite a number of persons have called on us. We have not yet returned

their call and they begin to complain that we are(n't) very neighborly. By the by, we lived in Rochelle three months before a solitary person called on us.

October 8, 1866 (to Judie)

You ask if there are many young people here. I answer in the negative. Our principal associate is Miss Wilson, the School teacher who will board with us this winter. She is a highly educated young lady, a graduate of the Iowa State College and more than all else an old school Presbyterian! We enjoy her company very much. I like it better here than I anticipated I should. It certainly is a lovely spot. Father purchased a house and lot in which we are pretty comfortably settled. It is situated in the side of a hill commanding a good view of the village. So you see we were not exposed to the trials and vexations incident to building. We have Methodist preaching in the school house every alternate Sabbath. Some of the time it is pretty good. Father has organized under the head of the American Sunday School Union, but as the majority that pretend to be anything are Methodist, we have a very sparse attendance.

Out in the West April 3, 1867 (to Judie)

We usually find something to do previous to the holidays. I was kept very, very busy making fancy work for the fair to be held at Cedar Falls on New Year's Eve for the benefit of the Presbyterian Sunday School of that city. Quilting etc. etc. for the donations has constituted a portion of our employment.

We have attended singing school twice a week through the winter. Parties, oyster suppers, and sleigh rides have also come in for their share of our attention. Too much of it, I fear. Sarah has been teaching the village school this winter. Her term expired a few days since. She got \$35 per month. Miss Wilson resigned and left here. We feel very lonesome without her. Sarah took her place. We all intend to teach this summer. Sarah, Jennie (*Jane?*), and Lydia have their schools already engaged. Lydia will get \$25 per month. I have not found one as yet.

We have preaching every Sabbath now. The Baptists have organized a church here and of course we cannot feel much at home with them. They have already immersed two persons. They did not wait for the ice to thaw out but cut a hole and put them under. Their clothes were frozen stiff the moment they came out of the water. The novelty of the thing attracted quite a crowd. Father's Sunday school has collapsed. The Methodists were afraid they would hear something of election. It is needless to say their fears were groundless.

August 6, 1867 (to Frances)

Mother and I have been alone the greater part of this summer or rather we two have done the work for the family. Lottie attends school, Sarah and Lydia have teaching. Sarah's term expires on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Sarah is engaged for 6 months and has been very, very successful thus far.

There has been a great deal of illness around these parts. We have been called on so often to wait on and sit up with the sick that we feel a little used up. I have sat up with two corpses. The whooping cough is making sad ravages among the children. There have been three deaths right in our village within the last two months.

I attended a celebration at Ackley on the Fourth. It was similar to all Fourth of July proceedings but I enjoyed it hugely. Lydia spent hers in the city of Cedar Falls, went down in the cars in the morning and back in the evening.

People visit once a week to sing. For a little variation we are going to Ackley in the hand cars one of these moonlit night to eat ice cream. Ha! Ha!

*Note to relatives from Janelle Willis: The area that the Smiths left (Dixon and Sterling) is the area where the Eckles family settled in the 1850's when they first came to the U.S. from England. Marmaduke Eckles (the father) is buried at Prairieville, near Sterling.*

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## Moving from Vermont to Aplington, Iowa - 1870

### JULIUS JAMES BURNHAM (Our great great grandfather)

Julius James Burnham was born on March 30, 1845 and was raised and educated in Vermont. After attending the district school, he advanced his education at the academy of Mankton Ridge and spent one term at Barre Academy. When he was seventeen years old he began teaching. Later he came west, first to Wisconsin where he taught school, and then he came on to Aplington in 1870. Before he was married he was in business in a hardware and furniture store and was also farming. His brother, Alfred S. Burnham, had also come from Wisconsin and they were in business together. They kept 40 to 50 cows and started a cheese factory in Aplington. In 1871 he traded the cows for land on section 26, Washington Township on the southwest corner of the intersection, 2 miles west of Aplington. In the spring of that year he moved there and taught school for two winters.

He married Mary Prall Smith on June 10, 1872. She was a native of Pennsylvania and came with her family to Aplington in 1865. Julius and Mary Burnham had 3 children and adopted another. Julius and Mary Burnham were founding members of the Presbyterian Church in Aplington. He died February 15, 1915.



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## **OUR EARLY ANCESTORS: And Their European Background and Early American Settlements**

Doreen E. Duba, April 2012

When I told Paul about our many ancestors he commented, "Somehow I thought of the Eckles and Allen families as 'tall Iowa corn growers from way back' but of course they came from elsewhere, even New Jersey, an ironic twist." And with that as an introduction I want to introduce some of these ancestors. Most of them emigrated from England, but several came from Ireland, Wales, Germany and France by way of Holland. They came for various reasons, but often because of their religious beliefs.

The sixteenth century Reformation led to religious ferment and division, and minorities of various faiths sought refuge in America. Such an impulse brought Quakers from England and Ireland, Puritans from England, Scotch Calvinists via Ireland, and Huguenots from France. Also, great economic changes took place in Europe in the 17th century. The old manorial system was breaking down, creating a large class of landless men ready to seek new homes.

### **THE PURITANS**

Our Puritan ancestor was on the Eckles side. The Rev. Matthew Randall, Jr. (14<sup>th</sup> generation – 1600-1668)<sup>21</sup> was a Puritan, a member of an extreme group of Protestants within the Church of England who thought the English Reformation had not gone far enough in reforming the doctrines and structure of the church. They wanted to purify their national church by eliminating every shred of Catholic influence, as well as any practices which were not found in Scripture.

The 17<sup>th</sup> century in England was a period of great unrest. In 1649, King Charles I was executed, the English monarchy was replaced by a Commonwealth under the dictatorial leadership of Oliver Cromwell. The Puritans now had their chance to push their agenda throughout England. Clergy who were Royalist in sympathy suffered greatly. Over a third of the Anglican clergy were deprived and their livings sequestered. Matthew, who had been ordained to the priesthood in the Church of England, was appointed as minister of several churches to replace sequestered rectors. On May 2, 1648 he was appointed to the Church of Saints Peter and Paul at the Bath Abbey which was an Anglican parish church.

In 1660, the monarchy was restored under the rule of King Charles II and the Church of England was reestablished as the national church. That year, Matthew refused to use the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England and found himself among the more than 2,000 clergymen, about one-fifth of the entire body of ministers, ejected from the Church of England. Although it is not known what became of Matthew after leaving High Ham, many ejected clergy were employed by small groups of like-minded Puritans, or as private chaplains by gentry families and were thus able to preach to predominantly small congregations.

