

**THE REEVES FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA,
KENTUCKY, MISSOURI AND IOWA**

by

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Retyped in Microsoft Word by Michael L. Wilson, April 2017.

I obtained a copy of this document from John M. Wanamaker in June 2002.

It is presented as I got it, without trying to correct errors. The notes in brackets [] are by John.

Further information can be found on my web site at:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mlwilson/>

THE REEVES FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY, MISSOURI AND IOWA.

PREFACE

Compiling this history has been quite an adventure. I began with a single sheet of paper – a mimeographed copy of a typewritten copy of the obituary of Benjamin H. Reeves. The paper was yellowed and the print was slanted down-hill from left to right and of poor quality. I do not know the origin of this paper. I only know it is something that I have “always had”.

My next find, entirely by accident, was a plaque on a building in “Old Town” St. Charles, Mo. We had stopped to spend the night on a trip back from Pennsylvania in the summer of 1996. The dinner hour led us to explore the historic shop and restaurant district nearby. There on a shop front was a plaque that read; “Site of Eckert’s Tavern 1826 – 1846. In 1824 Congress authorized a trade road to Santa-Fe and appointed Geo. C. Sibley, Benj. Reeves and Thomas Mather to survey the route. Final reports of this survey were written here in the latter part of 1827.” Imagine my surprise!

I then discovered the State Historical Society of Missouri and its “Western Historical Manuscript Collection”. On inquiry they sent me material on Benjamin H. Reeves and suggested I come down to Columbia to go through their collection of the correspondence of Abiel Leonard, the son-in-law of B.H. Reeves. I did that and at the same time made the accidental “discovery” of Oakwood at Fayette. Also about this time I began to discover the vast amount of information on the Internet and with all this I soon began to reconstruct the history of this family in their movements back-and-forth to and from Kentucky and Missouri and finally on to Iowa.

This is a long story, covering many years, lots of people, four states and much history, both of our country and of our family. I have tried to be accurate as to names, places and dates. There is a lot of misinformation on the Internet and I have attempted to sort out and ignore that which does not fit with the facts that I know, or believe, to be accurate.

These families, as with most that I have traced in this book, were very large, with many duplication of names. It was impossible to trace all the branches of the various Reeves family, but I tried to include some detail about a few of them. I found more information on these and they seemed to be tied more intimately to the history of our branch of the family. I have included in this category William L. Reeves, Jeanette Reeves Leonard and Reeves Leonard.

Jeanette Reeves’s husband, Judge Abiel Leonard was a saver of all letters that he or his family members received. This correspondence has been archived at the Western Heritage Library at the University of Missouri. It has been an invaluable reference and the sine qua non of my knowledge of much of the more personal parts of the Reeves story, especially for that period after B.H. Reeves’s return to Kentucky in 1836, after his years in Howard county, Missouri.

An unexpected source of information was the book, “Pinafores and Pantelletes” at the time we “accidentally” discovered Oakwood, the original residence of Jeanette (Reeves) and Abiel Leonard, completed in 1834. We discovered the existence of this home on the barest and most coincidental evidence, which led to a tour of the home by its gracious owners. They gave me valuable information about the Reeves family, including Jeanette, and gave us a copy of the

lovely little novella which is the basis for my research on the Leonard family and the subject of my "Notes".

I do not have much information on my great-grandfather, Benjamin Reeves, son of Benjamin H. Reeves. I am able to follow his trail from his birthplace in Missouri to Kentucky, back to Missouri and on to Iowa with all dates and places, and I can establish his marriage to Martha Kaziah Patton, the birth of his children and his general activity in all three states, but the details are sparse. I can find no record of him, other than his listing as a slave-holder in 1864, between the Howard county census records of 1860 and his migration to Fremont county, Iowa in 1872.

One wonders what motivated the family to move from one location to the next, generally in a westerly direction. All the branches of our family have repeated this pattern and the easy answer is cheap (or free) land. As each generation grew up they found that the best land was taken and that the family farms could not be divided among their large families. So as the children reached adulthood they moved farther west where abundant land was available for homesteading. In the case of the Reeves family's move from Kentucky to Missouri Territory in 1819, we find in the history books that a bank panic occurred in Kentucky in that year, but we have no way of knowing whether this was a factor in their removal. At any rate they were part of a very large influx of immigrants from Kentucky and Tennessee that arrived in Howard County, Missouri that year.

THE REEVES FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY, MISSOURI AND IOWA.

CHAPTER 1 Beginnings

A contemporary obituary of Benjamin Harrison Reeves begins as follows: *“Benjamin H. Reeves, the oldest son of Brewer and Martha Reeves, was born in Augusta County, Virginia, on the 21st of March, 1787, and moved with his parents to Christian County, Kentucky, about the commencement of the present century, and settled on the west fork of Red River.*

I believe our ancestor was named for Benjamin Harrison of Virginia – a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was Governor of the state of Virginia from 1772 to 1785. His son and great-grandson later became presidents of the United States.

The family settled in what is now Todd county, Kentucky. On their website (www.rootsweb.com), on the page devoted to the history of the town of Trenton, in “Todd County Past” we find:

“The first authentic date of a settlement is 1796, when Brewer and Martha Reeves arrived from Virginia. At that time the area was part of Christian and Logan Counties.”

The obituary continues: *Shortly after their arrival in Kentucky his father died, leaving his widow and infant children comparatively in a wilderness, surrounded by the red men of the forest. His mother, a lady of uncommon energy, firmness, and fine powers of mind, richly stored with truths of the Gospel, in the absence of anything like good schools, laid the foundation for his future elevation in life by her industry, and with his assistance they managed to support the younger members of the family. To them he was both a parent and elder brother, his heart seemed to be entwined around them during life. By his own generous worth and energy of character he soon acquired the esteem and confidence of his countrymen.”*

SKETCHES OF THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF TODD COUNTY¹

By Urban E. Kennedy

“Now all this beautiful, barren limestone country, from the Russelville and Hopkinsville road, was unsettled, only where they could find a spot of timber, in which they would build their cabins. On Spring Creek, where it crosses the Nashville road, John Moore settled. He was the father of John Moore who yet resides there; also of Mrs. S. W. Talliaferro, and Andrew Moore, deceased. Maj. Sam Moore, his brother, settled at the point where Trenton now stands. At this point the road from Clarksville to Greenville then crossed. He had located a large body of land which he sold to Louis Leavell. The next was Robert Coleman, of whom we spoke in No. two. About two miles down the West Fork from Coleman’s, was Davis’ Station where all the settlers forded. There lived the Davis family, father of W. C. Davis, the Clarks, the Blues, and old Brewer Reeves, father of Col. Ben [Benjamin H.], Archy [Archibald], Ottoway [Otway] and Willis L. Reeves. of whom we spoke in No. 3. Then west of Coleman’s lived the Bollingers, Kenners, Finleys, Norths, etc. Then as you come up the creek where [were?] the Adamases, McFaddens and John Campbell, the old surveyor of Christian County. Henry

¹ Reprint from articles published in the “Todd County Witness” Elkton, Kentucky 1872.

Carpenter, one of the very first pioneers lived where Rev. Thos. G. Reese now resides; he was a full blooded Dutchman and it was said when he cut the first timber at that place, he was on a long [log?] chopping, his rifle setting by his side, with his pipe in his mouth. The Indians slipped up near him, and fired at him and made a bullet hole in his hunting shirt. He dropped his ax, picked up his gun, and in double quick time to the (Davis') station, some miles distant, and had his pipe in his mouth smoking when he got to the station gate. All this was said of him, I cannot vouch for the truth of it, but he was a hardy hard old Dutchman. He built a block house for his defense; this I have often seen with its double doors and port holes through which to shoot when attacked by the savages of the forest."

From the same series of articles:

"I cannot recollect all the representatives but I must not stop without paying some tribute of respect to the Hon. Benjamin H. Reeves. My opinion is, and admitted by many, that Reeves was one of the most faithful servants of his constituents both in Christian and then Todd Counties that we ever had; and was one of the most brilliant stump debators [sic], and the finest military officer I ever saw mount a horse or give the word of command. He had red hair and we gave him the sobriquet of 'old sorrall [sic]';"

Also, regarding B.H.'s brother, Willis L. Reeves:

"Well, in '30, the first circuit court was held in Elkton, then the 7th judicial district. Judge Ben Shackelford presided, and R.P. Henry was commonwealth's attorney. At this court Willis L. Reeves produced his certificate and was sworn in, clerk of the circuit court; he was a man of great piety and ability, ruling elder in the C. P. Church, which was felt, and acknowledged by the community for good. He remained in office supplanted by Ben T. Perkins under the new Constitution. The grand jury was empaneled – I thought then and yet think of the very best men for minds and morals in our county."

Benjamin H. married Martha Donnelly in Lincoln Co. Ky. in 1806. Their first child, William L., was born in 1807, followed by Davis Clark, named for his grandmother, Martha Davis Reeves, in 1809, and Peggy in 1811, who died in infancy. Then came Jeanette, born in 1809, and Mary Elizabeth in 1817.

Benjamin H.'s obituary resumes: "*On the declaration of war between this country and Great Britain in 1812, he took up arms in defense of his country's rights and was on the 4th day of July in that year elected Captain of the first company of volunteers from Christian County, and in a short time joined the army in the then Territory, now state of Indiana, stated [?stationed] at Vincennes, was shortly after promoted to the rank of Major; commanded an escort to the relief of Zachary Taylor, the present President of the United States. In November 1812 he returned to Kentucky, having been at the August election previous elected a member of the Legislature from Christian, and took his seat as a member of that body on the first Monday in December thereafter and continued a member of that body, with an exception of one or two years, until 1818 when he moved to the then Territory of Missouri.*"



Benjamin H. Reeves

CHAPTER 2 To Missouri

According to "History of Howard & Chariton Counties, Missouri" of 1883:

"Benjamin Reeves was from Todd County, Kentucky. Included in the wagon train that came from that county in 1819 to Howard county, Missouri were William L. Reeves, Benjamin Givens, Edward Davis, Colonel Joseph Davis, judge Edward Davis, and Colonel Horner. They all settled in the northeastern part of Moniteau Township, Randolph County, which was organized in 1821."

