

Appendix

Residents and Former Residents of the Road¹

I. **Abandoned Farms** (listed by 1995 owner and going east to west down road)

A. **The first farm**

South side Section 7, Garfield Township

Owned by Velma Ives who lives on the farm on the highway on the east side of section.

Farmed by her daughter's family, the Kathy and Gary Dahls. The Ives family bought the farm in 1983 from the Gunderson family.

1. DAN and Mary Allen
 - a. lived there 1973–1976
 - b. now live in Rolfe but Dan farms for my folks
2. John and Katherine Schurr
 - a. John was a hired hand for the Gundersons 1963–1971.
 - b. 4 children, 3 older ones did not live on road
 - (1) ELAINE IRLBECK, Coon Rapids, farm woman
3. Henry Hank and MARIE BAADE
 - a. Hank was a hired hand for the Gundersons 1960–62
 - b. children
 - (1) Karen Pedersen, Scotts Valley, CA, homemaker
 - (2) David, Fort Dodge, Cenex Land O Lakes
 - (3) Joyce Coburn, Liverpoole, NY, Dictaphone for doctor's office
 - (4) Susan Hundertmark, Rutland, Humboldt Sausage Company in lab
4. Lyman and Arlene George
 - a. tenants 1941–1958 for the Bruce heirs, then for John Gunderson who bought the farm in 1955
 - b. children
 - (1) Willard Bill, Des Moines, deceased 1963 at age of 42
 - (2) LORENE GUSTAFSON, Spirit Lake
 - (3) Ada Marie Colee, Blooming Prairie, MN, deceased
 - (4) BERTHA ELLEN WISEMAN, Mt. Pleasant
 - (5) Norma Jean Groenwold, Rushmore, MN
 - (6) MARJORIE SIMONSON, Des Moines
5. Jim and Carrie DeWolf
 - a. tenants for the Bruce heirs 1920–41
 - (1) ROGER DEWOLF, Eagle Grove, owner livestock equipment business
 - (2) Beverly Wiegert, rural Bradgate, farm woman
 - (3) Phyllis Thompson, Hayfield, MN, farm woman
6. Mary and Robert Hunter, Sr.
 - a. owners 1896–1910
 - b. 6 children: Ronda, William, Albert, Jennie, Clara, and Robert G. (Bobby 1898–1975 produce person and Maytag salesman in Rolfe)

1. This outline was prepared in 1995. It includes all names that were available through my research; however, it is not an exhaustive listing of the people who have lived along the road. Children are listed from oldest to youngest. Italicized name is nickname person goes by. CAPITALIZED NAME indicates a key contact person for the project. Dates and occupations are roughly accurate.

B. The Brinkman farm

North side Section 8, Garfield Township

Owned by California relatives. Farmed by ROBERT BRINKMAN

1. Floyd and Naomi Page
 - a. Floyd was a Brinkman hired hand 1947–1955.
 - b. 10 children, youngest did not live on road
 - (1) LAVONNE HOWLAND, Rolfe, cake and dressmaker
 - (2) MARLENE LINDEMAN, Dakota City, works in dress shop
 - (3) Dean, Farnhamville, deceased
 - (4) Sharon Sutton, St. Louis, American Airlines
 - (5) Max, Dakota City, Chantland manufacturing
 - (6) Steve, Fort Dodge, Iowa Illinois Gas and Electricity
 - (7) Barbara Barb Osterberg, Fort Dodge Becker’s florist shop
 - (8) Cheryl Geis, Duncomb, deceased
 - (9) Douglas Doug, Madison, WI
2. Albert and Hattie Ercelle Peers
 - a. Albert was a Brinkman hired hand 1928–1932.
 - b. WANDA HODGELL, rural Gilmore, farm woman
 - c. Helen Johnson, Webb, deceased
 - d. Audrey Johnson, Manson
 - e. Violet Vi Schoon, Arkansas (born in house on farm in 1930)

C. The Cornwell farm

Northeast corner Section 14, Roosevelt Township

Owned by Joy Cornwell. Farmed by Paul Howard. Bought by Cornwell family in 1895.