Interestingly, Matthew's first son, John, who grew up during this unrest, decided to immigrate to the Rhode Island colony. There he encountered Baptists.

### **THE BAPTISTS**

Matthew's son, John Randall Sr. (12th generation, c1639-c1685), and his wife, Elizabeth Torrey, became leading members of the Baptist Church. It was Roger Williams who established the first Baptist Church in the American Colonies at Providence, Rhode Island in 1638, after fleeing the persecutions of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Puritans. Beginning in 1664, a schism began to arise within the Baptist Church. Several church members began to argue that Saturday, the seventh day of the week, should be consecrated as the Sabbath, rather than Sunday, the first day. Those who accepted this belief became known as Seventh Day or Sabbatarian Baptists. The Sabbatarians insisted that one could not discard the Fourth Commandment without denying all ten. In December 1671, seven members of the First Baptist Church of Newport, including John and Elizabeth Randall, seceded, and established the Colonies' first Sabbatarian Church at Westerly, RI.

Another Baptist ancestor was James Melvin Jones (5<sup>th</sup> generation, 1839-1911). He came from Indiana to Jefferson County, Iowa much as our Quaker ancestors. But he was a Baptist. When he married Phoebe Rosetta Coffin (5<sup>th</sup> generation – 1840-1929) she was "disowned" by the Quakers for "marrying outside the faith." They were members of the Howard Grove Baptist church and were buried in their cemetery.

### **THE DISSENTERS**

The dissenting ministers and their followers came to be known as Nonconformists, though originally this term referred to refusal to use certain vestments and ceremonies of the Church of England without separating from it.

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<sup>21</sup> In the Ancestral Charts following the Appendix the generations start with our children.



Dissenters opposed state interference in religious matters, and founded their own churches, educational institutions, and communities; some immigrated to America.

Hannah Leavitt (7th generation 1810-1894), wife of Marmaduke Eckles was a dissenter. She, Marmaduke, and their ten children left Hull England on the ship, ALLEN BROWN, on May 16, 1850 and arrived in New York on July 11. They left two days later for Dixon, IL.<sup>22</sup>

Samuel Hinckley, on the Eckles side (12th generation, 1589-1662) was also a dissenter, though on May 14, 1734/35, in order to escape out of England, he swore that he “conformed to the order and discipline of the church” of England. He had to take this oath or remain in England. He did outwardly “conform”, in order to save himself from imprisonment or persecution. He, his wife and four children, sailed to America from Sandwich, England, on the ship, HERCULES, arriving in Boston in 1635. His oldest son, Thomas (1618-1705) was governor of the Plymouth Colony from 1680-1692.

As a church member he doesn’t appear to have been intolerant, having been twice indicted for “entertaining strangers,” indicating that he belonged to the liberal party.

## THE HUGUENOTS

were members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France during the 16th and 17th centuries. French Protestants were inspired by the writings of John Calvin in the 1530s. By the end of the 17th century, roughly 200,000 Huguenots had been driven from France during a series of religious persecutions.

On the Eckles’ side of the family, Pierre Billiou (13<sup>th</sup> generation, 1625/35-1702) and his wife, Francoise DuBois (13th generation, 1622-1694/95) emigrated from France, first to Holland where they were married, and then with four of their children, they sailed for America on DE ST. JAN BAPTISTE on May 9, 1661. They settled on Staten Island where they established a settlement of Huguenots.

In the 12th generation also on the Eckles’ side of the family, Arendt Jansen Praal (1646/47-1725), a Huguenot, was probably born in the Netherlands. The earliest documented record of Arendt found in America is in the Old Dutch records of Kingston, New York from 1660. He and his family moved down the Hudson River from Kingston to Staten Island, NY.<sup>23</sup> In the 10<sup>th</sup> generation, the Prall family left Staten Island and moved to Hunterdon County, New Jersey where they remained until the 6<sup>th</sup> generation when Eliza Prall was born in 1809 in Hunterdon County and died in 1882 in Aplington, Iowa.



Sampler made by Eliza Prall

## THE PRESBYTERIANS

The roots of Presbyterianism lie in the European Reformation of the 16th century, with John Calvin being particularly influential. Most Presbyterians found in England can trace a Scottish connection. The roots of the Aplington Presbyterian Church go back to the original 14 charter members. Two of the charter members were George Bevan Smith (7<sup>th</sup> generation, 1805-1887) who emigrated from England, and his wife, Elizabeth Prall (7<sup>th</sup> generation, 1809-1882). He had five daughters who married and lived in Aplington, but only one, Lydia Smith Stockdale, was listed as a charter member. George Smith was elected the first and only elder for several years.

*The Genealogy of Marmaduke and Hannah Leavitt* does not mention the denomination of Marmaduke Eckles (6<sup>th</sup> generation, 1811-1855) though in his journal written aboard the ship ALLEN BROWN he mentioned that he read a sermon on Sunday. His son Robert (1842-1915), and Robert’s wife, Susan Randall (5<sup>th</sup> generation, 1853-1922), were Presbyterians, as well as Raymond Eckles (4<sup>th</sup> generation, 1876-1933). Both Julius Burnham (5<sup>th</sup> generation, 1845-1915) and Mary Smith Burnham (5<sup>th</sup> generation, 1846-1941) were Presbyterians and joined that church in Aplington after it was formed.

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

The Religious Society of Friends is a movement that began in England in the 17th century. Members of this movement are informally known as Quakers, a word that means, "to tremble in the way of the Lord." In its early days it

<sup>22</sup> See pp. 57-65 for a journal kept by Marmaduke Eckles and then a short article telling of their trip from New York City to Dixon, IL, written by Hannah Eckles Wetherbee.

<sup>23</sup> Prall’s Island is an uninhabited island in the Arthur Kill between Staten Island, New York and Linden, New Jersey.

faced opposition and persecution; however, it continued to expand, extending into many parts of the world. Quakers have been a significant part of the movements for the abolition of slavery, equal rights for women, and peace. They have also promoted education and the humane treatment of prisoners and the mentally ill, through the founding or reforming of various institutions.

