

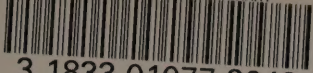


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HISTORY  
OF THE  
ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAMES

OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA

by

Mrs. Edwin Willcockson  
Sigourney, Iowa

as a part of the

Program Building Committee of  
IOWA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

1957 - 1959

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September 1957.

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## I O W A

### ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAMES

#### ADAIR

Named for General John Adair, a distinguished officer of the War of 1812 and afterwards the sixth governor of Kentucky.

#### ADAMS

For John Adams, second President of the United States.

#### ALLAMAKEE

The name is of Indian origin, says Fulton in his "RED MEN of Iowa". Other authorities claim that it took its name from "Allen Makee", a famous Indian trader and trapper who established a trading post within its limits at an early day.

#### APPANOOSE

Named for a noted chief of the Sac and Fox Indians. Appanoose is said to mean a "chief when a child", indicating that he held his office by inheritance. He was merry, with a sedate and quiet disposition, and was a natural orator, respected by his people, friendly to the white race, and well and favorably known to the early settlers of Iowa. He established his village on what is now part of the site of the city of Ottumwa, Wapello County.

#### AUDUBON

Named for John J. Audubon, the naturalist.

#### BENTON

Named for Thomas H. Benton who was for thirty years United States Senator from Missouri.

#### BLACK HAWK



(1767-1838. Of the many American Indians driven westward by the advance of the white people, none hated to leave his own hunting grounds more than Black Hawk, chief of the Sacs. His was an Algonquin tribe which had made its home along the Upper Mississippi in what is now western Illinois. Black Hawk was born there in 1767. At the age of 21, he became head of his tribe and set out on the warpath against his enemies. Under Tecumseh, chief of the Shawnee Indians, he fought the Americans in the war of 1812. In 1815 and 1816 he was forced to sign treaties in which he promised to move his people to the west of the Mississippi; but it was seven years before he began, in a halfhearted way, to keep his promise. Though his lands were sold by the Sacs to the United States in 1830, he could not bear to see white people occupy them. So, in 1832 he recrossed the Mississippi near Rock Island, Illinois, with a small force, and started the fighting in the Rock River Valley that historians call the Black Hawk War. Although he was reinforced by 1,000 warriors, he was defeated, and in the following year he was taken captive at the Bad Axe River. When he was sent as a hostage to Washington, he met President Andrew Jackson, and was so well treated by the white people that he grew to understand and like them.

Black Hawk told his own story in a book that he wrote or dictated. Its title was Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kisk- his name in his own language. He died on the Sac Reservation in Iowa in 1838. A rugged statue of him, the work of the sculptor Lorado Taft, stands on a bluff at Oregon, Illinois, overlooking the Rock River and the lands that once were his.

#### BOONE

Named for Captain Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone of Kentucky, who, in 1832, commanded a company of hangers in an expedition which explored the Des Moines and Boone River valleys.

#### BREMER

Named for the Swedish author Fredericks Bremer.

#### BUCHANAN



Named for James Buchanan, after President of the United States.

#### BUENA VISTA

Named to commemorate the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War, February 22-23, 1847.

#### BUTLER

Named for General William O. Butler, an officer in the Mexican War and Democratic candidate for Vice President in 1848.

#### CALHOUN

Named in honor of the famous South Carolina senator and orator. Calhoun and Daniel Webster debated the important issues of the day in the United States senate during the crucial years preceding the War between the States. Each debate was considered a "Battle of Oratorical Giants". Calhoun might have been president but for one thing - he could not compromise in a matter of principle. In spite of the bitterness of the times, Calhoun's personal character was free from attack. He was always willing to fight for his beliefs. Without humor but of the highest honor, his sincerity was never questioned, even in his most extreme speeches.

The men who were giving names to new Iowa counties in 1851 had decided to name counties after both Daniel Webster and Calhoun. It was fitting that they were adjoining and bordered on Kossuth. (See Webster.)

#### CARROLL

Named for Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

#### CASS

Named in honor of Lewis Cass, then Senator from Michigan, and the last preceding candidate for the Democratic party for President.

#### CEDAR

Named for the Cedar River which flows through the county in a southeasterly direction.





## CERRO GORDO

Named for a battlefield in the Mexican War where the army under General Scott gained a decisive victory.

## CHEROKEE

For a southern tribe of Indians.