Since women and children were not normally included in early narratives, not included in this account was Benjamin H.'s wife Martha Reeves. In addition to their oldest child, twelve-year-old William L., the family included six-year-old Jeanette, nine-year-old Davis Clark and one-year-old Mary Elizabeth. One can be sure that Benjamin H.'s widowed mother, also named Martha (Davis) Reeves was also in the party. It is not known whether the Davises in the troupe were related to Martha (Davis) Reeves. William L. Reeves later married Hannah Ann, the daughter of Benjamin and Polly Givens. Mrs. Givens and Mrs. B.H. Reeves may have been sisters as both had the maiden name of Donnelly. At any rate the two families remained closely associated through the years.

Howard County was organized in 1816 and named for Benjamin Howard, the first Missouri Territorial governor. It was later divided into 29 new counties and parts of 9 others and was known as "The Mother of Counties". One of the earliest visitors to the area were sons of Daniel Boone, who worked a salt lick as early as 1807. The city of Franklin, the first and largest settlement west of St. Louis, named for Benjamin Franklin, had its beginnings about 1810 and was officially laid-out in 1817, a little over a year before the Reeves party arrived from Kentucky. It was sited on the north bank of the Missouri River, about 200 river miles west of St. Louis and represented the western outpost of the settled country at that time and a jumping-off place for ventures up the Missouri River into Indian Country. The town grew rapidly, and by the fall of 1819 immigration had become a flood. According to the "Missouri Intelligencer and Boon's Lick Advertiser" of Nov. 19, 1819:

The emigration to this territory and particularly to this country, during the present season, almost exceeds belief. Those who have arrived in this quarter are principally from Kentucky, Tennessee, etc. Immense numbers of wagons, carriages, carts, etc., with families have for some time past been daily arriving. During the month of October it is stated that no less than 271 wagons and four-wheeled carriages and carts passed near St. Charles, bound principally for Boon's Lick. It is calculated that the number of persons accompanying these wagons could not be less than 3,000.

The city of Fayette was laid out in 1823, to replace Franklin as County Seat, due to the encroaching Missouri River. The town was named for the Marquis de Lafayette.

According to research by the Randolph County Historical Society, Benjamin H. Reeves was:

"...the third person in line at the land office to buy land from the government in Howard County. The date was February 15, 1819 in Franklin, Howard County, Missouri Territory. At this time he bought 160 acres, followed by another 160 acres two days

later. All around him, the people he came with to Missouri also took out land, especially in Howard County.

“After getting settled, and getting his first crop planted, Benjamin went back to the Franklin Land Office on June 30, to file five more Patents for 800 additional acres.”

Most of his Patents were in the vicinity of Moniteau Creek in Howard county and in what is now Moniteau township in southern Randolph county. His Patents eventually totaled some 1200 acres purchased in February and June, 1819.

A notable event in 1819 was the arrival at Franklin, on May 28, of the steamer Independence, of Capt. John Nelson – the first which ever attempted the navigation of the Missouri River. Col. Elias Rector and others, of St. Louis, had chartered her at Louisville, Ky., to go up the Missouri as high as the town of Chariton, now a deserted town two miles above Glasgow, near the mouth of the Chariton River. She left St. Louis May 15, 1819, and arrived at Franklin, Howard County, on May 28, “occasioning the wildest excitement and the greatest joy among the people.” She was saluted by the firing of cannon, which was returned by the Independence.

CHAPTER 3 Making History

The obituary continues: *“In 1821 he was elected a Delegate from the County of Howard to assist in framing a Constitution for that state, and was a few years thereafter elected Lieutenant Governor of Missouri.”*

Reeves was not content to be only a farmer after his political career in Kentucky. In 1819 he was a member of the Howard County grand jury which protested against Congress’ interference in the slavery question for the proposed state of Missouri. He was a delegate to the first constitutional convention in St. Louis the next year. The convention met on June 12, 1820 and completed it’s work July 19, 1820. The Constitution was ratified by the people at the ensuing election and, as a result of the Missouri Compromise, statehood ensued. Benjamin H. Reeves was one of the signers of the Constitution and “one suspects that the duplication of Kentucky constitutional phraseology found in Missouri’s first constitution is due in part to the presence of Reeves, so recently from the political life of that state.”²

B.H. was elected Auditor of the new state in 1821, and State Senator in 1822. He was an Adams elector in 1824. In 1824 he was elected the state’s second Lieutenant Governor, succeeding Wm. H. Ashley, of fur-trading fame³. That same year 15 year-old Christopher (Kit) Carson became apprenticed to a saddler in Franklin. The family had moved to the Boone’s lick country, later Howard County, in 1811.

² Missouri Historical Review (?date).

³ On 13 Feb. 1822 the following add appeared in the “Missouri Gazette and Public Advertiser”: “Wish to engage 100 men to ascend the river Missouri to its source, there to be employed for 1, 2, or 3 years – for particulars enquire of Major Andrew Henry.....or to the subscriber at St. Louis.” William H. Ashley. One of those responding was Jedediah Smith, the future famous mountain man and explorer.

More of the obituary: *In 1826 he was appointed by the Government of the U. S. a Commissioner to survey and mark out a road from Missouri to the Spanish provinces in a direction to Santa Fe.*

Beginning in 1821, an overland trade had developed between the United States frontier in Missouri and the settlements at Santa Fe and other northern outposts of the newly-independent republic of Mexico. The trade had grown from a pioneering party led in that year by William Becknell, starting from Franklin, with their \$300 in trade goods transported on horseback.

By 1824 the trade had developed into a regular and profitable series of caravans. The business attracted the attention of politicians, especially the U.S. Senator from Missouri, Thomas Hart Benton (the father-in-law of John C. Fremont, the “Pathfinder”). Benton introduced legislation in congress to finance the survey and marking of a road across the plains from the Missouri settlements to Santa Fe. By then the route was generally well known and the primary need was not as much for a map of the route, as for protection from the Indians along the way, who saw the goods, horses and mules of the trains as fair game.

Benton was successful in his endeavors in Congress and on March 3, 1825, just before his term ended in favor of John Quincy Adams, President James Monroe signed the bill authorizing \$10,000 for surveying and marking the road, and \$20,000 for acquiring treaties with the Indians for a right of way.

On March 16, 1825, President Adams appointed the 3 Commissioners: Benjamin H. Reeves of Howard Co., Missouri; Pierre Menard of Kaskaska, Ill, who resigned and was replaced by Thomas Mather, also of Kaskaska; and George C. Sibley of Fort Osage, Missouri. “The choice of Reeves was obvious, as he was undoubtedly the most influential citizen of Howard County, which had become the center of the Santa Fe trade.”⁴

Joseph C. Brown was selected as surveyor for the party. He had made several notable surveys. In 1815 he determined the base line for the 5th Principal Meridian, the basis for legal descriptions of much of the Midwest. The following year he surveyed the Osage Indian boundary from Fort Osage to the Arkansas River. In 1823 Brown made two other important surveys – determination of the western boundary of Missouri south of the Kansas River, and the determination of the Missouri – Arkansas line. Later in his career his determination of the north border of Missouri became the basis for an intense controversy that was ended only by decree of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1849. The result was moving the Iowa – Missouri boundary a few miles to the south of Brown’s line.⁵

Archibald Gamble was taken on as Secretary of the expedition. There were some two hundred applications for the positions of surveyor and secretary.

The rank and file of the party contained several names famous in the history of the American west. In the roster we find: Steven Cooper, as pilot; William Sherley “Old Bill” Williams hired as interpreter; Joe Walker – “surely no greater figure emerges from the hundreds of Mountain Men than he”⁶ – his brother Joel Walker; Andrew Brodhus and Andrew Carson, an older half-brother of Kit.

⁴ “The Road To Santa Fe” University of New Mexico Press.

⁵ This decree assured the location of Hamburg to be in Iowa and not in Missouri.

⁶ “The Road To Santa Fe”.

Reeves and Sibley agreed on a division of duties to prepare for the survey (Mather's late appointment slowed his participation). Sibley was to assemble what necessarily had to be procured in St. Louis – wagons, supplies, horses to pull the wagons and wagoners to drive them. Reeves was to purchase horses and mules in the upper country (around Franklin), assemble a party of chainmen, hunters, and guards, and select someone to captain the men and act as pilot.

Sibley, Brown and Gamble, with the wagons, reached Franklin, 165 miles from St. Louis, on July 2. There the party was held up for 2 days for repairs, alterations and the celebration of National Independence Day. A public dinner was held in honor of the day. The vice president of the occasion toasted "...the two Westward Expeditions; one up the Missouri, the other across toward New Mexico. May success and our country's aggrandizement be the result of each'. Benjamin Reeves, who had joined the expedition at Franklin, drank to '...Our Country – It advances to its brilliant destinies under the auspicious reign of Liberty and Law.' Sibley honored Howard Co.: 'A few years since I saw it as a trackless wilderness; now it is the left arm of the state'. And Archibald Gamble offered a toast to '...Daniel Boone, the pioneer of the west; his descendants may yet see the Seat of Empire in the recent trackless desert'.⁷

By July 12 the entire party had crossed the Missouri River at Arrow Rock and had reached Fort Osage, point of beginning for the survey. There were forty persons, fifty-seven horses and mules, seven baggage wagons, a good supply of provisions, tools and ammunition. The team was instructed in exactness and accuracy, because, as Senator Benton wrote to Sibley, "the main idea is thoroughness for it is not a County or State Road which they have to mark out but a highway between nations". Reeves resigned his position as Lieutenant Governor in order to devote his attention to his appointment and set out with the caravan. On August 4th Governor Frederic Bates died in office, which would have made Reeves Governor had he not just resigned. The position was awarded temporarily to Abraham Williams, the president pro tem of the Senate. In a letter addressed to "Col. Benj. H. Reeves "Wheresoever, etc.," Thomas Boggs observed that, "You have missed a chance", and stated that if he (Reeves) would come back in off the Santa Fe Road, and run in the special election for Governor, he could likely beat any of the "other boys elegantly." But Reeves continued as Commissioner.