On one side of the Allen family, the Quakers came from Ireland. John Allen II (10<sup>th</sup> generation, 1694-1771) emigrated from Ireland to Chester County, PA. The state of Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn in 1682, as a safe place for Quakers to live and practice their faith. In the 7<sup>th</sup> generation, the Allen family left Chester County, PA for



North Carolina. They remained there until the 5<sup>th</sup> generation when Wesley Allen (1839-1903) came with his widowed mother, two sisters, and a brother from North Carolina to Iowa and settled in Richland Township, Iowa. His wife, Mary Schelp, also a Quaker, was born in Maryland. When she was twelve years of age, her parents died and she was raised by a Quaker family, the Andrews, of Pleasant Plain, Iowa.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> generation Peter Allen II (1809-1846) married Rebecca Hadley (6<sup>th</sup> generation, 1819-1886). Her great great great grandfather, Simon Hadley I (11<sup>th</sup> generation, 1640-1711) also a Quaker, emigrated from England to Ireland. His son, Simon II (10<sup>th</sup> generation, 1675/76-1756), emigrated from Ireland to Pennsylvania where the Allens and Hadleys were active

members of the **New Garden MM in Chester County, PA**. The Hadley family also went to South Carolina. Simon's son, Joshua (9<sup>th</sup> generation – 1703-1760) married twice. The children of his first wife, Mary Howland, were active in the American Revolution and were disowned by the Quakers. The children of his second wife, Patience Brown (1712-1763), our line, were devout Quakers and took no part in the war and were against slavery. However, they were married by a priest which was contrary to Quaker practices and they were disowned by the New Garden, NC meeting (Quaker community) on April 24, 1736. Patience regained her membership by making acknowledgment and received a certificate to New Garden Monthly Meeting on July 30, 1737. Several generations of the Hadley family were disowned by the Moate Meeting in Ireland for various reasons. In fact these Hadleys just didn't seem to be cut out to be Quakers. They seemed to be constantly running afoul of some restriction or other imposed by the religion

On the other side of the Allen family, we have no information regarding the Jones immigrant. However, Evans Jones I (8<sup>th</sup> generation, 1740-c1808) went from Chester County, PA to the Quaker settlements in North Carolina. The Jones, Hadleys and Allens were active members of the **Cane Creek MM in Orange County, NC**. The next generation, Evans Jones II, left Orange County, NC and went to Orange County, Indiana.



However there is much more information regarding the Coffin family. Tristram Coffin (12<sup>th</sup> generation, 1609-1681) emigrated from England in 1642 with his wife and five small children. They went first to Haverhill in Norfolk County in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Tristram moved, with his family, to Nantucket Island in 1660. His grandson, Samuel "King Sam" Coffin (10<sup>th</sup> generation, 1680-1764) joined the Society of Friends in 1704 at the time of the revival on the island led by Thomas Story, a well known Quaker minister from England. Samuel's father and mother joined two years later.

Most of the early Coffin family was in the whaling industry<sup>24</sup>. However by 1770 the whaling industry was failing and the outbreak of the American Revolution interrupted shipping business. Samuel's son William and his family, on April 8, 1773 joined the 1771-1774 migration from Nantucket to Guilford County, North Carolina. At the time of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 1781, William Coffin's family buried the dead and opened their home for the wounded American officers. He was also one of the trustees of the New Garden Meeting House in Guilford. He gave his consent to use the meeting building as a hospital where the Quaker women cared for both the wounded American and British Privates. William Coffin is one of the few Quakers who were named a "Patriot" by the DAR.

The Quaker governor of North Carolina, John Archdale, guaranteed that Indians would not be enslaved and would serve in equal numbers with whites on juries when their rights were in question.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the Quakers went from Orange County, North Carolina to Orange County, Indiana to escape slavery. They brought with them a number of freed slaves. Word of mouth soon spread the news, and this land became part of the "underground railroad" for runaway slaves. In our family it was Bethuel Coffin (8<sup>th</sup> generation, 1756-

<sup>24</sup> See *The Cruise of The Nantucket Ships: ASIA, Captain Elijah Coffin And His Crew. & ALLIANCE, Captain Bartlett Coffin and His Crew to the Indian Ocean And The Coast Of New Holland In Search Of Whales And Seals, During The Years of Our Lord 1791 - 1792 - 1793 – 1794*, by Rod Dickson, Maritime Historian, 2007.

1839) who made this trek. His brother's son, Levi, (1798-1877) was born in North Carolina. He was a teacher. In 1821, with his cousin Vestal, he ran a Sunday school for Blacks. Alarmed slave owners, however, soon forced the school to close. Prior to 1826, Levi and his family also went to Indiana.

He was a key leader of the Underground Railroad, and claimed to have helped an average of 100 escaping slaves in his own home every year for 33 years. The fabled Underground Railroad was a network of over 3,000 homes and other "stations" that helped escaping slaves travel from the southern slave-holding states to freedom in the northern states and Canada. Despite being born and raised in the slave state of North Carolina, Levi was an adamant opponent of slavery. In his memoirs<sup>25</sup> he wrote, "Soon after we located at Newport, I found that we were on a line of the U.G.R.R. [Underground Railroad]. Fugitives often passed through that place, and generally stopped among the colored people. I learned that the fugitive slaves who took refuge with these people were often pursued and captured, the colored people not being very skillful in concealing them, or shrewd in making arrangements to forward them to Canada. I was willing to receive and aid as many fugitives as were disposed to come to my house. I knew that my wife's feelings and sympathies regarding this matter were the same as mine, and that she was willing to do her part.

"In the winter of 1826-27, fugitives began to come to our house, and as it became more widely known on different routes that the slaves fleeing from bondage would find a welcome and shelter at our house, and be forwarded safely on their journey. Soon friends in the neighborhood began to help and provide money. I found it necessary to keep a team and a wagon always at command, to convey the fugitive slaves on their journey. Sometimes, when we had large companies, one or two other teams and wagons were required. Escaping slaves were well hidden in this wagon with grain bags piled around the hiding area. These journeys had to be made at night, often through deep mud and bad roads, and along byways that were seldom traveled to avoid search parties. Three principal lines from the South converged at my house: one from Cincinnati, one from Madison, and one from Jeffersonville, Indiana. The roads were always in running order, the connections were good, the conductors active and zealous, and there was no lack of passengers. Seldom a week passed without our receiving passengers by the mysterious road."

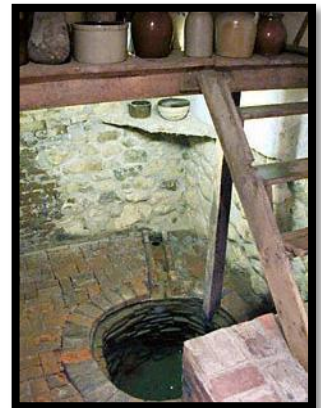


Levi's home, a Federal style brick home was built in 1839. The house was never searched because whenever a slave catcher would come to the house, Coffin would demand a warrant to search the house, which meant a 26 mile round trip to the county seat, Centerville, IN, by which time the fugitive slave would be long gone. If the house had ever been searched, secret doors within could hide as many as 14 fugitive slaves.