## CHICKASAW

Named for a southern tribe of Indians.

## CLARKE

Named for James Clarke who was then Governor of Iowa Territory.

## CLAY

Named for Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Clay, Jr., who was killed at the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War. In the naming of the counties created in 1851, it had been informally decided to call three of them after distinguished officers who had perished during the war with Mexico; and the names selected were Clay, Hardin, and Vell. The choice of Clay was no doubt largely owing to the fame of Colonel Clay's distinguished father, whose long public career was then (1851) drawing to a close, and whose leadership in the compromise measures of 1850, then quite popular, had endeared him to many who had previously been unfriendly to him.

## CLAYTON

Named for John Middleton Clayton, a United States Senator from Delaware, who also had rendered material assistance in the passage of the Wisconsin territorial bill.

## CLINTON

Named for DeWitt Clinton, the illustrious fifth Governor of New York. He is chiefly remembered as the builder of the Erie Canal across New York state which connects Lake Erie with the Hudson River. This canal became the nation's highway from the East to what was then the West, and was an important



factor in making New York the Empire State. During its construction it was scornfully called "Clinton's Folly", or "Clinton's Big Ditch". Completed in 1825.

#### CRAWFORD

Named for William H. Crawford who was Secretary of the Treasury from 1817 to 1825, and an unsuccessful candidate for President in 1824. Probably named after a county in another state that was named after this man.

#### DALLAS

Named for George Mifflin Dallas, then Vice President of the United States.

#### DECATUR

Named for Commodore Stephen Decatur, a distinguished naval officer in the War of 1812. A toast that he once offered is famous: "my country!" In her intercourse with foreign nations may she ever be right; but, right or wrong, my country!"

#### DELAWARE

So named because of the eminent service rendered by John M. Clayton, United States Senator from the state of Delaware, in the creation of the territory of Wisconsin.

#### DES MOINES

Named for the Des Moines River, which ran through the original county.

#### DICKINSON

Named for Daniel S. Dickinson, a distinguished statesman and United States Senator from New York.

#### DUBUQUE

Julien Dubuque was Born north of Quebec, Canada, in 1762. Everyone was an adventurer in those days. When 25 he started out and came to Prairie du Chien. At this trading post young Dubuque stopped and began to traffic with the



Indians across the Mississippi where McGregor, Iowa, now is. He learned of lead mines across the river. He obtained from the Indians the sole right to work the lead mines and moved across the river, settling in the camp of Kettle Chief, a prominent Fox. This place was about two miles below the present city of Dubuque. Julien Dubuque was a small man, but stout and wiry, with black hair and eyes. He was very courteous and polite, and his manners were extremely gallant. For 22 years he lived there. When he died, the Indians mourned him deeply and treated his body with the highest honors in their powers.

#### EMMET

Named for the Irish patriot of 1798, Robert Emmet.

#### FAVETTE

Named for the Marquis deLafayette, but probably more immediately after some county in some other state.

#### FLOYD

One authority ascribes the name to Sergeant Charles Floyd, of Lewis and Clark's expedition, who died in 1804, and was buried on the banks of the Missouri; the first white man of whose death and burial in Iowa there is a record. Another authority claims the county was named for William Floyd, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was from the state of New York.

#### FRANKLIN

Named for Benjamin Franklin of Revolutionary fame.

#### FREMONT

Named for Colonel John C. Fremont, the "Great Pathfinder", a famous explorer of the Rocky Mountain region and an officer in the Mexican War. A few years before, he had conducted an exploration and survey of the Des Moines River.

#### GREENE

Named for General Nathaniel Greene of the American Revolution.



## GRUNDY

Named for Felix Grundy, a prominent citizen of Tennessee.

## GUTHRIE

Named in memory of Edwin Guthrie who was captain of the only company Iowa furnished for the Mexican War. He was wounded at Pass LaHaya, and died shortly afterward at the Castle of Perote.

## HAMILTON

Named for W. W. Hamilton, then president of the State Senate in that general assembly.

## HANCOCK

Named for John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.

## HARDIN

Named for Colonel John J. Hardin of Illinois who was killed in battle in the Mexican War.

## HARRISON

Named for General William H. Harrison, ninth President of the United States.