About 70 miles west of Ft. Osage the surveying party met a trading caravan returning from the west. They reported an unpleasant encounter with the Osages near the mouth of the Little Arkansas. The party had been relieved of 120 horses and mules and otherwise treated badly.

The survey party was getting along fairly well, in spite of having to do much of their traveling at night, due to the hordes of prairie flies that made life miserable for man and beast alike. By August 5 they had gone far enough out onto the prairie that they had left the worst of the flies behind.

On the evening of August 8, Archibald Gamble came in with fifty of the principal chiefs and warriors of the Great and Little Osages, and with Old Bill Williams as interpreter. After some explanation and negotiation, a treaty was signed allowing for the marking of a road through the land of the Osages and for the "free use of it forever". In honor of the proceedings, the place was named Council Grove. The commissioners compensated the tribe with \$300

⁷ The "Missouri Intelligencer"; Franklin, Missouri, July 9, 1825.

worth of trade goods and vouchers for \$500 more to be taken out in ammunition, knives etc. at the trading house on the Marais Des Cygnes River.

Bill Williams set out immediately to invite the chiefs and warriors of the Kansas tribe to a council at some convenient spot farther west. On August 14 he returned with two of the Kansas tribe and that fifty more would overtake them the next day. Two days later the Commissioners and the Kansas chiefs and warriors concluded a treaty very much like that with the Osages. It may have been here that Reeves learned the Indian remedy for rattlesnake bite. He later wrote that they “take the inner part of a turkey buzzard’s maw. Dry it into powder – apply it to the wound.”

The going was not all tough, as Sibley wrote in his journal:

Thursday 25th August. The morning fair and pleasant. Busy all day writing and gathering seeds. Buffalo passing all day near camp – several fat ones killed. At a short distance from camp, the men get great quantities of very fine plums. Horses doing very well here. We intend to stay several days. The day generally cloudy and warm. John Walker lost his horse, saddle and blankets. He ran off with a gang of buffalo.

On September 11, the party arrived at the Arkansas at the point where it was cut by the 100th meridian. This point marked the border with Mexico, established by treaty in 1819. There they waited for word that their government had secured permission from the Mexican government to continue the survey into Mexican territory. The word did not come. The commissioners decided to divide the party, with Sibley proceeding on toward Santa Fe and Mather and Reeves returning to Missouri. On September 20 the groups parted in opposite directions.

The diary of Reeves begins on October 8 and states that “our Horses appear as if they must fail before we get in”. An advance party went on ahead toward the settlements to procure fresh horses for relief of the party. Nine days later the relief party returned with replacements for the rapidly declining stock. The party reached civilization on Oct. 24, Reeves recording: “...came in sight of Mr. Young’s – the first white Man’s habitation which I saw since 18th July...”

The Santa Fe Road business behind him (although the ordeal over accounts with the U.S. government did not conclude until 1834), Reeves was again an Adams elector in 1828. William L. Reeves, Benjamin H.’s oldest child married Martha Brown at Fayette on October 29, 1829. The new bride died some 2 weeks later on November 14. We have no record of the details. In December, 1831, he married again, to Hannah Ann Givens, daughter of Benjamin and Polly Givens.

The obituary: *In the recent Indian wars on the frontiers of Missouri he again took up arms in defense of his country.*

In 1829 there was serious trouble at a settlement on the Chariton River in Randolph County, to the north of Fayette. A band of roving Iowas, Sioux and Winnebago attacked the settlement, killing three people and wounding several others.⁸ When news of the attack reached surrounding counties, armed volunteers were organized from to relieve and protect the area. The Howard County contingent was commanded by Colonel Major Horner. Benjamin H. Reeves and his soon-to-be son-in-law, Abiel Leonard, were members of the contingent sent to

⁸ “History of Boone County, Mo.” 1882.

put down the uprising. Reeves was later elected a Colonel of Volunteers in the district of which Howard County was a part. Horner was a member of the wagon train that brought the Reeves family to Missouri in 1819.

On January 26, 1830 Benjamin H. and Martha Reeves' last child was born and was named Benjamin⁹, after his father. In October of the same year Jeanette Reeves married Abiel Leonard¹⁰, a prominent lawyer of Fayette.

In 1832 B.H. was again elected to the Missouri Senate. In a letter¹¹ in 1833, Reeves describes a cholera epidemic at Palmyra, in northeast Missouri:

"We are all in a state of great alarm on account of the Cholera news from Palmyra The Mail carrier of this morning confirms the other verbal accounts which we previous have of the great fatality and extent of that dreadful Scourge in that place and its vicinity. Among the numerous other deaths that of Mr Blakey the late lance officer is mentioned. The panic there is said to be so great that the population – the farmers in particular, has quit all business and given up their farms and crops.....Many of the inhabitants of this place is now laid up with diarreah or bowel complaint, said or feared to be a premonitory cholera symptom.....Some Dozen of other cases less violent also occur, myself among those number, indeed I am scarcely able to be out of bed.....It may be that Heaven will stay the spread of that most dreadful disease."

During these years Reeves alludes on several occasions in his correspondence to the ill health of his wife. She died, I believe, in 1835. That same year, in June, Mary Elizabeth Reeves married William Adair Wilson. They settled in Saline County, Missouri, where their eight children were born, the first named Benjamin Harrison Wilson.

So, in that year, after the death of his wife, Benjamin H., with his son Benjamin, returned to the state from which he emigrated some seventeen years before.

CHAPTER 4 Back to Kentucky

The obituary continues: *In 1836 he returned from Missouri, and settled in Todd County Ky.*

That same year, or early the next, Benjamin H. married thirty-year-old Mrs. Virginia (Garth) Cross. In a March 30 letter to his sister Jeanette, Davis Clark Reeves states that he is:

"...pleased with the companion our father has chosen, She is sensible, prudent and affectionate". In the letter he confided to Jeanette that..."my mind was brought to bear on years that are past when we were all under the protection of a father and mother, and

⁹ I have never discovered a middle name.

¹⁰ A native of Windsor, Vermont, Leonard had come to the Boone's Lick area in 1815. See Appendix.

¹¹ All letters in this narrative were taken from the "Western Historical Manuscript Collection", 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri-Columbia.

to contrast this period of our existences with that, exhibits how great the changes of a few fleeting seasons have made in our family.”

In 1838 a daughter was born to Benjamin H. and Virginia, who they named Missouri Reeves.

And: *The partiality of his countrymen called him to represent them in the legislature in several successive years.*

That same year Reeves was returned to the Kentucky legislature, where he had served so many years before. During this two year term he was involved with a matter which he wrote to describe to his son-in-law, Abiel Leonard:

“No news to give you so as to attract your attention, save what may grow out of the slavery question, connected as that question is with a portion of the border citizens of this state and what is called the Abolitionists of the State of Ohio. The latter it is alleged [sic] is [sic] in the habit of crossing the Ohio River and enticing away the slaves of this state and aiding them with the means of flight in money and transportation to Canada. Within the last few months it is said a single county in this state on the Ohio River has lost some twenty thousand dollars worth of slaves. This clandestine movement has been developed in a late judicial investigation in the published Mahan case. Resolutions have been introduced in this legislature to appoint commrs. to repair to Ohio, their legislature being in session, to negotiate on this truly delicate subject and to urge the passage of such laws in that state as will restrain their own citizens from thus interfering with the rights of their neighbors. commissioners have been appointed and tomorrow or next day they will repair to Columbus in Ohio and open that matter. how it will end God only knows. It is pregnant as I fear with the fate of the Union.”

In 1840 Jeanette sent word that her grandmother, B.H.’s mother, Martha Reeves, had died, prompting a poignant reply from B.H. That same year, Virginia gave birth to another daughter, given the name Eugenia. In a letter to Jeanette, he writes: “My own health is quite good, but never before have I felt what the world has justly called me for years – an old man.”

The next year Col. Reeves wrote to Jeanette in January, stating that his family and Clark are in good health. He relayed that his brother, Willis Reeves has married “a Mrs. Connelly, the widow of the late Dr. Connelly, a lady of great personal worth & respectability.” He says that he was intending to return to Missouri as soon as he could sell his property in Ky., and had written to (Abiel) Leonard and William about obtaining a “recommendation in my favor from a few prominent friends, for a land office appointment in the platte country, with a view to place them in the hands of a friend in Washington to lay them at the proper time before the proper tribunal” etc. B.H. on several occasions states his desire to return to Missouri, but other than one visit in 1846, never carried out his intentions.

A Sept. 30, 1841 letter from Benj.H. to Abiel Leonard tells of Clark’s death. He had taken sick in July.

“It is with the deepest feelings of sorrow that I now write you. Last night I returned home from paying the last Sad Melancholy duties to my child. Clark Reeves departed this life before 5 in the morning of the 28th Inst. ...[He] was quite ill for some weeks – recovered so far as to be able to be with his family to visit me. About four weeks ago, himself & friends thought he was in a fair way to recover. A few days after his return home I was

sent for. His malady increased. No human skill could stay or arrest it. He died easy like a child going to sleep but rejoicing in the confident hope of a happy immortality. Oh that my life, , but above all that my death could be like his – yea of certainty of the future. But he is gone, gone from me; the stroke you cannot feel as I feel it. I pray God that you may never feel such pangs as now wring my heart. But why should I mourn ; tis the lot of man to die & although one of the props of my declining years have been wrested from under me, tis his gain – an eternity of glory to him, but a world of pain to me. I write to you to communicate the sad intelligence to his sister [Jeanette] & brother [William] as providence may direct – Heaven help you & him”. [Signed] B H Reeves

B.H. soon had a joy partly to compensate for his loss of Clark. Crittenden Reeves was born on Dec. 28, 1841. He was named for a well known politician and contemporary of Reeves.¹²

In a 1845 letter from B.H. to Leonard, Col. Reeves alludes to Leonard buying at a Dr. Bull's sale a 19 year-old boy for \$510. He gives prices slaves are going for in Ky.–

“...would be 600 or 650. I have been offered for a small yellow girl I had at William's when you was here¹³ she being about 13 years old \$500”, and tells him “You keep the negroes. I have never before been so tormented by them”. He had “...three fellows in the woods this season, one of them for 3 months. All of them is now at home. I would guess some of them will not like to take another frolic of the kind very shortly”.