The house contained an unusual indoor well. This allowed the Coffins to conceal the large amount of water needed for extra "guests." Once in the house, the presence of the runaway slaves could be concealed for up to several weeks, until they gained enough strength to continue their journey.



So successful was the Coffin sanctuary that, while in Newport, not a single slave failed to reach freedom. Their house is now a registered National Historic Landmark.



<sup>25</sup> Coffin, Levi, *Reminiscences of Levi Coffin*, (Cincinnati: Western Tract Society, 1876).  
<http://www.nationalcenter.org/UndergroundRailroad.html>

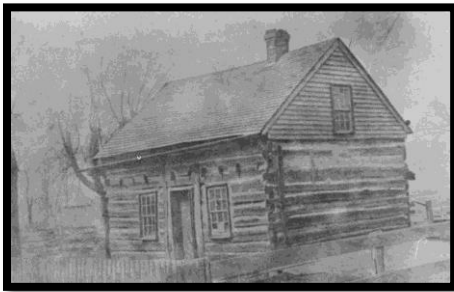


**Levi Coffin**



**Catharine Coffin**

When the first three Quaker families arrived in Iowa, they located a claim near the present town of Salem, Henry County, but at that time the territory was known as the Blackhawk Purchase. They decided to start a Quaker community. For two reasons, however, conditions were not desirable. One was that they were annoyed by slave



catchers from the Missouri border and the other was that they were close to the Mormon settlement in Illinois. So these Quaker families went about 35 miles north and formed the **Pleasant Plain Friends Meeting**.

The first building was built of logs, centrally located for those Quaker families which settled the neighborhood. In the sixth generation, Hervey Jones (1810-1873) and his wife, Rachel Mills (1808-1873), made the trek to Pleasant Plain, Iowa and joined this group. When the log meeting house was replaced in 1860 by a frame structure, the logs were marked as the building was taken apart. In the 5<sup>th</sup> generation, James Jones (1839-1911) and his wife, Phoebe (1840-1929), purchased it and rebuilt it and

lived in it for many years. I doubt that Grandma Allen was born there because she was the youngest of their nine children, born in 1878.



## OBITUARIES AND GRAVESTONES

### GEORGE BEVAN SMITH AND ELIZABETH (ELIZA) PRALL

George Smith was born in 1805 in Portskewett, England. He immigrated to New Jersey in 1826, where he taught school. From there he moved first to Wisconsin and then Illinois. In 1866 he moved to Aplington, Iowa. He married Eliza Prall on June 30, 1836. He died on November 3, 1887.

Eliza Prall was born on August 9, 1809 in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. She moved with her family from Illinois to Aplington, Iowa in 1866. She died on June 3, 1882. Their gravestone is in the middle section of Pleasant View Cemetery, Aplington, Iowa.



SMITH GRAVESTONE

### ROBERT ECKLES DIES FOLLOWING LONG ILLNESS

Obituary taken from *New Series*, Conrad, March 18, 1915

Well-Known Citizen and Prominent in the Pioneer Life of Northern Marshall County

Was Highly Esteemed Throughout the Community

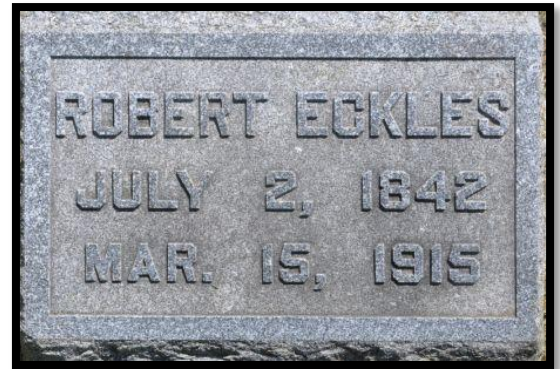
Death claimed one of Conrad's most highly respected citizens Monday morning at 9:45, when Robert Eckles passed away after an illness of several months duration, his death being due to abdominal cancer. His death was not sudden, for he had been failing for a long time and for several days was unconscious, but the community was shocked and grieved over the loss of one whom they had known for years and who stood high in the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Eckles was born in Yorkshire, England, July 2, 1842, being 72 years of age.

In 1850 he came with his parents to Sterling, Illinois, where he lived until 1865, when he moved to Marshall County. He bought a farm in Vienna Township and six months later took up his permanent residence there. On January 14, 1875 he was united in marriage with Susan Randall, who survives him. To them were born four children, three sons and one daughter. The daughter died in infancy. The three sons are Raymond, of Aplington; Howard, of Vienna Township, and Ward, living five miles north of Conrad. He leaves also one sister, Mrs. E. C. Wetherbee, of Marshalltown, two brothers, Charles, of Taylor Township, Marshall County and Marmaduke, of San Diego, California.

Mr. Eckles was one of a family of twelve children consisting of seven brothers and five sisters. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of this city and always took an active part in the councils of the church, and died in the full faith of a Christian man who had well played his part in life. By his life and labors he endeared himself to all who knew him and performed the duties of a true citizen, one who loved to encourage the best interests of the state and his home.

Funeral services were held from the Presbyterian Church, Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Carson, pastor, and attended by a large number of friends. A mixed quartet composed of Mesdames L. W. Kershner and Carl Leibsle, and Roy Romig and Homer Card sang. A profusion of beautiful floral offerings covered the casket, coming from a host of friends and church societies. The pall bearers were: Will, Chas. and Bert Stewart, Myron Randall, Orrin Soules and Ned Wetherbee. Internment was made in Conrad cemetery.



### SUSAN ECKLES

Obituary taken from *New Series*, Conrad, August 17, 1922

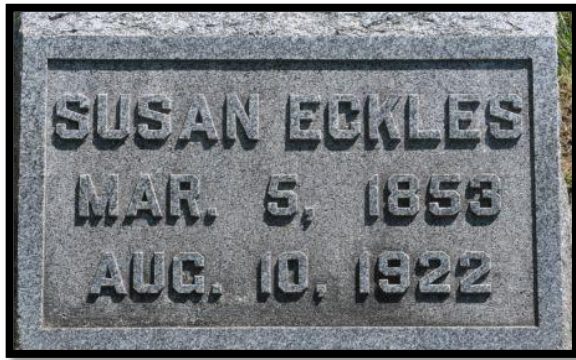
OLD RESIDENT CALLED BY DEATH

PARALYSIS THE CAUSE

Mrs. Eckles Succumbs After Long Illness Last Thursday

Last Thursday afternoon this community was again called upon to give up one of its old respected and honored citizens, this time Mrs. Susan Eckles was the one called to her reward. The funeral service was held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Presbyterian Church, services conducted by Rev. B. H. Guthrie. Internment was made in the Conrad cemetery beside her husband. Susan Eckles, daughter of Isaac and Emily Randall died Thursday, August 10 at 3:30 p.m. at her home in Conrad. On last Saturday she suffered a stroke of paralysis from which she never regained consciousness.