## HENRY

Named for Governor Henry Dodge of Wisconsin Territory, General Henry Dodge. The general had a son named Augustus C. Dodge. In 1841 father and son sat in the United States House of Representatives from Wisconsin and Iowa, respectively. In 1848 they met again as United States Senators from the same states; the only instance of the kind in the history of the country.

## HOWARD

Named for General Tighlman A. Howard of Indiana.

## HUMBOLDT

Named for Baron Friedrich Heinrich Alexander von Humboldt, the German scientist and traveler.





## IDA

The name was suggested by Eliphalet Price.

## IOWA

Named for the Iowa River which flows through the northern part of the county. In the Sioux dialect Iowa means "dusty faces", or "Dust in the faces"; other interpretations are "Drowsy ones", "here is the place", or "beautiful land". The Iowas called themselves "Dusty-noses", claiming that they once dwelt on a sandbar, where the wind blew dust into their faces.

## JACKSON

Named for General Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, who had shortly before retired to private life.

## JASPER

Named for Sergeant William Jasper of the Revolutionary War.

## JEFFERSON

Named for Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States.

## JOHNSON

Named for Richard Mentor Johnson, vice President of the United States.

## JONES

Named in honor of George Wallace Jones, then delegate in congress from the territory of Wisconsin, being the first to hold that position, as he had also been the last delegate from the territory of Michigan. In the latter capacity he managed the bill for the creation of the territory of Wisconsin. As delegate from Wisconsin he also secured the passage of the bill for the erection of the territory of Iowa. He was afterward surveyor-general of Iowa and Wisconsin; and more recently he was one of the first United States senators from Iowa.



## KEOKUK

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Named for the Sac chief whose name signifies "Watchful Fox". In the great treaty of September 21, 1832, when the first purchase was made, the interpretation given was "He who has been everywhere". Keokuk was Black Hawk's rival, and was placed over him by the government. He was not so great a warrior as Black Hawk, but he was a fine orator, and was shrewder. He was not a chief by birth. He gained the high position on account of his qualities, and because of government influence. Keokuk had the rare ability to take the wisest and safest course, and to do what would have the best effect.

## KOSSUTH

Named in honor of Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian Patriot and leader, who was then making the tour of the United States. In 1849 he persuaded the National Assembly to declare the independence of Hungary and was appointed governor. That same year, however, the success of a Russian invasion of Hungary forced Kossuth to flee into Turkey. In 1851 he was freed and sailed to England, where he was received with enthusiasm. In December of that year he went to the United States to arouse sympathy for Hungary in a series of impassioned speeches. The revolution for the independence of Hungary failed.

## LEE

The origin of the name of this county has been the subject of some controversy; but the better evidence seems to establish the fact that the county is so called in honor of a member of the firm of Marsh, Deleven, and Lee, of Albany, N. Y., and of what was known as the New York Land Company, which possessed extensive interests in the half-breed tract. Some, however, have attributed the name to Lieutenant Robert E. Lee, the afterward famous confederate leader, who conducted an early survey of the Des Moines rapids of the Mississippi river. Quite recently, Albert Lea, from whom the town of that name in Minnesota is called, has advanced a claim to the paternith of that name, saying he was at Belmont when the act was passed erecting the county of Lee, and that the orthography was erroneously changed by a clerk in transcribing. Neither of the last two claims seem to be well authenticated.



## LINN

Named for Lewis Fields Linn, United States Senator from Missouri, one of the active supporters of the Wisconsin territorial bill.

## LOUISA

Named after Louisa Massey, a young lady from Dubuque, who, a few months before the passage of the act creating the county, had shot a ruffian named Smith, who had threatened the life of her brother, and was believed to be seeking an opportunity to execute the threat, he having already participated in the murder of another brother. The people of Dubuque and elsewhere, for the fame of Miss Massey's bold action spread throughout the West, were very much gratified thereat, whence followed the naming of the county Louisa in her honor. Such is the generally accepted, and very probably correct account of the origin of the name. It is proper to state, however, that Wm. L. Toole, a pioneer of the county attributes the name to the fact that among the members of the first Wisconsin legislature were some persons who came from the county of Louisa, in the state of Virginia, and who succeeded in giving to this new Iowa county the name of that of their nativity. It is not improbable that this consideration made friends for the proposition to name the county after the Dubuque heroine.

## LUCAS

Named for Robert Lucas, the first Governor of the territory of Iowa. Although a native of Virginia, he came to Iowa from Ohio, of which state he had been governor twice. He had served nineteen years in the Ohio Legislature, had presided at the National convention which nominated President Jackson for a second term, and had served in the War of 1812.