His vexation with his Negroes soon would increase.

In 1845 William and Hannah Ann, with their Missouri-born children, removed from their adopted state and returned to the state of their birth – Kentucky. In Dec. B.H. writes to Jeanette that they are “all in good health, Wm. and family also.” He says that “Sally Reeves has been living with William ever since he moved to this neighborhood teaching his children & our daughter Missouri”. He tells her that “Ben is now at home. His school at Elkton has just terminated. He begins to be more attentive to his studies”.

In the same letter he tells of a...“Melancholy catastrophe that occurred last week at your uncle Willis Reeves; Eliza's step daughter took a convulsion whilst her mother stepped to the door of her Lard Room to give the servants some directions & fell in the fire & was so badly burned that she died a few days after.”

He continues, “My pleasure would be greatly heightened if I could be with you a few weeks this winter. Our winter here has set in like a roaring lyon [sic] – we too have some sleighing in these parts – a novelty with us. Give my love to each one of your children.”

He concludes by saying he is ‘...truly pleased to hear of John's¹⁴ fidelity to you. He is with me a great favorite – tell him to be attentive to my children – for my kindness to him. Say to him Charles came in in about a week”.

In 1846 Benjamin H. (and William) paid a long-anticipated visit to family and friends in Missouri. On the return home Reeves was forced to wait at Rocheport (Mo.) from Saturday till

¹² John J. Crittenden (1787 –1863). Consult references for his illustrious career.

¹³ I believe the Leonards were in Kentucky for a visit in 1845.

¹⁴ One of the Leonard slaves.

Monday for a boat. He at length took a stage to St. Louis. "Bilious malarial fever" overcame him and he arrived in the town almost insensible and was carried to the boat. A doctor on board told him that a "broad-ax" treatment was necessary and administered "75 grains of calomel and 15 grains of tartar emetic combined." Before he reached Clarksville he had taken also "upwards of 100 grains of quinine," and "was neither killed nor salivated."

Later, Col. Reeves wrote to his daughter Jeanette, telling her of last seeing Reeves¹⁵, "my dear little fellow" in Rocheport – "my eyes followed him until the turn of the street hid him from my view & God grant that I may be spared to see him again & again." He was not.

William's return and his stay-over in St. Louis left quite an impression on him. He wrote to Jeanette telling her of his trip down-river by boat, spending two days in St. Louis, and that he "...had quite a pleasant time of coming home, the passengers quite sociable and agreeable". He says "...there was quite a stir there in relation to expected Mexican war". He tells of his two days in St. Louis –

"I tell you the St. Louis boys does things up about right according to my notion of things. I went up to the planter's house, to the cathedral & the other different places of worship in the city. I walked my self completely lame – & then did not satisfy my curiosity.....Hannah Ann, cousin Sarah Reeves & myself spent the day with our new cousin Mr. Bollinger. Cousin Martha Reeves & him was married in a few days after I started to Missouri. She put the right foot foremost [sic] no mistake. She now lives in ease & affluence. He is a worthy man stands high in the estimation of every body that nose [sic] him".

He relates that "...Pa attends to his business his self. He goes late & early. He is never idol [sic]. There are but few men of his age that could under go the fatigue he does. He volunteered to go to Texas [to War with Mexico] & would have gone if the volunteers from this county had gone"¹⁶.

Further: "Brother Ben is going to school from home. He goes about four miles. He is vary [sic] wild & hard to manage. Was it not for that I would try to persuade Pa to let him go & stay with you but I am sure you could do nothing with him". "We still keep cousin Sarah Reeves with us teaching our children. They are learning finely".

He sends his regards to Ada, Reeves, Kate,¹⁷ and says to tell Ada he is "coming for her next spring. She must have a new frock & bonnet & I no [sic] she will take the shine of any of the little girls in this country".

In April of the following year (1847), B.H. confides to Jeanette. "My son Ben sure enough has quit school and took up the farm & hope this summers work however will cause him to take up his books again. He is now as large as I am and will be bigger."

Although expressing earlier that he wanted to relieve himself of his Kentucky real estate with the hope of returning to Missouri, he, in 1847 bought 690 acres of upland and was going strong into the raising of breadstuffs. That year there was a proposition to rewrite the state

¹⁵ Abiel and Jeanette Leonard's oldest son, Reeves Leonard, 8 years-old in 1846. See Appendix

¹⁶ Each county raised a unit of volunteers. Some units were called for service, some were not.

¹⁷ In 1846 Kate is 2 years-old and Ada is five. See appendix.

constitution. Reeves was opposed to this and again ran for the state Senate, and was “beaten by 500 votes.”

Later that year a drama unfolded that Reeves relates to Jeanette:

“In September last a most fiendish attempt was made to exterminate perhaps my whole family – at least that of my wife and self by the introduction of poison in our coffee. It was fortunately detected before any of the family partook of it except myself and little son – both him and myself drank one cup of it, but none of the rest. I feared for weeks that my own was a gone case. But thus far I have weathered the storm and my physician says that I am out of that danger. I took the roots out of the coffee and tea-pots myself and had them examined. The roots were pronounced Hemlock, the same kind of root that terminated the earthly career of old SOCRATES. Nothing I suppose saved me but the root not having been sufficiently boiled to impart its full effect. Who did the deed is not sufficiently known to effect a legal conviction. As soon as my bodily strength would permit I extorted a half-way confession from one of our servants “Rose” that she saw the root before it went into the coffee but she knew not who put it there. I am satisfied however that my own household contained the offenders, two if not more. Them two I have put away. But I am left with great fears that others may be behind. That dread you may readily conceive must have an effect upon me and make me fearful that every mouthful may contain poison – renders life much less pleasant. Yet some of us believe that man has his destiny to meet – at most I cannot be robbed of many days – enough of this disagreeable subject.”

In February of 1848 Col. Reeves writes to Jeanette that he is:

“...now up, tho barely able to hold his pen.” He has “not enjoyed anything like my usual good health since last summer & of late have had quite a severe attack of Pleurisy, am now slowly recovering tho but barely able to ride over my farm & am perhaps much leaner than you ever saw me”.

He states that “...the rest are well except one negro woman Jane. She is quite sick, with an infant of four or five days old. The Doctor thinks her case a precarious or doubtful one.” He continues: “William, Hannah Ann and children all well. Hannah Ann got a letter from her mother¹⁸ promising a visit in the spring, but wonderful will be the disappointment if she fails to come.”

And regarding his son Ben: “Your brother Ben has taken it into his head to write in the clerk’s office & is now with his uncle Willis [clerk of the court]. I opposed his doing so all that I could on the ground that I thought he had better keep at his school, but he is so worn out with going to school that I yielded – He has grown to the size of a man, weighs now about 165 or 170 pounds, of my heighth [sic] & fine constitution & appearance”.

He sends regards to Mary and Martha¹⁹, and says that “one or both of them ought to write to me, it would give me much pleasure to receive a letter from them. God bless and keep

¹⁸ Polly (Mrs. Benjamin) Givens, back in Howard County.

¹⁹ Jeanette’s older daughters. In 1848 Mary is 16 and Martha is 13. See Appendix.

them is my most fervent prayer” and to Reeves, Ada and “my pale faced little Katie. Tell John, Lydia²⁰ & Betty²¹ to be good servants – give them my respects”.

He concludes with the rather heavy admonition:

“Be everything my dear child, to your family and fulfill in the highest degree the character of wife and mother, and remember that the young must get old & that the young and old must die, and O, may the Almighty Ruler of the universe prepare you and I for the duties of this life but above all fit and prepare us for that life which is to come. My warmest confidence – esteem & love to Mr. Leonard.” [Signed] B.H. Reeves.

The obituary concludes: *He filled many civil and military offices in Missouri and Kentucky. In private life his virtues shown most conspicuous – a dutiful child, a kind husband, a fond parent, and a devoted friend. Warm hearted, generous and devoted in his sentiments, he had many personal and devoted friends. About the first of January last his health commenced to decline rapidly, and on Monday, the 16th day of April, 1849 at his residence in Todd County, having, as his friends fondly hoped, made his peace with God, with a smile on his countenance, and without a struggle or a groan, fell asleep in Jesus, universally lamented by his family, relations and friends.*

William L. Reeves writes²² to Jeanette, dated April 24th 1849:

“Dear Sister. Your letter of date not recollected came to hand some days ago which I omitted answering till I would see the final result of our dear old father, which has terminated in death. He has gone to try the realities of an other World. He drew his last breath on Monday the 16th day of this Month. Twenty minutes before Twelve o'clock of that day. His remains was [sic] taken the next day to Uncle Willis L. Reeveses & there con signed to his narrow dwelling. Oh my dear distant Sister, can you imagin [sic] the weight of my feelings in recording to you the death of a dear father? He is gone, gone – I hope to rest. He expressed a hope be yond [sic] the grave. I have lost all now. I have no ties in Kentucky now. His talk while on his bed of affliction was Missouri [sic]. The last conversation he had with me was he wanted to sell his land & go to Missourie, which he no doubt would have done could he only have got up again.....I must draw to a close – my heart is two [sic] full to rite [sic].....Give my love to all my friends in Mo ...For your self receive a brother's love”. [Signed] WL Reeves.

William tells Jeanette that he

“...would be glad my dear Sister [if] you would rite to Ma [presumably Virginia] soon & solicit her strongly to remove to Missourie it was Pa [’s] wish for her to do so. Brother Ben is anxious to move to Missourie....”

He also relates matter-of-factly that

“We have lately had a spell of cold frosty weather killed all the fruit bit the corn down injured the wheat crops vary [sic] much.”

²⁰ This Negro servant is still at Oakwood in the 1880 censuses (by then 80 years old).

²¹ Another Negro.