1. Irving and Velma Cornwell
 - a. owners 1946–1983
 - b. Daughter, Joy Cornwell Palmer, Forest City, medical journal librarian

D. The farm where the Jordans lived

South side, Section 10, Roosevelt Township. Owned by Martha Gunderson Carlson, who lives in Florida. Farmed by Dan and Roger Allen. Bought by Gunderson family in the 1960s.

1. Russel and Mary Jane Jordan
 - a. tenants 1951–1958 then they moved to the building site on north side of section until 1975
 - b. children
 - (1) Pam Wolfe, Elkhorn, The Woodshop retail store
 - (2) Judy Marnin, Atlantic, community college administrator
 - (3) Janet, Red Oak, elementary school teacher
 - (4) Jeanne Jordan, Boston, MA, video editor
 - (5) Jim, Atlantic area, quit farming and is going back to school
 - (6) Jon, Atlantic area, owns a trophy shop
2. Nels Pederson ?–1950

E. **The Shimon farm**

Northeast quarter, Section 15, Roosevelt Township

Owned by Marjorie Shimon of Pocahontas. Farmed by Chuck Wheatley. Bought by Shimon family in 1892.

1. Marshall and Marjorie Otto
 - a. tenants 1948–1963
 - b. 10 children, two youngest did not live on the road
 - (1) Shirley Najjar, Milpitas, CA
 - (2) JUDY LARSON, Anderson, CA
 - (3) Susan Otto, Omaha, NE
 - (4) Kathleen Wassam, Michigan
 - (5) Nona McLeran, Cherokee Village, AK
 - (6) Mark, Omaha, NE
 - (7) Weston, Santa Clara, CA
 - (8) Daniel, Minneapolis Lakeville, MN
2. SAM and Alberta Simpson
 - a. tenants March 1946–March 1949
 - b. 9 children, youngest five did not live on the road
 - (1) Allen, Boston, full-time sergeant in army reserves medical division
 - (2) Paul, dead, killed 25 years ago in motorcycle accident in CA
 - (3) Mavis Forby, Greenville, SC, clerk in a mission thrift store
 - (4) Linda Cordeiro, Des Moines, accountant for Brenton Bank
3. Adolph and Agnes Sefcik
 - a. tenants 1933–1940
 - b. children
 - (1) Albert, rural Pocahontas, farmer
 - (2) DENNIS, Laurens, Roman Catholic priest

F. **The Grant farm**

East half of northwest quarter, Section 15, Roosevelt Township

Owned by Lois Grant of Pocahontas. Farmed by Bob Joens.

Bought by Grant family in 1920.

1. BOB and Marlene Joens 1960
2. Henry and Esther Joens 1952–57 (Bob's uncle and Marjorie Otto's parents)
3. Cap and Addie Grant 1920–52
 - a. Duncan, Pocahontas, former county treasurer, deceased
 - b. DON, Colo, retired ISU engineering professor

G. **The last farm**

Southwest quarter, Section 9, Roosevelt Township

Owned by Mildred Ives of southern California. Farmed by Paul Harrold.

Bought by Ives family in 1954.

1. The Agnes and Harrold Young, Sr.
 - a. Harrold was a hired hand 1957.
 - b. children
 - (1) CHERALELLEN MORGAN, Clear Lake, teacher
 - (2) Joyce Means, Creston, disabled
 - (3) Harrold, Gunnison, CO, service manager in hardware store
2. Les and Opal Allen
 - a. Les was a hired hand 1955-56.
 - b. 7 children, youngest five probably did not live here
 - (1) DAN, Rolfe, farms for my folks
 - (2) ROGER, Pocahontas, farms for my folks
3. Henry Hank and MARIE BAADE, newly married hired hand March 1947–March 1948

II. **Occupied Farms** (listed by 1995 residents from east to west along road)

A. **The Reigelsberger farm**

South side, Section 12, Roosevelt Township

Farmed by Mick Reigelsberger. Bought by Eva and Lee Reigelsberger in 1929 who then moved there.