Susan Randall was born in Rock County, Wisconsin, March 5, 1853. As a young girl she came with her parents and settled in Grundy County, later moving to Vienna Township, Marshall County. There January 14, 1875 she was married to Robert Eckles and spent the greater part of her life on a farm joining her father's home.



About seventeen years ago she and her husband retired from the farm coming to a home in Conrad where she has resided ever since.

There March 15, 1915 her husband died.

She is survived by two sons, Raymond B. of Aplington and Howard L. of Vienna Township. A daughter, Florence, died in infancy and a son Ward L. died March 21, 1917.

There remains in her immediate family a brother, Charles Randall of Conrad and two sisters, Mrs. Dora Stewart and Miss Minnie Randall of Marshalltown. She is also survived by five grandchildren.

In her youth she became a member of the Baptist Church at Marshalltown but upon moving to Conrad she and her family united with the Presbyterian Church.

## JULIUS JAMES BURNHAM

Obituary taken from *Aplington News*, February 25, 1915

J. J. Burnham, a pioneer and highly respected resident of this locality passed away at about 6 o'clock Monday morning at his home west of town, where he had been confined to the house about a year.

Julius James Burnham was born in Lincoln, Vermont, April 1, 1845, died February 15, 1915, aged 69 years, 10 months and 14 days.

He was married in 1872 to Mary Prall Smith. To this union were born three children, Julius Homer, Almon Fredrick and Ena Mabel, both sons dying in infancy.

He came to Aplington, IA, in 1870, where he engaged in the hardware and furniture business and going onto the farm.

Throughout his life he held many positions of public trust and honor. He was a man of sterling integrity, holding the respect and confidence of his fellows - a man worthwhile. He was a model husband and affectionate father.

In early manhood he identified himself with the followers of Jesus, superintending the Sunday Schools and engaging in other active church work. On coming to Aplington he united with the Presbyterian Church of which he was an elder for a great many years and a liberal supporter, always sustaining interest in everything pertaining to its advancement.

His health was never of the best. He was for many years troubled from an ailment which became acute. About six years ago he underwent an operation at the Waterloo hospital.

Recovering from that, other complications developed, resulting in his death. He endured his suffering with fortitude, but often expressed a desire to go to his heavenly home. Sustained and soothed by an unflinching trust, his passing was very peaceful.

He was the last of a family of seven, his twin sister preceding him to the better land a little over a year ago. He is survived by his widow and his daughter, Mrs. R. B. Eckles and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held Wednesday at the Presbyterian Church, Rev. J. W. Bonnell of the Parkersburg Congregational Church, conducting the services, assisted by Rev. W. E. Todd of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Bonnell took for his text, Rev. 21-22. The hymns, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "Jesus Savior Pilot Me," and "Good Night," were beautifully rendered by the Misses Mathilda and Henrietta De Beck, Rev. Todd and Henry Arends.

He was laid to rest in Pleasant View cemetery. The floral offerings were beautiful and profuse.

The pallbearers were C. Jesse and E. Guy Stockdale, Walter G. Austin, C. Grant Whaley, W. S. Austin and D. Voogd.

Those attending from a distance were Mr. S. P. Smith and daughter, Mrs. J. A. Carpenter of Traer, C. G. Whaley of Bricelyn, MN, Mrs. S. A. Foote, Miss Margaret Burnham and Mr. Val Lahr of Parkersburg, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Austin and Mrs. Frank Watson of Dumont, H. Patterson and Herman Reints of Kesley.



## MRS. MARY P. BURNHAM, 94

Obituary taken from *Aplington News*, February 27, 1941

Mrs. Mary P. Burnham, a resident of this community for 75 years, was a daughter of Dr. Geo. B. and Eliza Prall Smith. She was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, June 28, 1846. After having lived in Flemington, N. J., Madison, Wis., and Rochelle, Ill. she came with her parents to Aplington in 1866, where she and her sisters engaged in teaching. She joined the Aplington Presbyterian Church not long after its organization and took an especially active part in raising the money for the church building. She was also active in the missionary work of that day and labored many years as President of the Ladies Aid Society.

She was married to Julius J. Burnham, June 10, 1872. To them were born three children, two sons who died in infancy and one daughter, Mrs. Ena Eckles. Her husband preceded her to their eternal home February 15, 1915.

There are three grandchildren: Lester B. Eckles, Gordon B. Eckles, and Dortha E. Willis and eight great-grandchildren besides nieces and nephews. Her death takes from us the last one of an early pioneer family. Her brother, Sheridan P. Smith farmed for some years in the vicinity of Austinville and her sisters, Mrs. Sarah Austin, Mrs. Jane Whaley, Mrs. Lydia Stockdale, and Mrs. Wm. Austin all married here and spent their lives in this community.

Mrs. Burnham was injured by a fall Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 19, resulting in a fractured hip. Complications followed and she died Saturday at Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo, about 2:30 p.m.

Services were held Monday at the home at 1:30 and at the Aplington Presbyterian Church with the pastor, Rev. Frederick W. Thompson in charge. Mrs. Harry Voss, Mrs. Robert Stockdale, Mrs. Glen Stockdale, Alfred Meyer, and Donald Harden sang some sacred numbers with Mrs. Dick Voogd at the piano.

The pall bearers were Will Austin, Dumont; W.C. Austin, Austinville; Guy Stockdale, Iowa Falls; Jesse Stockdale, Cedar Falls; Grant Whaley, Des Moines; and S.L. Patterson, Austinville. Interment was in the Pleasant View Cemetery just outside of Aplington.

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## RAYMOND BRUCE ECKLES

Obituary taken from *Aplington News*, January 11, 1933

The news of the sudden death of R. B. Eckles stunned this community, Sunday, and the sense of desolation and loss the news of his passing brought has been manifestly evident. Highly esteemed as a man of honorable life, with a friendly, cordial, interest in his fellow men, he has been honored with high office by his fellow citizens of the county, and community. In church matters earnest, devout and zealous. In educational matters of the town and district he was enthusiastic, and a leader. In progressive, scientific farming he was successful and influential. There is scarcely any activity that had to do with the well-being of one and all that did not share in his helpful interest. His place will be most difficult to fill.