²² In this letter, as in others, I have added punctuation for clarity.

Virginia did not get the chance to move to Missouri as B.H. wished, as she died on 29 July, 1849, just three months after the death of her husband.

Sometime late in 1849 or early in 1850 William took the young orphans, Eugenia and Missouri, by now eleven and nine years of age, to Fayette to live with the Leonards at Oakwood. Here they joined the already large and extended family in full or part-time residence there²³. The 1850 Howard County census lists the household, besides Abiel and Jeanette, as containing Mary, 17; Martha, 15; Reeves, 12; Ada, 10; Kate, 6; and Abiel, 2. Their last child, William would be born the following year.

On 4 Oct. 1850 Wm. writes to Jeanette to report the sad news that their

“...little babe breathed his last. He has paid the debt we all have to pay sooner or later. He was never well after we arrived at home, not as well as he was when you saw him last. We buried him at Elkton by the side of his dear grandfather...”

He says that he intends to move to Missouri by the 1st. of November. He has a

“...heavy crop of tobacco [sic] to dispose of that and a probability of a lawsuit is all that will detain me. I have sold the greater portion of my stock and other effects.... It is thought tobacco will be a fine price from seven to ten dollars per hundred. Corn I suppose will be about one dollar and fifty cts per barrel. The corn crop is generally short in this country”, and that “...by Christmas at farthest their little brother [Crittenden] will be with them. He is very anxious to go to Missourie”.

The 1850 Todd County census was taken while the family yet resided in Kentucky and revealed a household consisting of William, age 43; Hannah Ann (listed as Anna), age 36; Janetta (for his sister Jeanette), 14; Davis Clark (for his deceased uncle), 13; Benjamin (for his departed grandfather), 11; Otway (for his ?deceased great-uncle), 4, and their Kentucky-born children; Mary, 3 and William, 1 (who died in October, 1850). In addition there were William's brother and half-brother; Benjamin Reeves, age 20 and Crittenden Reeves, age seven.

My dear Mr. Spencer,

Recently I have been in Kentucky.

While there I made an unsuccessful effort to find the grave of Benjamin H. Reeves. Probably he is buried somewhere near the village of Trenton in Todd County, Kentucky. I have started an inquiry which may enable us to locate the grave.

The enclosures may prove of interest to your wife²⁴.

With best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

J. C. McReynolds – (June 1939)

²³ Some nieces and nephews lived with the Leonards during the school term.

²⁴ Jeanette Spencer – great-granddaughter of B.H. Reeves, dau. of Reeves and Alice Leonard. See App.

Will, B. H. Reeves, dated April 11, 1849.

Probated at Elkton, Kentucky, November, 1849. Will Book G. Page 209. (He died April 16, 1849.)

Negroes left to wife; other property to four younger children.

In an old graveyard (Garth) on farm now (1939) owned by Miss Carrie Harrel, on the Clarksville Road within a mile of Trenton, Todd County, Kentucky, is a tomb with horizontal slab marked—

Virginia T., Consort of B. H. Reeves. Born March 21, 1806. Died July 29, 1849. Aged 43 years, 4 months, 8 days.

(Her first husband was Cross. She was born Garth.) I found there no trace of grave of B. H. Reeves.

J. C. McReynolds – (June, 1939)

Chapter 5 Return to Missouri

So sometime late in 1850, William – known locally as Billy – Hannah Ann, their children, Benjamin and Crittenden loaded up their belongings and made the two-week trip back to Howard County, where Benjamin was born twenty years before and from which he had been absent for 14 years. It appears that Crittenden went to join his sisters Eugenia and Missouri at Oakwood, William resumed farming nearby and Benjamin, at 20, was probably on his own, although we have no record of him for the next ten years. A lovely little novella about the happenings at Oakwood at this time is entitled “Pinafores and Pantalettes”, by Ada Claire Darby²⁵.

In 1860 the Howard Co. census shows that William and Hannah Ann are still farming, owning \$2,200 in worth of real estate and \$12, 735 of personal property. By this time they have added three more children to their family; seven-year-old Sallie, three-year-old Martha and 5-month-old Charles, surely their last, as Hannah Ann is now 45 years-old. William and Hannah Ann Reeves remained in Howard County and lived until 1886 and 1890 respectively. They were buried in the Givens cemetery, near Fayette.

Benjamin, now 30, is married to a member of the well-known Howard County Patton family²⁶. He married Martha Kaziah Patton in 1855, and by 1860 the couple is credited with \$2,600 in real estate and \$5,360 worth of personal property, so the young man must have done well during the preceding ten years. The couple had two children by 1860; Sarah Martha, age 4, and 2 year-old Benjamin Patton Reeves, known afterwards as B.P. or “Pat”

A year later the Union was split by the War Between the States. Reeves Leonard was made Captain, later Major, in the 9th Cavalry, Missouri Militia under Col., later Gen., Odon Guitar. Leonard had just completed four years of education at Dartmouth College and had

²⁵ Daughter of Ada Leonard. See Appendix.

²⁶ See Appendix.

studied abroad at the University in Berlin, returning home at the outbreak of the war. The unit fought mainly against Confederate guerilla forces and Southern sympathizers in Howard and surrounding counties. At the termination of the war Guitar married Reeves's sister Kate. Reeves Leonard died in 1878 at the age of 39. Abiel Leonard, Jeanette's husband, died in 1863.

By the time the Civil War broke out Crittenden Reeves had returned to Kentucky. During the war he served the Confederacy in Company I, First Kentucky Cavalry, in which he remained two years. In 1879, Mr. Reeves was chosen a member of the legislature of his State; and "his public career, while in the discharge of his duties, was endorsed by his constituents in his return to the same honorable position in 1881." Crittenden died in 1894.

"The History of Howard and Cooper Counties 1883" tells us:

"The former owners of slaves, and their descendants in Howard county, may feel some interest in looking over the list of negroes who enlisted in the war of 1861. The list does not contain the names of all the slaves who entered the army from Howard county. The number enrolled and in the service (U.S. army) was 600; the whole number fit for military duty was 930. This was in 1864. One of the most remarkable facts connected with the history of those times – a fact showing the astonishing credulity of the people – was the belief that the institution of slavery would either remain intact, or that the owners of slaves would be compensated for their loss. Notwithstanding the enrollment of negroes was going on in their very presence, where they could be seen drilling daily for service, they were bought and sold as though the existence of the "peculiar institution" had not been imperiled by the war. The sale of the following slaves took place as late as January, 1864; they were owned by Phillip Robertson's estate, and were sold at the court-house door in Fayette: Dick, aged 31 years, bought by David E. Hays, price \$140. Baltimore, aged 25, by David Dennis, \$100. Elizabeth, aged 13, by Jos. Robb, \$200. Caroline, aged 9, by A. J. Robertson, \$174.50. William, aged 11, by Hiram Robertson, \$211. Susan, aged 6, by Wm. Shields, \$78.85. Kitt, aged 3, by Jno. Manion, \$48.50."

In the list of "Colored Recruits from Howard County" we find, among others:

James; owned by Wm. L. Reeves [son of Benjamin H.].
Jeff; owned by Wm. L. Reeves.
Warren; owned by A. Leonard estate [son-in-law of Benjamin H. Reeves].
Jake; owned by A. Leonard estate.
Wm.; owned by Benjamin Reeves [son of Benjamin H.].
John; owned by Benjamin Reeves.
Richard; owned by Benjamin Reeves.
Thomas; owned by Sallie Patton [sister-in-law of Benjamin Reeves].
Pleasant; owned by Sallie Patton.

Chapter 6 On to Iowa

In 1872 Benjamin and Martha Reeves and their children, which by then included a third child – Jessie, and probably a fourth – Kate, removed to Fremont County, Iowa. Two of Martha Kaziah's sisters and one brother emigrated to Fremont County as well. Benjamin was known as "Colonel" Reeves, as his father had been. We cannot know with certainty what prompted the family to choose Fremont County as their destination, but apparently some of the Payne family had preceded them. M.U. Payne sometime after the Civil War had acquired large land holdings in the Missouri River bottom of Fremont county and had married Martha Reeves's sister, Sallie Patton in 1867. The Reeves family took up residence in the Missouri River bottom in what was called the Valley Farm community, where he apparently rented land from his brother-in-law, M.U. Payne. It was there, on 10 August 1874 that the sixth child in the Reeves family, Eliza Sebree, was born. His name (Sebree)²⁷ came from the family name (Sebbree or Sebree) of one long associated with the Reeves family, in Missouri and all the way back to Kentucky.

Col. Reeves bought the original 505 acres of what became known as Hollywood Ranch²⁸ in 1883 from Mr. Wm. Knappe for \$10,000. He added 160 acres to the farm in 1891 and 120 acres in 1900. The farm has the reputation of being one of the finest in Fremont county and remains in the family at this time (2001).

E.S. Reeves married Fannie Alice, the youngest daughter of the late prominent landowner and Hamburg banker Thomas O. Morgan on 13 December 1902. Mr. Morgan had died only the preceding January and Mrs. Eliza Morgan died only two weeks after the Reeves – Morgan wedding. After Eliza Morgan's death E.S. and Fannie bought the 611 acre farm west of Hamburg from the other heirs in December of 1903, and added another 100 acres the following year. The couple made this farm their home and three of their four children were born there. The family moved to town in 1910, where their fourth child, Jean, was born the following year.

Martha Kaziah Reeves died in May, 1908. Her obituary states:

"It is again our sad duty to chronical the death of another one of the early settlers of Fremont County. This time the wife of one of its most prominent and respected citizens, Benjamine [sic] Reeves.

Mrs. Reeves²⁹ died at the home of her daughter Mrs. Frank Davis where she had been taken some time ago that she might receive medical treatment for complications following a severe attack of grip. She was seventy three years of age and was unable to withstand the long siege, death resulting from heart failure.

The deseased [sic] and her husband have lived upon their farm 12 miles northwest of this city for the past thirty years and was well known and highly esteemed in that vicinity. She was a life long member of the M.E. Church South and much devoted to its work. She leaves her husband, three daughters, Mrs. Frand Davis of this city, and Mrs. H.Y. Birkby and Mrs. Geo. Borchers of Nebraska City, and two sons, B.P. and E.S. Reeves, who live near Hamburg.