At this time he was fifty-seven years old. He was tall and spare, and bore some resemblance to Andrew Jackson. He was quiet and reserved in his manner.

## LYON

Named in honor of Brigadier-General Nathaniel Lyon, commander of the Union troops at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the first action of the Civil War in which Iowa troops took part.



## MADISON

Named for James Madison, fourth President of the United States.

## MAHASKA

Named for Mahaska, chief of the Iowas, which means "White Cloud". Although he had six other wives, Mahaska liked Kant-che-wai-me, his beautiful and gentle wife. On one occasion she accompanied her husband to Washington, and attracted great attention there. She saw much in the white women that she thought was wicked, and when she returned to her village she called all the squaws around her and told them about it, as a warning that they should not try to imitate their white sisters. Mahaska was a famous warrior. His father was slain treacherously by the Sioux near the mouth of the Iowa River. The son was then quite young, but he immediately avenged the chief's death, for during a battle he slew the Sioux who had murdered his father. Mahaska himself was shot from ambush by some of his own men whom he had caused to be arrested on complaint by the government. The deed was committed in what is now the southeastern part of Cass County. Mahaska was then fifty years old. The murderers were caught and executed by the Otoes and Omahas.

## MARION

Names for General Francis Marion, an officer of the Revolutionary War.

## MARSHALL

Named for Chief Justice John Marshall of the United States Supreme Court.

## MILLS

Named for Major Frederick Mills. As a young graduate of Yale, he came to Iowa in 1841 and located at Burlington where he became a law partner of J. C. Hall. He was a brilliant public speaker and rendered a voluntary service to Iowa which has immortalized his name. With two other men he canvassed the Territory urging the electors to vote against the adoption of the Constitution of 1844 which would do away with the symmetrical proportions of the state.

At the beginning of the war with Mexico in 1846, Mr. Mills received a commission as major in the army





and was with the command of General Scott in his march to the city of Mexico. After the battle of Cherubusco, Major Mills led a detachment in pursuit of General Santa Anna to the walls of the city where he was slain on the 20th of August, in leading a charge.

#### MITCHELL

Named for the Irish patriot and refugee of 1848, John Mitchell.

#### MONONA

Named for an Indian girl, who, believing her white lover had been slain by her people, jumped from a high rock into the Mississippi River. Although the group of men who named the town discovered the girl's name was Winona, the original name was not changed.

#### MONROE

Named in honor of the fourth President of the United States.

#### MONTGOMERY

Named in memory of General Richard Montgomery, an officer of the Revolutionary War who was killed in the assault on Quebec in 1775.

#### MUSCATINE

The name is derived from the Mascoutins (Musquetine), a tribe of Indians whose camping grounds were in a grove of oak trees on the river. They possessed the island in the Mississippi River and the west shore. In their language they referred to the site as "Burning Island" because of the underbrush and prairie fires that blazed every fall, and they themselves became identified as "People of the Place of Fire".

#### O'BRIEN

Named for William Smith O'Brien, one of the leaders for the independence of Ireland in 1848.

#### OSCEOLA

Named for one of the most famous chiefs of



the Seminoles. He was their leader during their second war against the United States government. Osceola was the son of an Englishman named William Powell, and a Creek woman, the daughter of a chief. He was born in Georgia, near the Chattahoochee River. When he was four, his mother took him to Florida to live among the Seminoles and he became their chief. In 1832 the Seminoles signed a treaty with the United States by which they agreed to move west of the Mississippi. Osceola was angry with the white men because of unfair treatment he had received at the hands of the Indian agent, General Wiley Thompson. He urged the Seminoles not to carry out the treaty.

The war began in 1835 when Osceola killed the Indian agent and his men killed 100 United States soldiers. For about two years Osceola led the Seminoles in war. Finally he was captured in 1837 when he came under a flag of truce to confer with the United States General Thomas S. Jesup. Osceola was kept in prison, first at St. Augustine, Florida, and later at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina, until his death.

#### PAGE

Named for Captain John Page of the Fourth United States Infantry, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Palo Alto in the Mexican War.

#### PALO ALTO

Named for the Battle of Palo Alto, the first fought in the Mexican War. It was the first battle and the first victory of the war with Mexico.