1. MICK AND SUE Reigelsberger, 1992–current
 - a. Mick's parents, Joe and Norine Reigelsberger, moved to Rolfe from farm in 1992
 - b. Mick's brother, Greg, lives in Ft. Dodge and is part owner of Stile's Golf, Bowling, and Trophy Shop
2. JOE AND NORINE Reigelsberger, November 1953–November 1992 (married August 13, 1953)
3. Eva and Lee Reigelsberger 1929–November 1953
 - a. children
 - (1) Joe, Rolfe, Pioneer Seed Dealer and retired farmer
 - (2) Helen Woelfel, Edina, MN, nursing instructor and related work
 - (3) Mary Therese Welford, Louisville, KY, retired medical records librarian
4. James Dady 1918–1928

B. **The Gunderson farm**

North side, Section 13, Roosevelt Township

Farmed by Dan and Roger Allen. Bought by John Gunderson in 1939.

1. Deane and Marion Gunderson 1945–present
 - a. Children
 - (1) Clara Hoover, Omaha, school librarian, computer administrator
 - (2) Charles, Rolfe, attorney and farm manager
 - (3) Helen, Gilbert, photographer and videographer
 - (4) Martha Carlson, Largo, FL, communications
 - (5) Margaret Peggy Moore, Detroit, MI, homemaker and student
 - (6) Louise Shimon, Perry, public school media specialist

2. Fred Baade (not related to Henry Baade) was tenant for Rosa Dady and her estate @1920s–30s
3. David and Rosa Dady, 1883–1916, Rosa until 1929

C. **The Harrold farm**

South side, Section 11, Roosevelt Township

Farmed by Paul Harrold. Bought by Marion and Gladys Davis in 1942 who then moved there.

1. MARJORIE Harrold 1942–present and son PAUL 1976–present
2. Marjorie (Davis) and Faber Harrold married 1947, Faber died in 1989
 - a. children
 - (1) Paul Harrold lives with Marjorie and farms
 - (2) Paulelda Gilbert, Fort Dodge, food and nutrition specialist with ISU Extension Service
3. Marion and Gladys Davis lived there 1942–1952
 - a. Three sons and one daughter, Marjorie. The oldest boy was already farming on his own when the Davis family moved to the road. The next two boys, Melvin and Milton, were only there from spring through the fall of 1942.
4. The Biederman family lived there in the early 30s.
5. Cap and Addie Grant and two infant sons lived there 1918–1920.

D. **The Howard farm**

Northwest quarter, Section 14, Roosevelt Township

Farmed by Paul Harrold. Bought by Harry and Marian Howard in 1939 who moved there in 1940.

1. VELMA AND VERLE Howard lived there December 1961–present (married May 19, 1947)
 - a. Randy, Elkhorn, WI, in sales for Rexall
 - b. Joy Hayes, Aeia, HI, CEO for Perry’s restaurant chain
 - c. Monte, deceased, fell off grain elevator while on construction job in July 1970
 - d. Hope Schneider, Battle Creek, NE, physical therapist in hospital
 - e. Kelly Hartman, Kanawha, account executive, telephone sales, with All-Star Pro Golf in Clarion
 - f. Karen Leyba, Thermopolis, WY, speech pathologist/therapist in hospital and schools
2. Harry and Marian Howard lived there 1940–December 1961

Had four children but the older two did not live on the road. Their two twins moved to the road with Harry and Marian, then graduated from high school in 1941.