²⁷ E.S. was known as "Tebe" (Tee'be or "Teeb") most of his life. A child had been unable to pronounce Sebree and it came out "Teebe".

²⁸ My aunt Jean Good reluctantly told me that the farm got its name because at one time there was considerable "hanky-panky" (her words) going on among the hired men and some wives, and someone said the place was "just like Hollywood". She never referred to the farm by that name, always calling it "Knox" (for the nearby early village).

²⁹ It is noted that in most of these early accounts a woman's given name is not mentioned.

The funeral services....”

E.S. and Fannie Reeves’ first daughter (my mother) was born on 5 Feb. 1909. Col. Reeves wrote a letter to Fannie Alice on that day:

“Dear Fannie. I understand a little Angel Arrived at your house this morning. If you have not already named her please defer that matter until I can see you. It would give me great pleasure and fill a vacuum in my heart to name her after my lost loved one. Every mother has the undoubted right to name her own children. I will be out soon to see you and the darling little one. Truly & Affect. yours, Benj. Reeves.”

Mrs. Reeves was unmoved, and the daughter was named Frances Azile (her grandmother Morgan’s name spelled backwards).

When Col. Reeves died in July, 1913 at the age of 83, he also was living in Hamburg with his daughter, Martha “Aunt Mattie” Davis. His obituary stated:

“Mr. Reeves was known to all as a man of sterling qualities. By his death Hamburg loses one more of the sturdy pioneers that helped make Iowa the state it is. During his forty years residence in Hamburg and vicinity, Mr. Reeves has by dint of hard work and perseverance accumulated considerable property which made it possible for him to enjoy the later years of life as he desired.”

He left the farm to his five children. E.S. Reeves bought the interests of his brother and sisters in 1918. He added 80 acres to the farm in 1919 and 80 acres of crop land plus some bluff and timber in 1921.

Chapter 7 The Next Generation

E.S. and Fannie Reeves’ first child was a son, given his mother’s maiden name – Morgan. He was born in 1904. He grew to manhood in and around Hamburg until his untimely death at or near Hollywood Ranch in Oct., 1929.

YOUNG MAN FALLS TO DEATH OFF MUD ROAD

Pinned Under Auto With Face Buried In Very Shallow Water

NOT FOUND UNTIL MORNING

Morgan Reeves, 25, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Reeves of Hamburg, was killed Thursday night about 11:30 o’clock when a Model T roadster, in which he was riding alone, slid off an embankment about a mile south of Knox and pinned the young man underneath with his head and shoulders submerged in the mud and water. Death was attributed to drowning and mud asphyxiation. When Coroner Ralph

Lovelady reached the scene he removed a quantity of mud from the dead man's mouth and nose and water had completely filled his stomach and lungs.

Members of the day crew working on the dredgeboat near Cooper creek and on land belonging to the deceased saw the roadster upturned in the highway ditch as they were going to work early Friday morning. Obtaining a lantern at the dragline, they lifted the car off the body and pulled young Reeves out of the ditch, but he had been dead for several hours. No bones were broken, but he had been so completely trapped by the car that death ensued shortly after the plunge into the ditch.

As nearly as can be learned, the accident occurred a little after 11:30 as Reeves had spent the evening with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Birkby, neighbors, and about 11:15 left there and started home.

Coming to the corner where he would ordinarily have turned to go to his home, a quarter of a mile east, he turned west on the road leading to where a dragline is in operation, and his car evidently slid off the muddy road and into the ditch at that time.

No inquest was held as no evidence of foul play was detected.

Mr. Reeves, while only a young man, has for the past few years, lived on the farm of his deceased uncle, T.A. Morgan, batching and has engaged in farming on a large scale. He was well known in Sidney, a friendly, likable young man, and had a large circle of friend both here and at Hamburg.

Morgan Reeves, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Reeves, was born near Hamburg, January 6, 1904, being at the time of his death 25 years, 9 months and 5 days of age.

His education was received in the Hamburg public schools, and following his graduation he had been associated with his father in the management of their large holdings of farm land. He is survived by his parents, one brother, Ben, two sisters, Azile and Jean.

Funeral services were held at Hamburg Sunday afternoon, very largely attended by friends from all parts of the county.

The second Reeves son was born in 1905. He was named Ben – the old name which had been passed down through the Reeves family through four generations. This young man would also meet an untimely end in the prime of his life, in 1934

BEN REEVES DIED FROM AUTO ACCIDENT INJURIES

Ben Reeves died Wednesday afternoon, the result of injuries received in an auto wreck early Monday morning, the direct cause being septic meningitis. At the time of going to press no funeral arrangements have been made. The accident happened between Fairfax and Craig [Mo.] about four o'clock Monday morning, and Paul Reeves [his

cousin, grandson of B.P. Reeves] was at the wheel. The car left the pavement on level ground and crashed into a large electric light pole, breaking it off at the base.

Ben was taken to a St. Joe hospital where his injuries were cared for and he returned to Hamburg about noon Tuesday. It was not thought that his condition was serious until Wednesday morning, when he took a sudden change for the worse. Ben's nose was smashed badly³⁰ and he had an injury to his leg and some bruises. His companion, Paul Reeves, was only slightly injured. The car was badly wrecked by the impact but not a glass was broken.

Ben Reeves was a popular young man in the community, and had under his charge large farm interests. He leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Reeves and two sisters, Mrs. A. R. Wanamaker and Mrs. Jack Good to mourn his sudden departure.

With Ben's death at age 29 the Reeves male line ended. Neither Morgan nor Ben were married so there were no more children to carry on the Reeves name³¹. Jean Reeves married Jack E. Good and they had no children. Azile Reeves married Dr. A.R. Wanamaker³² and I was their only child.

After the deaths of Morgan, Ben and T.A. Morgan, Tebe Reeves continued to oversee the Reeves – Morgan farms. He was a connoisseur of horses and mules and Hollywood Ranch featured a very large mule barn – a local landmark – at times holding as many as 25 to 30 horses and mules. In 1943, while the world was at war, Mr. Reeves suddenly was taken from his family, the third sudden and unexpected death to befall the male Reeveses.

THE HAMBURG REPORTER

Hamburg , Iowa Thursday Morning June 3, 1943

"Tebe" Reeves Died Sitting in His Car

Tebe Reeves, life-long resident of this community, died in his car at his Hollywood farm Friday afternoon. He had been talking with his foreman, Reuben Monroe and seemed to be in his usual good health. Reuben left the car to go about his work, heard a slight sound and looking around saw Mr. Reeves slumped over the steering gear of his car. Mr. Reeves had not been in the best of health, but the end was unexpected.

Born and reared in this community Mr. Reeves had always followed farming and was a large operator, being very

³⁰ I recall my father saying that Ben's temperature rose to 107 degrees, probably due to infection spreading from his broken nose to his brain.

³¹ I do not know the descendants of B.P. Reeves. See Appendix. Kent and Cynthia Wanamaker named their second son Benjamin Reeves Wanamaker, so the tradition continues!

³² It appears that both Jean and Azile eloped. Jack and Jean were married in Wahoo, Nebraska. Azile and Roy were married in Pender, Nebraska with Wardine Good and Harvey Bang as witnesses.

successful in his work. He took a great delight in life and had many friends and could always be depended upon. Elijah Sebree Reeves, named after a close friend of his father's, was born in the Valley Farm community on August 10, 1874 and died on May 28, 1943, aged 68 years, 8 months, and 18 days. He was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Morgan at Sidney on December 18, 1902, and to this union four children were born. Morgan and Ben preceding their father in death. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Roy Wanamaker, and Mrs. Jack Good and two sister, Mrs. Frank Davis of this place and Mrs. George Borchers of Nebraska City, many other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the Mansfield Funeral Home Tuesday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. Henry Teele, and assisted by the Rev. A.W. Tandy and interment was in the Hamburg cemetery.

So there we have the history of the Reeves Family from 1765 to 1943. Following the death of E.S. Reeves, his son-in-law Jack Good assumed management of the Reeves – Morgan land until his sudden death in 1974. At that time I, being the only adult male family member left, took over the oversight of the farms. I have recorded their history as best I could and have tried to be the steward our Reeves and Morgan ancestors were and would have been.

APPENDIX

Abiel Leonard was born in Windsor, Vt. 16 May 1797. He came from a very prominent New England family. His grandfather was a prominent clergyman and a chaplain in George Washington's army and was recognized in a letter from the General. After being dismissed from his position, justly or unjustly, the Reverend committed suicide in 1778 at the age of 38. Abiel's father, Nathaniel Leonard, was commander at Fort Niagara and was disgraced when he was absent from his post the night English forces took the fort by surprise on the 19th of December, 1813. Most of the garrison was killed or taken prisoner.

Leonard's mother was a member of the Leverett family, whose ancestry extended back to the Massachusetts Bay colony and included a Governor of colonial Massachusetts and a president of Harvard college.

Abiel attended Dartmouth College for two years beginning in 1813 and studied law, but because of family financial difficulties, possibly related to the above episode, he was forced to leave before graduating. He was admitted to the bar in New York State and emigrated to Missouri in 1815, either with or preceding his parents and brother.

Leonard settled in the Boonslick area of Missouri and practiced law. He fought a duel in 1824 which took place on an island in the Missouri river. His opponent, a Mr. Berry, subsequently died of his wounds. Abiel Leonard, however, did not lose his respectability by killing Major Berry, as he was State Representative in Missouri afterward. Leonard became a large central and northern Missouri land owner. He married Jeanette Reeves in October, 1830 and built the beautiful home, called Oakwood, completed in 1834, on his 500 acre farm at Fayette, Missouri. He was appointed judge of the Missouri supreme court in 1855. He died 28 March 1863 at Oakwood, during the Civil War. His correspondence comprises one of the largest collections of pre-Civil War documents in existence.