Raymond Bruce Eckles was born August 6, 1876 on a farm in Marshall County. He was educated in the rural schools and graduated from the Iowa State College in 1896. Four years later in 1900, he married Ena M. Burnham of Aplington. For over two years he was professor of Agriculture and Dairying in a farm school for Jewish boys at Doylestown, PA. Making his home here in Butler County, Iowa, he has made a mark in the community life. For twenty years he has been a member of the Aplington consolidated school board, and for a number of years, until his death, has been president of the board. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1924 by the people of Butler County, he served during the 41st, 42nd, 42nd extra, and 43rd sessions. At the time of his death he was secretary of the Farmer's Elevator, vice-president of the County Farm Bureau, superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school (an office held for many years) and a member of the Church Session. For years he has served as a justice of the peace, and there were committee responsibilities given to him as a trust for his neighbors and friends.

Mr. Eckles was apparently in his usual health Saturday, and was engaged in sawing wood at the tenant house when he suffered a stroke about 4:00 in the afternoon. Calling his son, Gordon Bruce to assist him, he was immediately taken home and Dr. Rolfs summoned. Quietness and rest were prescribed to aid the treatment and it was hoped that the illness would not be serious. Developments later in the day indicated a grave condition and another physician was called in for consultation. Suffering much pain he passed into a state of coma about 10:00 p.m. from which he did not recover and death occurred at 3:30 Sunday morning.

To mourn his going there remain his widow, his eldest son, Lester, wife and three grandchildren, Robert Louis, Oliver Burnham, Nancy Ann; his son Gordon Bruce, his wife and latest grandchild, Doreen Elizabeth, a few days old; his





only daughter, Dotha who is a student at Iowa State College, Ames; and Mrs. Burnham, mother of Mrs. R. B. Eckles, who is 87 years old.

The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday at 2:00 and the body laid to rest in the Aplington cemetery.

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### ENA BURNHAM ECKLES

Obituary taken from *Aplington News*, February 26, 1956

Ena Burnham Eckles was born April 20, 1878, on the farm now known as the Jans Van Loh farm. She was the only child of Julius J. and Mary Smith Burnham, who were pioneer residents of this community. She attended schools in the local community and at Lennox preparatory school, Hopkinton, Iowa, before entering Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, where she received a degree in Liberal Arts in 1896.

Two years later she married Raymond Bruce Eckles of Marshall County. After spending two years in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Eckles was professor of Agriculture in a Jewish Boys' School, they returned to this community. They engaged in farming one mile west of Aplington until Mr. Eckles' death January 8, 1933. She continued to live on the farmstead until failing health made it advisable for her to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. George Willis, for the remaining years of her life.

In her youth she became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Aplington, which her grandfather, George B. Smith, was instrumental in organizing. She gave a lifetime of service in the church and taught in the Sunday School most of her adult life.

Mrs. Eckles was a faithful member of the church, and an example to all in her regular attendance at the worship services. She was in her place for both morning and evening worship up until January 11, when failing health interfered. Many of the younger members of the church will remember her especially as she feebly walked down the aisle to her accustomed place Sunday after Sunday.

To mourn her passing there remains a son, Gordon Bruce and a daughter, Dotha Willis, 18 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. A son, Lester Burnham, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held in the Presbyterian Church at 2:00 p.m., February 25th. The Rev. Wayne Gehman officiated. The body was laid to rest in Pleasant View Cemetery.

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### GORDON BRUCE ECKLES

Obituary taken from *Parkersburg Eclipse*, June 1980

Gordon Bruce Eckles of 1321 Circle Drive, Aplington, Iowa, died early Sunday morning, June 8, 1980, in Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa. He had been a patient for two weeks following a heart attack and died at the age of 73 years, 2 months, and 14 days.

Mr. Eckles was born the son of Raymond and Ena Burnham Eckles on March 25, 1907, in Butler County, west of Aplington, Iowa. He graduated from the Aplington High School and Iowa State College with a B.S. Degree in animal husbandry. On June 15, 1931, he was united in marriage with Dorothy Allen in the Collegiate Church in Ames, Iowa. They made their home west of Aplington and were blessed with 4 children, 3 daughters and a son. Mr. Eckles was active in farming until retiring and moving to their present home in Aplington in 1978.

Mr. Eckles was very active in his church, the First Presbyterian Church in Aplington, serving as Trustee, Elder, Sunday School Superintendent, Building Committee chairman and served for many years on committees of Presbytery. He also was active and was past President of these four organizations: Butler County Farm Bureau of which he was a lifelong member, Butler-Grundy Farm Service, Aplington School Board for 27 years and the Aplington Lions.

Mr. Eckles is survived by his: wife, Dorothy; 3 daughters, Mrs. Arlo (Doreen) Duba, Princeton, New Jersey, Mrs. B. J.

(Donna) Ukena, Ankeny, Iowa and Mrs. Leland (Mary) Meyer of Aplington, Iowa; 1 son, Milo Eckles of San Francisco, Calif; 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild; and one sister, Mrs. George (Dotha) Willis of Aplington, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 brother, Lester and 1 infant grandson.

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 11, 1980, in the First Presbyterian Church in Aplington with Rev. Charles Orr officiating. The organist will be Mrs. F. R. Meyer and the soloist will be Mr. F. R. Meyer. Casket bearers will be: Ivan Harken,





Myrlin Huisinga, James Willis, Howard Best, Dr. Eldon Uhlenhopp and Clarence Mead. Interment will follow in the Pleasant View Cemetery, Aplington, Iowa. Schwartz-Engelkes Funeral Home in Aplington was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

#### Information taken from another newspaper article

Bruce Eckles of Aplington (Butler County), a Farm Bureau member since 1930, has served his organization as secretary, vice president, president and voting delegate as well as being active at the state level. This service to Farm Bureau is nothing new for the Eckles family. His father was a charter member and helped to organize it in Butler County. Mr. Eckles has a general farming operation with emphasis on a Grade A dairy set-up (Brown Swiss) and cattle feeding. He started farming during the depression as he operated the home farm with his mother in 1933 after his father died.

Bruce strongly advocated conservation of soil. In 1973 he received a plaque for doing the most for conservation in Butler County. On his farm he had put in 29,310 feet of terraces and 25,958 feet of tile, a farm pond and 1.6 acres of waterway.

The name Eckles is legend with Farm Bureau. Bruce's father was a member when it was first organized and in 1931, when Bruce was married, he and Dorothy became members.

He served on various committees and in 1958 and 1960 served as Butler County Farm Bureau president. Mr. Eckles also served as Butler-Grundy Farm Service president and on many, many other committees. Bruce remained as active as his health would permit in various activities during the past year. We will all miss his familiar face.

We, Butler County Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Insurance, Butler-Grundy Farm Service and office personnel extend our sympathy to the family of Mr. Eckles.