 - a. Verle, lives on farm now, is retired
 - b. Doris, lives in California
 3. Walter Gahm, tenant 1933–March 1939

The Swamplands¹

an 1884 perspective by J. J. Bruce

On the 28th of September, 1850, an act of Congress was approved by which the United States granted to the State of Iowa all of the swamp and overflowed lands within the limits of the state then undisposed of. Two years later the State of Iowa, by an act of the General Assembly, approved Feb. 2, 1853, granted these “swamp and overflowed lands” to the counties in which they were situated, and made provision for their selection. This was the status of these lands when Pocahontas county was organized. David Slosson, on behalf of the county and in pursuance of these acts, as soon as he was elected County Judge in March, 1859, entered into a contract with Ringland & Brady, of Fort Dodge, for their special survey and selection. As this contract does not appear on the records it is impossible to give its exact terms, but it has been stated the surveyors were to receive for their services a certain compensation for each acre thus selected. Two selections were made during the year 1859. The first one, by Messrs. Ringland & Brady, was rejected as a whole by the commissioner of the general land office; and one is not surprised at this result when it is known that the whole of township 91, range 32 (Lincoln), was included as swamp. The second one was made by G. S. Ringland and Guernsey Smith, who made their report Aug. 3, 1859. In this report they state that they were appointed commissioners by the County Judge to make selections of the swamp and overflowed lands, and it is presumed that such was the case, although no entry of their contract or appointment is found on the records. They swear that “they have examined the lines of each and every tract selected, and that the greater part of each is swamp and overflowed land.” The number of acres according to their footing is 72,075.75, an amount equal to 114 sections or six sections more than three townships — about one-fifth of the entire county.

At this day it seems quite incredible that an amount of land so large should have been reported under oath as “swamp and overflowed.” There are, however, three good reasons which may in a measure explain why an amount so large was selected. In the first place the compensation for the selection and survey was based on the number of acres selected; second, at that time the value of these treeless prairie lands was neither realized nor appreciated on the part of the pioneer residents of the county, many of whom were indifferent to a certain extent as to what became of them; and third, the cupidity of the parties who conspired to become possessors of so vast a domain. This second selection, however, had to be submitted to the commissioner of the general land office for his approval or rejection.

The contract with William E. Clark, of Baltimore, Md., of date Oct. 18, 1859, and declared Nov. 21st, following, as having been approved by the people on Nov. 14, 1860, “for good and valuable considerations in hand paid” was assigned by W. E. Clark to John M. Stockdale, of Webster County. The latter, under President Buchanan, had been register of the U.S. land office at Fort Dodge, and the former proved to be a mere figurehead working under his direction. When Lincoln was elected, the latter soon retired from the land office and assumed open control of his scheme.

1. This report of the Pocahontas County swamplands controversy is from pages 189–191 of R.E. Flickenger’s book *The Early History of Iowa and Pioneer History of Pocahontas County* published by The Fonda Times in 1904. The account was originally written by J. J. Bruce for the *Pocahontas Record*, May 1, 1884, and later published in the *Plat Book of Pocahontas County*, 1887, page 5.

The public building and bridge when completed by John M. Stockdale were accepted, and on Dec. 9, 1860, there was deeded to him, according to the government survey, 76,250 acres of land in Pocahontas County, the deed containing a clause that expressly released the county from all liability arising from the reclaiming of these lands. This deed was attested by John A. James, County Judge, and the estimated value of the lands conveyed was \$91,000.

It will be noticed that until this date the title to these lands rested upon an act of Congress and a subsequent one by the General Assembly of Iowa, both of which were of a general nature referring to a certain class of lands, namely, "swamp and overflowed lands" and not to particular tracts. This left the title of particular tracts without foundation until the selections should be approved by the government and their respective patents be issued. Until the land in particular tracts should be patented to the county, its title thereto would be imperfect and its deed to another would of course convey no title to the land. This was the kind of deed given to John M. Stockdale, who understood its imperfect nature, but expecting to secure the approval of his entire list, he was willing to let the entire matter rest in that condition. He began at once to sell particular tracts, putting his lists in the hands of agents in all parts of the country. He gave warranty deeds, selling generally large quantities to each purchaser and representing to parties purchasing that patents could be procured at any time upon application, but as the land was not taxable until patented, it was better to let them lie as they were and thus avoid taxation.