Reeves Leonard was the oldest son of Abiel and Jeanette Leonard. He was born at Oakwood 6 Nov. 1838 and given his mother's maiden name. He, with his cousin Leverett Leonard, was educated at Dartmouth, as their fathers and grandfather had been. After graduation Reeves attended the University at Berlin, Germany. He returned home at the outbreak of the War Between the States and joined the Missouri State Militia as Captain, later promoted to the rank of Major. He served under Colonel, then General, Odon Guitar, who married Leonard's sister Kate after the war. Following the war, on 20 Oct. 1868, Reeves married Miss Alice Gardenhire, daughter of James B. Gardenhire, the Missouri Attorney General from 1851 to 1856, elected mayor of Jefferson City, Mo. in 1858 and a candidate for Governor in 1860.

Leonard practiced law for a time at Ft. Scott, Kansas, returning home to Fayette because of ill health, and died at Oakwood 12 January 1878. His obituary stated that he "was a man of unusually fine literary attainments, having spent several years abroad in study, after completing a full course at Dartmouth. It is said that he was the most thoroughly educated cultured man in letters of his age in the state, having graduated at the Berlin University, Germany." At his death he left a widow and two young children. The oldest, a son named Gardenhire ("Gardie") died later the same year at age nine. The youngest was a six-year-old daughter named Jeanette, for her grandmother.

Kate Leonard was born at Oakwood 12 Mar. 1844. She married General Odon Guitar 26 Dec. 1865. Guitar's father was a native of France and his mother was of English extraction. Gen. Guitar was born in Richmond, Madison county, Kentucky, 31 August 1827. His parents moved to Boone county, Missouri, in 1829. The elder Guitar gave land for the Boone County Court House and was instrumental in bringing the University of Missouri to Columbia. Odon

entered the University of Missouri at its first opening session in 1842, and graduated in 1846. His degree was conferred while he was on his way to Santa Fe. He had volunteered for the Mexican War in Col. (afterwards Gen.) Doniphan's famous regiment, and did not remain at college for commencement, but left his graduating speech to be read by a classmate. Gen. Guitar served through the entire Mexican War and on his return began the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1848. The following year a contemporary newspaper article stated that Guitar was among a group intending to leave for California that year.

When the great Civil War came on, Gen Guitar was Union in sentiment, and was commissioned in May, 1862, by Gov. Gamble, to recruit a regiment of volunteers for the federal service. This regiment was from several different counties, and was mustered in as the ninth cavalry, Missouri State Militia, sometimes called the "Bloody Ninth". David Guitar, Odon's younger brother by two years, served as a captain in the Confederate Army. In one of history's twists of fate, brothers David and Odon Guitar averted a tragedy by taking opposite sides in the Civil War. Confederate David's stately mansion would surely have been burned had Odon, as a brigadier general, not kept his Union forces away, said Tom Prater, former curator of the Boone County Historical Society Museum, according to an article in the "Columbia Tribune"

As a result, Confederate Hill, as the estate was later named, remains. It is one of the few antebellum homes in Boone County.

Odon commanded his regiment until his promotion in June, 1863, when he was commissioned brigadier-general of the M.S.M.. One of Odon Guitar's militia officers was Capt. (later Major) Reeves Leonard, brother of Odon's future wife, Kate Leonard. After the war, he resumed his practice in the law at Columbia. In 1853-54, and again in 1857-8, he represented his county in the Missouri General Assembly.

Guitar died in 1908, having lived in Columbia longer than any current resident. His funeral at the auditorium of the University was attended by nearly 2000 people. Following Odon's death Kate made a tour of Europe and died at her daughter's home in St. Joseph in 1926.

Ada Leonard was born at Fayette, at Oakwood, 6 May 1841. On 26 July 1864 she married the Rev. Cicero Steven Hawks, who was the first Episcopal Bishop of Missouri. The couple moved to St. Louis and had two daughters, Mary and Jeanette. Rev. Hawks died five years after the marriage. Ada then moved to St. Joseph where her sister Mrs. Martha Smith resided. Ten years later she married Dr. Charles Hammond Darby, a New York native, at St. Joseph, 21 January 1880. He was a president of the Missouri Dental Society and died in 1910. They had one daughter, Ada Claire, born on New Years Eve, 1883, when her mother was 42 years of age. Mrs. Darby died at St. Joseph 14 August 1936 at the age of 95. Her obituary stated that she "was [a] Missouri pioneer." and that her death "marked the passing of one of unusual importance to St Joseph's club and social activities, of one whose life furnished a rare link with the early history of Missouri."

Mary Leonard, the oldest child of Abiel and Jeanette Leonard was born at New Franklin, Mo. 4 Feb. 1833. Her marriage to Horace Everett in 1851 is described in Ada Claire Darby's book "Pinafores and Pantaletts". Everett was related to the Leonards - his mother was a Leverett, as was Abiel Leonard's mother. Everett, from Windsor, Vermont, was the son of Hon. Horace Everett, born in Foxboro, Mass., 17 July 1779. The elder Everett was graduated from Brown University, Providence, R.I., in 1797, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1801. He became a member of the State house of representatives and was a delegate to the State constitutional convention in 1828. He then served several terms in Congress. The Everetts were also of the same family as the noted orator Edward Everett and his brother, the well known author, educator and statesman, Alexander Hill Everett. After the marriage, the young couple lived for a time in Alabama, where Horace had been practicing law. The family, then with one

child – Leonard Everett, moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1854 where the couple became quite prominent and leading citizens. Mary's obituary stated that she was "a southern gentlewoman, she came north with her slaves but quickly realized their freedom and mastered the situation of a frontier town, and no house in this part of the state was more noted for its gracious hospitality than was hers." Mary died in July, 1916.

Martha Leonard was born in Fayette, Mo. in the family's "log cabin" in which they were living while waiting for completion of Oakwood. She married Dr. Joseph D. Smith, a native of Virginia and a Fayette physician. The marriage was on 15 June 1854. During the war Dr. Smith was made medical director of the St. Joseph district and for some time served as surgeon of the Ninth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia – the unit commanded by General Odon Guitar, who married Martha Leonard's sister Kate. Reeves Leonard, brother of Martha and Kate, was a Captain, then Major in the unit. The Smiths moved to St. Joseph immediately after the war and remained there until their deaths. They were a very prominent family in St. Joseph, both professionally and socially, where the doctor was a distinguished physician, educator and gifted linguist. He died in 1900 at the age of 71.

Jeanette Spencer was the daughter of Reeves and Alice (Gardenhire) Leonard. She was six years old when her father died in 1878. Alice later married Reeves's younger brother, Nathaniel William Leonard, sometime between 1880 and 1900. The couple and Jeanette continued living at Oakwood. Alice died 24 August 1922. Jeanette had married Richard Perry Spencer in 1904. When William's health began to fail the couple moved back to Oakwood to care for him. "Mr. Willy" died in 1937. The Spencers continued living at Oakwood, as did some of their children and grandchildren. Perry died in 1953, Jeanette in 1958, both buried in the Fayette city cemetery.

The remaining member of the Leonard family was **Abiel (jr.)**, next to youngest. He became an Episcopal bishop and was Missionary Bishop of Utah and Nevada from 1888 to 1903 and became especially concerned with establishing churches in the mining communities as well as other communities.

Ada Claire Darby was the daughter of Ada Leonard Darby and Dr. Charles Hammond Darby. She was born at St. Joseph, Mo. on the 31st. of December, 1883. Ada Claire became an author of children's historical books, including "Pinafores and Pantaloons" which was a story of happenings at Oakwood, her mother's childhood home, in the early 1850s, at the time Eugenia, Missouri and Crittenden Reeves were brought there to live after the death of their father, Benjamin H. Reeves, and mother in Kentucky. Stories of those days related by her mother and aunts gave Ada Claire ample material for her book.

She was active in St. Joseph club and literary activities and was a president of the Runcie Club, vice-president of the St. Joseph Historical Society and Custodian for life of the Book of Remembrances of Christ Episcopal Church. She was an active member of St. Joseph Historic Homes Foundation and was literary editor of The News-Press from 1916 to 1927. It was said that "Miss Darby's talent was as marked with the spoken as with the written word. Wit and charm combined to make her a brilliant public speaker and her book reviews were inimitable. She gave several series of these reviews. For years she was engaged to present all the programs of a current events club." She did not marry and died 22 Dec. 1952.

The Patton family. According to "A Biographical History of Fremont and Mills Counties, Iowa. 1901", The "parents were Thomas and Sarah (Gibens)¹ Patton, the former a native of

¹ Another source says Riggs.

Tennessee and the latter of Kentucky, but their marriage was celebrated in Missouri. Both are now deceased, the father having passed away at Holly Springs, Mississippi, while the mother's death occurred in Howard county, Missouri². In their family were ten children, namely: James R., Mary J., Margaret A., Joseph W., Robert J., Sarah H., Martha K., P. W., Elizabeth P. and Charity R..”

Several of these Patton siblings have ties to Fremont county. Martha Kaziah Patton married Benjamin Reeves in Howard county and moved to Fremont county in 1872.

Sarah H. (Sallie) Patton married M.U. Payne in 1867 in Howard county and came to Fremont county shortly after.

P.W. Patton was born 29 May 1839. He attended Macon college for four years and enlisted in the Union army in 1863 and served as captain. He is undoubtedly the “T.W. Patton” referred to in the 1881 “History of Fremont County”. He came to Fremont county in the spring of 1873 and the 1881 account states that he “owns 550 acres of most excellent land, the result of years of patient toil and frugal endeavor.”

Charity R. Patton married Benjamin E. Givens 24 February 1870 and removed to Fremont county about 1882. He was the son of Samuel Givens, who was a nephew of Benjamin Givens, the father of Hannah Ann Givens, who married William Reeves, the oldest son of Benjamin H. Reeves. Samuel Givens was a member of the Santa Fe Trail survey party, of which Reeves was a commissioner.

Benjamin E. Givens “entered the Confederate service at the age of nineteen, enlisting at Danville Mo, in January 1863, in Dorsey’s command, but was captured a short time afterwards and confined, first at St. Charles, and then at St. Louis seven months. He escaped from the prison of St. Louis by running from the guard, and joined General Price at Fayetteville, Arkansas. He served in Colonel Slayback’s regiment, under General Joe Shelby until the close of the war.”