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**DOROTHY PAULINE ALLEN ECKLES**, (January 20, 2000), age 94, of Aplington, Iowa, was born the daughter of Willis O. and Effie Jones Allen on December 22, 1905, in Jefferson County, Iowa. Dorothy received her Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa.

Dorothy taught Home Economics at Lake Park High School for 2 years. On June 15, 1931, Dorothy Allen was united in marriage with Gordon Bruce Eckles in Ames, Iowa. Dorothy was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Aplington, Farm Bureau Women, and the Federated Woman's Club. She was a 4-H leader for many years.

She became a resident at the Maple Manor Village, Aplington, in June of 1998. At 4:50 p.m. Thursday, January 20, 2000, Dorothy died at Maple Manor of natural causes. She reached the age of 94 years, and 29 days. Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bruce Eckles on June 8, 1980, a twin brother, Donald Allen; 2 sisters, Edith Smith and Faye Fleig;; and an infant grandson, James Ukena.

Dorothy is survived by: 1 son, Milo Eckles and his wife Sandra of Franktown, Colorado; 3 daughters, Doreen Duba and her husband Arlo of Hot Springs, Arkansas; Donna Ukena and her husband B.J. of Twin Lakes, Iowa; and Mary Meyer and her husband Leland of Aplington; 12 grandchildren; and 21 great grandchildren.

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#### DONNA UKENA

Messenger News, December 5, 2008

TWIN LAKES - Donna Ukena 74, passed away of pancreatic cancer on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008 at their home at Twin Lakes. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rockwell City, with the Rev. James Hoover Mossman and the Rev. Dr. Arlo Duba officiating. Following the funeral service, her wishes were to be



cremated. Visitation will be 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the Palmer & Swank Funeral Home, Rockwell City. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Rockwell City Public Library or to the Stewart Memorial Community Hospice. There will be luncheon following the funeral service at the Rockwell City Public Library & Community Center.

Donna is survived by her husband B.J. Ukena; son Barry (Cathy) Ukena and their daughters, Ashley and Rachel of Topeka, KS; daughter Debra (Scott) Jaspers and their children, Ginger Swensen, Jacob (Kristin) Van Gorp, and Lance Jaspers of Des Moines area; Leslie Ukena and her son Matthew Mlenar of Eyota, MN; and son Larry (Teresa) Ukena who lives next door to them with their daughters, Jordan, Megan, and Lauren; her siblings, Doreen (Arlo) Duba of Princeton, NJ, Mary (Leland) Meyer of Aplington, and Milo (Sandra) Eckles

of Parker, CO; and many nieces and nephews and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gordon Bruce and Dorothy Pauline Allen Eckles, and an infant son.

Donna Belle Eckles Ukena was born March 1, 1934 at Aplington, Iowa. She graduated from Aplington High School, and the University of Dubuque. She also graduated from Chicago's Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. Donna married her college sweetheart, B.J. Ukena in 1956 at Aplington. While B.J. completed his education, they lived in Chicago where Donna taught pediatrics at her alma mater. During their 52 years together, they served Iowa Presbyterian Churches in Greenfield, Ankeny, Des Moines, Independence, and Cedar Rapids. For 16 years, Donna was a nurse at the Ankeny Medical Clinic. While at Independence, she worked at the county hospital and nursing home before spending 10 years as the Independence/Rowley School Nurse. In 1997, the couple retired to their home at Twin Lakes.

Donna was a member and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Rockwell City, a member of the P.E.O., the Rockwell City Study Club, and served in many capacities in the Churches they had served. She frequently volunteered her services to Church Camps including the Twin Lakes Christian Center.

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### Obituary – Hervey Coffin



On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Sixth month, 1873, Hervey Coffin, in the 63<sup>d</sup> year of his age, a member of Pleasant Plain Monthly Meeting, Iowa. This dear Friend was, through redeeming grace, enable to bear a long illness with patience and resignation, and to evince to those around that, as his physical strength declined, the spiritual man waxed stronger and stronger. His main subject of conversation during his illness was on the mercies of God and his abundant blessing.

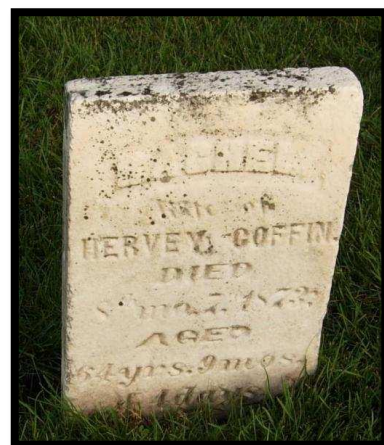
### Obituary – Rachel Mills Coffin

From the *Friends' Review*

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of the Eight month, 1873, Rachel, widow of the above Hervey Coffin, in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of her age; a

member of Pleasant Plain Monthly Meeting, Iowa. She was of a very quiet, retiring disposition, often speaking to her intimate friends of her unworthiness, but desiring that even the little she felt to do in the service of her Master might be done before the opportunity was taken away. A few days before she died, and while still able to be about and mingle with her friends, she told one of her daughters she thought her time was short with them, for she had heard a voice that morning, "The Master is come, and calleth for thee," and she said she saw nothing in her way. Soon after this she was seized with severe illness, and in a few days passed away.

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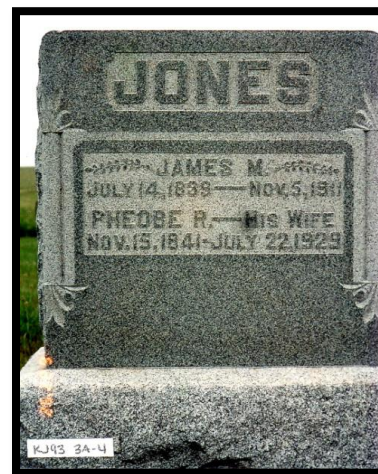


### Obituary - Phoebe R. JONES

"The Fairfield Ledger" Monday, July 22, 1929

Mrs. Phoebe Jones, pioneer resident of this county, died last night at the home of her granddaughter Mrs. Belva MACY at Richland. Burial will be at the Howard Grove Cemetery. She was the daughter of Henry and Rachel COFFIN, born Elwood, Ind. Nov. 1840. She is the last one of a family of ten children. She came with her folks to Pleasant Plain when she was 16 years old and they settled on a farm nearby; married Oct 29 1856 to James M. JONES. Children who survive are David J. of Cody, Wyo.; Alson, three miles n.w. of Fairfield; Harvey C. of Veo; Mrs. Wm. ALLEN of Richland; Mrs. Alva WATSON of Veo, and Wm. J. of this city. Two girls and a boy have preceded their parents in death. Her husband died Oct 29, 1911 on their 55th wedding anniversary.