Of the 76,250 acres deeded by the county to John M. Stockdale, the commissioner of the general land office approved and issued patents to him for 29,000 acres, and formally rejected the remaining 47,000 acres as not swamp land within the meaning of the act. The last were disposed of by patent as follows: about 27,000 acres in a body to the Dubuque and Pacific Ry. Co., some to the Des Moines Valley Ry. Co., some to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Ry. Co., some to the Agricultural College, some to cash purchasers and others were claimed by homesteaders. Nearly all of these lands are now occupied as farms. The tracts patented to the county on which the taxes have been paid annually, thereby avoiding entanglement by tax sales, have good and perfect title.

Another remarkable incident in the story of the swamplands is the fact that John M. Stockdale under his imperfect deed from the county, continued to sell all the lands included therein, he seeming to be entirely indifferent about the matter of patent. The fact that most of these lands had been patented to other parties made no difference to him so long as he could find buyers willing to purchase from him. The last lot sold by him was in the year 1882; it contained 9,000 acres and the price paid was \$200. Of the 29,000 acres patented to him and upon which the taxes have been paid the county probably suffered no great loss, since the amount originally received together with the taxes and interest paid would amount to about the present value of the land. The misfortune of the transaction came in a subsequent period of litigation over titles and consequent uncertainty in the minds of owners as to the stability of their tenures.

It will be seen, from this brief resume, that patented swamplands have good titles and the rejected selections had no valid title through John M. Stockdale.* The traffic in these respective swamplands was a great scandal upon land titles and many innocent parties were bled severely.

*Mr. Stockdale died in Washington, Pa., Sept. 17, 1897. He was well known to the early settlers of this county, and the titles to many farms bear his name as their first owner.

Corn Statistics

Iowa's Top Corn Growing Counties in 2000

County	Bushels (000)
Kossuth	47,940
Sioux	34,439
Pottawattamie	30,880
Webster	30,131
Pocahontas	27,163
Wright	26,860
Benton	26,239
Hancock	25,940
Clinton	25,681
Plymouth	25,668

The History of Iowa Corn Yields and Prices

Crop Year	Average Bushels per Acre	Average Price per Bushel*	Total Bushels Produced for Grain (in thousands)
1866	32		57,920
1867	41		74,210
1868	41		76,545
1869	34		69,680
1870	40		102,000
1871	44		133,110
1872	41		137,760
1873	33		117,000
1874	34		141,100
1875	35		161,000
1876	34		176,800
1877	34		194,300
1878	41		247,050
1879	42		275,226

*Average price received by farmers

**Preliminary calculation

***Prior to 1919, the harvested and production figures are for all corn, including that used for silage.

****The data for 2003 is based on forecasted numbers dated November 1, 2003.

From Iowa Agricultural Statistics. State Statistician: Jim Sands
 210 Walnut Street, Suite 833, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2195
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ia> nass-ia@nass.usda.gov 1-800-772-0825

1880	40		274,525
1881	30		195,900
1882	31		205,570
1883	29		203,000
1884	40		290,720
1885	37		276,670
1886	29		230,840
1887	30		243,600
1888	40		333,380
1889	41		355,593
1890	28		246,120
1891	41		366,120
1892	31		239,730
1893	38		306,750
1894	15		131,250
1895	39		353,730
1896	43		393,880
1897	34		302,170
1898	36		311,760
1899	39		345,644
1900	45		409,500
1901	29		269,610
1902	38		363,280
1903	33		273,325
1904	39		372,450
1905	42		398,400
1906	46		439,075
1907	35		339,500
1908	38		355,300
1909	37	***\$0.52	348,777
1910	42	\$0.42	395,495
1911	36	\$0.60	349,675
1912	46	\$0.44	456,320
1913	38	\$0.61	364,500
1914	41	\$0.64	398,925
1915	33	\$0.63	321,750
1916	38	\$1.15	372,400
1917	39	\$1.30	404,250
1918	37	\$1.40	362,600
1919	42	\$1.34	368,950