#### PLYMOUTH

Named for the Plymouth Colony of the Massachusetts Puritans according to one authority. Named for the landing place of the pioneers according to another.

#### POCAHONTAS

Named for the Indian maiden, daughter of Powhattan, Indian chief, who saved the life of Captain John Smith in the early days of the settlement of the colony of Virginia.

#### POLK

Named for President James Knox Polk.



## POTTAWATTAMIE

The name is derived from the Pottawattamie tribe of Indians which formerly occupied that portion of Iowa. It signified "Makers of fires", denoting a free and independent people who had their own council fires. In 1846 the Pottawattamies and the other tribes mingling with them were sent farther west, but like the Winnebagoes they returned to Iowa time after time.

## POWESHIEK

Named for shchief of the Sac Indians. The name signifies "Roused Bear" and also the "Shedding Bear". Another authority says he was one of the head chiefs of the Foxes or Musquakies. He was superior in rank to either Wapello or Appanoose. He was quite a large man, weighing over 250 pounds; was of good character, truthful, and just, and rules his Indians with an iron hand.

## RINGGOLD

Named for Major Samuel Ringgold who was mortally wounded in the Battle of Palo Alto in the Mexican War, 1846-47, and died soon after.

## SAC

Named for the Sac Indians, meaning "Yellow Earth". The Sac tribe, with the Foxes, at one time possessed nearly the entire territory of the present state of Iowa.

## SCOTT

Named in honor of General Winfield Scott, who had in 1832, negotiated the first treaty purchasing the lands in Iowa from the Indians. This treaty was made with in the limits of what is now the city of Davenport.

## SHELBY

Supposed to be named in honor of General Isaac Shelby, an officer of the war of the Revolution, and that of 1812, and first Governor of the state of Kentucky.



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## SIOUX

Named for the formidable nation of Indians who at one time occupied northwestern Iowa. They were the Arabs of the Indian prairies, and their hand seems to have been against everyone not a Sioux. There was so much trouble tween the Sioux and other Indian tribes that the government had to step in. They were such determined and crafty warriors that they were able to wipe out General Custer and a body of cavalry that went after them in 1876. One United States army officer said that the Sioux had "the finest cavalry in the world".

## STORY

Named in honor of the eminent jurist, Joseph Story, for a third of a century associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He was appointed from Massachusetts to this office. In 1829 he also became professor of law at Harvard University. He was one of the 100 selected in 1900 for representative in the Hall of Fame.

## TAMA

Named for Tai-mah or Tai-o-mah (Man-whose voice-makes-the-rocks-tremble) who was a minor chief of the Foxes. He was at the head of a secret society among the Sacs and Foxes, and was the medicine man of the fraternity.

## TAYLOR

Named for Major Zachary Taylor, the twelfth President of the United States. He was a veteran of many successful campaigns against the Indians. The famous Indian chief Black Hawk surrendered to him. In the Mexican War General Taylor won the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. With forces greatly reduced in number because he had sent troops to aid General Winfield Scott, he defeated a vastly stronger Mexican force at Buene Vista.

## UNION

At that time, after years of bitter conflict over the institution of slavery which threatened a dissolution of the Union, a compromise (1850) had been effected which was believed by many would permanently settle the dangerous controversy and insure the perpetuity of the Union. Hence the name Union.





## VAN BUREN

Named for Martin Van Buren who had been elected President of the United States.

## WAPELLO

Named in honor of the head chief of the Foxes. The name means "Chief", but a treaty he signed as "Waupella" gives the definition "He-who-is-painted-white". He was in favor of peace with the whites, and while not as fine in appearance as Keokuk, he was almost as great an orator in his manner of speech. He was quite short and stout. His favorite hunting grounds were along the Skunk River. He had requested that he be buried beside General Joseph M. Street, and his remains now rest beside this Indian Agent whom he had liked. This is in Wapello county not far from Agency. Keokuk and other chiefs attended the funeral.

## WARREN

Named for General Joseph Warren who was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

## WASHINGTON

Named in honor of George Washington on January 25, 1839. The County's first name was Slaughter.

## WAYNE

Named for General Anthony Wayne of the Revolutionary War. He was nicknamed "Mad Anthony" because of his magnificent daring. In spite of his recklessness he was as efficient as he was brave. In 1792 he became commander of the western army, ranking as major general. He was sent west to settle the Indian difficulties. By defeating the Indians decisively in 1795, he brought about the Treaty of Greenville. By this treaty a vast section of land in Indiana and Michigan was added to the United States.