According to “History of Howard and Cooper Counties, 1883”, during the Civil War “The following are the names of the officers of the various militia companies of Howard County: Colored Companies – Richmond [Fayette city] and part of Bonne Femme [township] – R.J. Patton, captain.

B.P. Reeves. Given the traditional family name of Benjamin and his mother’s maiden name – Patton. His biographical sketch in the 1901 “History of Fremont and Mills Counties” states that he was born in Howard county 8 Oct. 1857 and came to Fremont county with his family when he was fifteen years old. He married Miss Cora Hatten, a member of a pioneer Fremont county family. They had two sons, Bruce H., born 2 June 1887, and Myron, born 31 December 1888³. In 2000 a query was posted on the Fremont county Genweb website by one Dea Waulters which reads:

“I am looking for newspaper articles concerning my grandfather, Myron Reeves. I think he got in a card game in Iowa, and was accused of cheating and he shot someone and got sent to prison. My grandmother remarried before I was born and no one was ever allowed to talk about this. This shooting incident must have taken place in the 1930’s, and probably right in town somewhere. My understanding is that the Reeves family (the boys) were a pretty wild crowd. Of course, no one is wild anymore, and this seems very interesting to me. Thank you.”

In fact I do recall my father (Dr. A.R. Wanamaker) remarking that Bruce and Myron were “pretty wild”. The shooting he describes in his memoirs may be the one alluded to here.

A search through the “Hamburg Reporter” microfilm files at the Hamburg Public Library reveals that actually it was Myron himself that was shot and killed in 1926 in downtown Hamburg, by one Sohn Callahan. There had been a running feud between the two men for

² She returned to Howard Co. in 1848 after the death of her husband.

³ “History of Mills and Fremont Counties” gives June 1889.

some time preceding the fatal encounter. Callahan had accused Reeves of stealing \$150 from him, a charge Reeves had stoutly denied. The perpetrator pled guilty to manslaughter and was given one to eight. Myron was 37 years of age and was survived by a widow and four children. One of the children, 12 year-old-Paul, was the driver of the automobile the crash of which resulted in the death of Ben Reeves in 1934.

I recently (April 2001) had conversations with two Hamburg "Oldtimers". One (Vernon Folks) related that he was sixteen at the time of the shooting of Myron Reeves. He recalled that he was in the local drug store and overheard Callahan say, "I've got a gun and I am going to kill the S.O.B." He said the men in the drug store didn't take the threat seriously, but, sure enough, he did! Mr. Folks also said that one of Myron's sons made the claim that he was "going to kill Callahan when I get old enough." As far as I know, he did not.

The other oldtimer (Tom Million), told me that he had hired a man to work for him at the Hamburg post office in the early twenties. The man and his wife came to town from Shenandoah by train to look over the town, in order to decide whether they wanted to move there. They went to a local cafe for lunch and while there, Myron Reeves rode into the cafe on his horse, shot two holes in the ceiling, turned his horse and rode back out the front door. The prospective new resident turned to his wife and said, "I believe this is the town where I want to live!"

Another note of interest was found in the "Reporter" files from 1918 which related that Myron Reeves and three others were charged with "transporting booze into the state and with bootlegging." It was stated that a troop train stopped at Hamburg and the accused offered booze to the soldiers. They "were captured by Army officers and turned over to the town officers."

To my great regret, at the time of this writing I have not been able to locate this granddaughter to give her this information.

Bruce Hatten Reeves died at Hamburg of The "Spanish Flu" during the great epidemic of 1918. It was reported that he "made a hard fight for his life". He was 31. He had married Miss Clara Bunk in April, 1917 and left no children.

Benjamin Patton (Pat) Reeves served two terms as Fremont Co. supervisor, and was a bridge builder for the county for many years. He retired from the farm "around the bluff" and moved to Hamburg in 1913. His obituary stated that he was "a true friend of all and a man who was held in high respect by all", and that "the community has lost a true pioneer, for he came to Fremont County when a lad of sixteen." He died in 1939 at the age of 81 years. His wife Cora (Hatten) Reeves died in 1943.

MYRON REEVES SHOT TO DEATH BY SOHN CALLAHAN

One Man Dead and Another In Jail Awaiting Trial As His Murderer

At about 5:45 Sunday evening Sohn Callahan, aged about 55, shot and killed Myron Reeves, aged 37, in the Williams Garage, two of five shots taking effect. The shooting was the result of a grudge of long standing between the men. Callahan was later arrested, taken to Sidney, and then to Glenwood, where he was lodged in the county jail. A charge of first degree murder has been filed against him, and we understand that he has waived preliminary hearing.

Something like a year ago Callahan claimed to have been robbed of \$150, and charged Reeves with the crime, which was stoutly denied. On last Tuesday night the men met again and Reeves gave Callahan a beating with his fists. Callahan left the scene at once and procured a shot gun and started out to look for his man, but an officer relieved him of the firearm. However he made many threats that the next time he met Reeves they would have it out, as "the town was not large enough to hold both of them." On Saturday officers were asked to take care of Callahan and see that he did not carry out his threat, but he was never taken in.

Reeves was in town Sunday afternoon, accompanied by Henry Michel, and they drove up in front of the Williams Garage, on Main street, and stopped to the south of the lower filling tank. At the time Callahan, "Sandy" Brown and Doll Townsend were seated on the window ledge almost opposite the car of Reeves. Townsend got up at once and went to the curb to talk to the men in the car. Callahan noticed who was in the car and walked to the curb, pushing Townsend out of the way. He made a remark to Reeves that he guessed they could have it out, and for him just to try to repeat the deal of Tuesday night. Reeves got out of the car, and Callahan withdrew his hand from his front pants pocket, and with it a .32 revolver. Townsend realized the gravity of the occasion, and took hold of Callahan, who at once broke the grip. By this time Reeves had rounded the car, and make a run for the door of the garage. Callahan opened up firing, and it is thought that the first two shots went wild. When he reached the center of the door he shot again and it is believed that this was the shot that entered the back. Reeves continued his way down through the garage a short distance, took hold of a car standing in the driveway, and in doing so turned about. The next shot hit Reeves in the mouth, and he fell to the floor. The next, and last shot, went wild and tore thru the top of another car standing in the driveway. Callahan walked up to the prostrate body of Reeves, snapped his revolver a number of times, waved his hat and shouted "Praise God," and other such remarks. Ernie Doil was sitting in the car near which Reeves fell and was at his side in just a moment and was followed by a number of other men who happened to be in the building at the time. Reeves was dead when they reached him.

The first shot to take effect hit behind the right shoulder blade and deflected to the shoulder bone. The shot in the mouth hit the plate of Reeves' false teeth, breaking it in three pieces, the course of the bullet being downward. The third vertebra was broken and the spinal cord severed by the shot. Medical aid was summoned, but there was nothing that could be done for him.

Following the shooting Callahan walked about in front of the building, waving his gun and hands, and making remarks. In about twenty minutes after the tragedy he was put under arrest and taken to Sidney.

There were a number of men in and about the garage at the time and as soon as they realized what was going on they made to places of safety until the shooting was over, and most of them did not know who was concerned in the affair until it was all over. It had been common talk on the streets for some time that Callahan had made threats on the life of Reeves, and the affair did not come as a surprise to many.

Callahan did not resist arrest, and when Captain Jack Paterson spoke to him, asking that he go to the car of L. R. Forsyth, he went without trouble, got into the car and was taken to Sidney and locked up. Later it was decided best to remove him from the county and he was taken to Glenwood and given into the care of the sheriff of that county.

Dr. Ralph Lovelady of Sidney, county coronor, was called and an inquest was held at the Johnson & Swanson undertaking parlors, Dr. R. T. Irvin, C. W. Good¹ and Ernest Ayres were selected as the jury and they returned a verdict "that the deceased came to his death from gun shot wounds inflicted by a .32 revolver in the hands of Sohn Callahan".

Obituary

Myron Reeves was born near Hamburg, Iowa, December 31, 1888, and died in Hamburg, Sunday, September 5, 1926, aged 37 years, 9 months and 4 days. In 1907 he was united in marriage to Jessie Neeley and to this union six children were born. Myron Jr., died at the age of 7 and Mattie, in infancy. The living are; Lawrence, 16; Frances, 14; Paul², 12; Ralph, 10. He is survived by his widow and children, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.P. Reeves³.

Funeral services were held from the home of his parents, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. J. O. Staples, and interment was made in the Hamburg cemetery. The family, parents and relatives have the sympathy of the entire community in their hour of deep sorrow.

Hamburg Reporter November 25, 1926

CALLAHAN TRIAL COMES TO SUDDEN END FRIDAY

Man Accused of Murder is Sentenced to Term in States Prison

The trial of Sohn Callahan, charged with first degree murder, went to trial at Sidney on Thursday of last week came to a sudden close Friday, when Callahan agreed to plead guilty to manslaughter, and was given a term of from one to not over eight years. He was taken to the pen the latter part of last week and is now serving he term.

It will be recalled that Callahan shot and killed Myron Reeves in front of the Williams Garage in Hamburg on Sunday, September 5,. There had been bad blood between the men for a long time, and threats of different kinds had been made, and it was thought by many that sooner or later the men would meet and have it out. The week before Reeves had given Callahan a beating up, and the later was out with a gun to get Reeves, but that night his gun was taken from him. However Callahan kept a watch for his man, and when he drove up at the garage on the fateful Sunday Callahan walked out to the automobile in which Reeves was riding, and stated that he intended to kill him. Myron jumped from the car and made a run for the garage, and was shot several times, one taking effect and causing almost instant death. Callahan was taken into custody an hour or so after the affair and taken to Sidney, and then on to Glenwood, for safe keeping.

¹ Father of Jack Good and Wardine (Good) Bang.

² Driver of the auto in which Ben Reeves received fatal injuries in 1934.

³ Brother of Elija Sebree Reeves.