Corrections: <sup>26</sup>



<sup>26</sup> Corrections made by Karl Jaeckel, great great grandson of James and Phoebe Coffin.

- 1) Died "last night" should probably have been "died this morning," as the paper was dated Monday, July 22, 1929,
  - 2) She was the daughter of Hervey Coffin (not Henry),
  - 3) Hervey and Rachel actually had 11 children, counting Rachel who died in infancy, so Phoebe was the last of 11 children (not 10),
  - 4) She was 15 years old when the family migrated from Indiana to Iowa in April and May of 1856 (not 16),
  - 5) She and "Jimmy" were married Oct 30, 1858 (not Oct 29, 1856),
  - 6) Mrs. Wm. Allen should be Mrs. Willis Allen,
  - 7) One son (Clinton) and one daughter (Carrie) preceded Jimmy and Phoebe in death (not "2 girls and a boy"),
  - 8) Jimmy died Nov 5, 1911 (not Oct 29). In this instance I trust the headstone and other family records,
  - 9) Jimmy died just past their 53rd anniversary (not "on their 55th wedding anniversary").
  - 10) Mrs. Alva Watson should be Mrs. Alda Watson,
  - 11) Wm. J of this city should be Wm. C. of this city.
- 

#### **Obituary - Set Rites at Richland for Mrs. (Effie) Allen, 83**

**Richland, Ia** - Mrs. Effie Allen, 83, died Tuesday evening (June 6, 1960) at the Helen Hadley rest home where she had been a patient for four years.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. CST at the Richland Methodist church in charge of the Rev. B. J. Ukena assisted by the local Methodist pastor, the Rev. Frederic Harris. Burial will be in the Friends cemetery.

Mrs. Allen was born March 1, 1878, in the Veo community south-east of Richland, the daughter of James and Phoebe Coffin Jones. She spent all her life in the Veo and Richland communities. She was married at Veo Jan. 1, 1900, to W. O. Allen. They lived in Veo until 1925 when they moved to a farm near Richland and later into town. She was a member for many years of the Howard Grove Baptist church and later attended the local Methodist church.

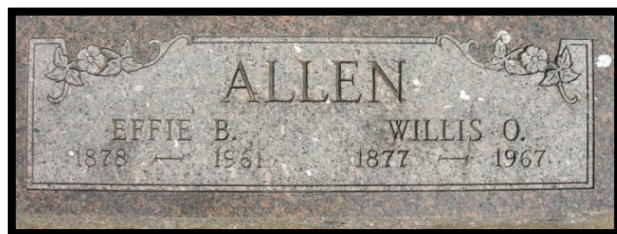
Survivors are her husband; three daughters, Mrs. Gilbert Smith, Stockport, Mrs. Gilbert Fleig, Cherokee, and Mrs. Bruce Eckles; and one son, Donald Allen of Richland. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. She was the last of a family of seven, four brother and two sisters preceding her in death.

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#### **Obituary – Willis O. Allen**

**Richland, IA** – Willis O. Allen, 90, died at 6 p.m. Sunday (August 6, 1967) at the Fairfield Convalescent Home where he had resided for one year.

He was the son of Wesley and Mary Shelp Allen, born March 7, 1877, near Richland. He married Effie Jones of Veo, on January 1, 1900. She preceded him in death in 1960. They had lived in Veo and in the Richland Communities. He was a member of the Richland Friends Church and was a longtime farmer and dairyman and had served for many years as a drayman meeting all passenger trains at the Richland depot. They moved from Veo to Richland in 1925; moving into town from a farm in 1940.



Surviving are one son Donald of Sioux City; three daughters, Mrs. Edith Smith of Stockport, Mrs. Faye Fleig of Cherokee and Mrs. Dorothy Eckles of Aplington; 13 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Richland Methodist Church with the Rev. Larry G. Wiley officiating. Burial will be in Richland Friends Cemetery. Gould Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.





## 1866 – From Rochelle, Illinois to Aplington, Iowa



**Directions from Rochelle, IL to Aplington, IA using current highways: 258 miles, 4 hours 11 minutes**

**Directions from Rochelle, IL to Aplington, IA in 1866: 270 miles, 11 days**

1. Friday, May 11, 1866 – Left Sterling, IL  
Camped at Dixon Friday night
2. Saturday, May 12 – Crossed the Rock River at Sterling, IL
3. Saturday and Sunday, May 13  
Camped at Round Grove  
Went to meeting, Sunday afternoon; heard Baptist minister
4. Monday, May 14 – Passed through Morrison  
Crossed the "Father of Waters" on a steam ferry boat
5. Tuesday, May 15 – Passed through DeWitt, Mount Station, IA  
Camped at Toronto, IA
6. Wednesday, May 16 – Passed through Massillion and Clarence, IA  
Camped four miles west of Mechanicsville, IA
7. Thursday, May 17 – Passed through Mechanicsville, Lisbon, Mt Vernon and Marion, IA  
Camped in a woods at Cedar Rapids, IA
8. Friday, May 18  
Camped in Vinton grove
9. Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20  
Camped in woods west of Waterloo  
Went to meeting in a school house; sermon by a Welsh minister
10. Monday, May 21 – arrived in Aplington at 5:00 p.m.  
A beautiful place situated on the south bank of the Beaver River  
Total distance 270 miles, about 20 miles a day

# ANCESTRAL CHARTS

These charts represent a small part of history, of how America and the Midwest were settled. Our Huguenot ancestors were persecuted by the Catholics and went from France, to Germany, to Holland, and then immigrated to Staten Island. Our Puritan ancestors left England because of the Anglicans and went from Plymouth and settled in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Our Quaker ancestors (again because of the Anglicans in England) went first to Pennsylvania or Nantucket, and then most migrated to North Carolina where there was a large settlement of Quakers. Then our immediate ancestors went to Indiana. Another group, no religion mentioned went to Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Then of course they all came to Iowa at one time or the other. Some came directly to Aplington (Smiths and Burnhams), others to Marshall County, IA (Eckles and Randalls), Jefferson County, IA (Jones), and Keokuk County, IA (Allens). The last two mentioned were Quakers and there was a large settlement of Quakers in southeast Iowa. Then our Eckles grandparents met at Iowa State College in Ames and were married. Grandpa Eckles moved from Marshall County to Grandma Eckles' farm west of Aplington. Our parents also went to Iowa State College and were married. Mother moved from Jefferson County to Daddy's farm next to Grandpa and Grandma Eckles' farm, west of Aplington. And there you have it – how our section of the Midwest was won.

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