## WEBSTER

Named for the famous Massachusetts lawyer, Daniel Webster, then recently deceased. He is remembered for his eloquence in upholding the supremacy of the Union in the troublesome period before the



War Between the States. He was also well known for many political and diplomatic services and as an orator and statesman of extra ordinary ability. In the office of secretary of state under President Fillmore, Webster strongly upheld recognition of the new Hungarian republic under Louis Kossuth. (see Calhoun).

#### WINNEBAGO

Named for the Indian tribe that at one time occupied the northern part of Iowa. In Algonquin the name means "turbid water". The Winnebagoes were the Dakotas and claimed to be the people from whom sprang the Iowa, Otoes, and others. They disliked to go onto the Neutral Ground because on the south were the Sacs and Foxes, and on the north were the Sioux, and thus they were thrown between two fires.

#### WINNESHIEK

Named for a noted chief of the Winnebago Indians whose name appears on the records "Yinnoskik" which signifies "coming thunder". He was not very friendly toward the whites, but was popular with his people, and was brave in danger. When he was a boy of fifteen, during hostilities with the whites, he was captured by troops in Wisconsin. He refused to surrender, but sat defiantly on his horse, his gun in his hands. Colonel Dodge who was in command of the soldiers rode up to him and took his gun from him. He was made head chief in 1845. He was a thorough Indian in religion and in all ways of life.

#### WOODBURY

The name was changed from Waukaw on January 29, 1853, in honor of Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire, one of the most eminent men of his time and the successor of Judge Story on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. He was a former United States Senator from New Hampshire. The Sioux City Eagle in its first issue in 1857, stated there were more residents in Sioux City from New Hampshire than from any other state.

#### WORTH

Named in honor of General William Jenkins Worth who was a prominent officer in the Mexican War. In this war he distinguished himself by his aggressive leadership in the battles leading to the capture of Mexico City.



## WRIGHT

Believed to be named in honor of Silas Wright, distinguished in American statesmanship, and twelfth governor of the state of New York, and also in honor of Joseph A. Wright, at the time of the creation of the county, Governor of the state of Indiana.

Selected for Hall of Fame in 1900 --

John Adams  
 John James Audubon  
 Henry Clay  
 Benjamin Franklin  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 John Marshall  
 Joseph Story  
 George Washington  
 Daniel Webster

Selected for Hall of Fame after 1900 --

Daniel Boone  
 Andrew Jackson  
 James Madison  
 James Monroe

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 Britannica Junior

The county names tell us so much about our sturdy pioneer ancestors. They have immortalized many of our great men - presidents, orators, explorers, statesmen. The Mexican War was fresh in their minds and thus we have names of places, generals, and soldiers from that war in our county names. It was typically American for men to remember their enemies, the Indians, by giving Indian names to counties. Not only do we find the names of Indian Chiefs, but also tribes and beautiful Indian women. The origin of our county names has been a fascinating and rewarding study.

Compiled by Mrs. Edwin Willcockson,  
 Box 244, Sigourney, Iowa.



Mrs. Edwin Willcockson

Laura Martha Leland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Leland; lived first half of her life in Kansas, moved to Sigourney, Iowa.

Educated; Westport High School, Kansas City, Mo., 1918; attended Oberlin Conservatory of Music 1918-1919; B. A. Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, 1923; M. A. University of Iowa, 1929; Certificate from the American Academy in Rome, Italy, 1926.

Teacher of Latin and English in Junior and Senior High Schools for ten years.

Civic Work; Church Organist, accompanist, and Chauffeur, (gratis)

Organizations, Presbyterian Church; Women's Club; James McElwee Chapter, D. A. R.; Sigourney chapter, D. A. C.; Fourth District chairman, Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, Club Extension program; I. F. W. C. Program Building committee, 1957-59 State Chairman, Iowa Society D. A. R., American Music Committee, 1954-56.

Married 1933 to J. Edwin Willcockson of Sigourney, Iowa; children - Kleber Willcockson, a Junior at State University of Iowa, 1957; Jim Willcockson, freshman at Iowa State College, 1957; Mary Ann Willcockson, sophomore in Sigourney High School, 1957.

Dated - Sigourney, Iowa  
September 1957.

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