1920	46	\$0.47	424,534
1921	43	\$0.41	396,718
1922	45	\$0.64	395,415
1923	41	\$0.75	364,743
1924	28	\$1.01	245,476
1925	44	\$0.60	424,294
1926	39	\$0.69	371,085
1927	35	\$0.83	316,225
1928	42	\$0.76	404,708
1929	40	\$0.73	389,297
1930	34	\$0.52	334,254
1931	33	\$0.28	330,217
1932	43	\$0.30	462,121
1933	40	\$0.50	417,400
1934	28	\$0.79	160,768
1935	38	\$0.62	340,556
1936	20	\$1.07	148,900
1937	45	\$0.44	460,800
1938	46	\$0.46	452,824
1939	52	\$0.53	467,712
1940	53	\$0.57	452,760
1941	51	\$0.72	439,416
1942	60	\$0.86	547,980
1943	55	\$0.99	556,985
1944	53	\$0.98	545,842
1945	45	\$1.23	441,618
1946	57	\$1.53	604,200
1947	31	\$2.15	297,228
1948	61	\$1.31	649,286
1949	47	\$1.27	521,747
1950	49	\$1.52	455,706
1951	44	\$1.61	421,080
1952	63	\$1.50	653,062
1953	53	\$1.50	572,983
1954	55	\$1.45	545,763
1955	49	\$1.44	499,210
1956	54	\$1.31	503,596
1957	62	\$1.50	611,320
1958	66	\$1.08	645,612
1959	65	\$1.01	789,035

1960	64	\$0.97	772,541
1961	76	\$1.09	753,188
1962	77	\$1.09	745,129
1963	80	\$1.05	851,600
1964	78	\$1.12	754,695
1965	82	\$1.13	814,506
1966	89	\$1.17	901,748
1967	89	\$1.01	986,332
1968	93	\$1.07	909,075
1969	99	\$1.11	945,351
1970	86	\$1.25	866,622
1971	102	\$1.04	1,178,100
1972	116	\$1.65	1,229,600
1973	107	\$2.58	1,206,960
1974	80	\$2.97	968,000
1975	90	\$2.50	1,117,800
1976	91	\$2.05	1,173,900
1977	86	\$1.99	1,092,200
1978	115	NA	1,477,750
1979	127	\$2.45	1,663,700
1980	110	\$3.00	1,463,000
1981	125	\$2.34	1,731,250
1982	120	\$2.69	1,578,000
1983	87	\$3.12	743,850
1984	112	\$2.51	1,444,800
1985	126	\$2.02	1,707,300
1986	135	\$1.41	1,626,750
1987	130	\$1.89	1,319,500
1988	84	\$2.45	898,800
1989	118	\$2.29	1,445,500
1990	126	\$2.21	1,562,400
1991	117	\$2.30	1,427,400
1992	147	\$2.00	1,903,650
1993	80	\$2.44	880,000
1994	152	\$2.22	1,915,200
1995	123	\$3.20	1,426,800
1996	138	\$2.60	1,711,200
1997	138	\$2.33	1,642,200
1998	145	\$1.86	1,769,000
1999	149	\$1.94	1,758,200
2000	144	\$1.77	1,728,000
2001	146	\$1.90	1,664,400
2002	165	**\$2.25	1,963,500
2003	****159		****1,908,000

From the yet to be published book *The Road I Grew Up On: Requiem for a Vanishing Era*
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