

YESTERYEARS

A publication of

The Jefferson County

Historical Society

and

The Jefferson County

Genealogical Society

\$5

April 2017

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Editors' notes

This edition of YESTERYEARS begins with the first installment of entries from the Civil War Diary of John Steuart, the grandfather of John Steuart Curry. We will continue the series in the fall.

Although it might be slow to load on your computer and you might need a magnifying glass to read it clearly, the Jefferson County Tax Rolls of 1858 and 1859 offer helpful information for family and history researchers. We begin with Oskaloosa and Jefferson townships and will pick up Grasshopper Falls in the fall.

And, as always, if you have requests or ideas for inclusion in YESTERYEARS, let us hear from you. – Liz Leech

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JEFFERSON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Now on Facebook! "Jefferson County Kansas Genealogical Society"

Meetings are at 2:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month (except December) at the Research Center at Old Jefferson Town on Highway 59, Oskaloosa. All who are interested in family history are welcome. The Research Center library is open year round on **Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m.** It also is open on **Sundays from 1:30 to 5 p.m. May through September.**

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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 146

Oskaloosa, KS 66066

The Jefferson County Historical Society owns and maintains Old Jefferson Town, a village of historical structures from different parts of the county. Located on Highway 59 in Oskaloosa, Old Jefferson Town is open weekend afternoons May through September. Board meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at OJT. Membership is \$25 a year and may be paid to the Jefferson County Historical Society care of Mary J. Luse, treasurer at 16786 126th St., Winchester, KS 66097.

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Civil War diary of John Steuart, Part I

The transcribed diary and introduction below was shared with the Jefferson County Genealogical Society by the Curry and Steuart families. The descriptions of soldier John Steuart provide a true glimpse into a soldier's life in the Civil War. In Part I of the story, John Steuart, a Union soldier, is fighting in and around Mississippi and is linked to several known battles.

The original copies of the diaries of John Steuart were found in the leather cases carried by Steuart during the war. One case has a wood frame to hold molded bullets and the other case may have been for wadding for the rifle, or food or powder. A muzzle-loading rifle, referred to as a Sharps Rifle, was among his saved artifacts.

According to family: "John **Steuart** was born near Sparta, Illinois, on Feb. 14, 1844. His father died and his mother remarried, to Charles **McIlroy**. John Steuart and two brothers were brought up by a bachelor uncle; without formal education. In 1861, Rev. **Todd** the minister of the Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) Church of Coulterville, Illinois, raised a company of volunteers. They marched out of the church yard singing Psalms, on their way to war, according to family stories. John Steuart joined as a volunteer* at the age of 17. The diary of 1861-62 which follows was written on thin paper, both sides. Very few capitals, not very good spelling. In 1863, on May 15, John Steuart was wounded at Champion Hills. As told years later by Will Steuart, a son, they were advancing through woods, suddenly he came to, sitting on the ground, arms around knees, blood spouting from shoulder near neck. This wound healed up, enough for John Steuart to reenlist in 1865, as set forth in the second diary, kept in the little black book.

Soon after the close of the Civil War, John Steuart married Rachel **Holliday**, near Coulterville, Illinois. They lived near Sparta, Illinois, in a two-room house which he built. Six children were born in this home. In 1880, the family moved to a farm of 160 acres near Winchester, Kansas. The Steuarts had a two-story home built, moving into it in 1881. This house was still standing in 1951, part of the **Hensleigh** farm. Two more children were born in this home. In 1880, many traces of the pioneer days were still to be found in Kansas.

On May 8, 1883, twenty years to the week from the time he was hit, John Steuart died from his wound; it had never entirely cleared up, at various times part of uniform, pus and infection had worked out of it.

The widow was left with eight children ranging from fourteen years down to four months: Will, Margaret, Louella, Renwick, Mae, Ira, Weir, Ethel. That year the last debts were paid, a barn was built, and the family carried on. All eight children were married, all had children, to a total of 21 grandchildren of

John and Rachael Steuart. Both are buried in the Covenanter churchyard cemetery at Winchester, Kansas.”

*ancestry.com records indicate John Steuart served, at least at the start of the war, in the 10th Regiment, Missouri Volunteer Infantry.

The diary excerpts:

“DATES OF OUR TRAVEL IN 1861

Aug 9th 1861 Sworn into the service at Coulterville & started for St. Louis, afired a salute at Fayetteville and (Belleville.

Aug. 10 Reached the arsenal at 12m went a swimming in the Miss. River.

Sabbath 11th: The Cap tried to preach at 12 twelve o'clock herd of an attack on the Iron Mountain RR [railroad,possibly] rumors of an attack on St. Louis formed a line got shoes and blanket and arms then went to drilling orders to lie on our arms & be ready to march in a minute's warning.

12th Seen 500 of Segals [Maj. Gen. Franz **Sigel**] troops to be payed off, elected corporals and sergt. Seen two large cannon planted in arsenal 30 pounders. At 11 o'clock p.m. got order to march, marched 3 miles to the Pacific R.R. Depot after a ride of 37 miles we landed at Pacific Mo about sun rise.

13th Saw the sand cave fifty yards in sand white for making glass and sandpaper.

14th Gen. (*Nathaniel*) **Lyons** killed at Springfield Mo., seen lots going to

Roley (Rolla?). 50 of our men ordered to guard the Meramec bridge.

16th Raised a collection for to deaf and dumb children that had to leave the Fulton asylum.

17th Went swimming.

18th Sabbath had preaching by Captain Todd.

19th Seen the First Regt. Going home. Seen Gen. Sigel as he passed.

20th The soldiers passing by the thousands to St. Louis.

22nd 29th Cavalry passed and one thousand infantry went to the Merrimac 2 ¼ miles pitched tents 50 men.

31st Ordered to the Merrimac.

Sept. 1st, 1861 Sabbath marched all night striped and waded came to a secesh camp at sunrise they had fled, captured 6 men and 5 horses, killed 4 or 5 started back at one o'clock got lots of milk and butter watermelons – camped all night on the roadside slept fine high hills and

cedars looked well 325 in all another expedition started for big river.

4th Moved to Pacific it is headquarters details made for several purposes Friday a bridge burned at the St. Louis and Hannibal R.R.

October the 1st I was sick in the hospital and got our uniforms at Pacific 10 got back to my reg. They were under marching orders. This is a nice place noted for wine got lots of apples and pies, 27 our reg. went to Fulton. I was not able to go.

Nov. 9th Took sick again , got a furlow and did not get back till 12th of Dec. had a big time at home.

20th Got 60 miles for our reg.

21st Started on a long march I was not able to go.

Jan. 5, 1862 The remainder of the reg. started for Warrenton got there the 14th and was quartered in a house.

17th 25 of our Co. started for Troy along with some other troops got there at sundown got my supper at a house for nothing stayed there all the next day and got lots of apples, potatoes, eggs and all such things. Took 19 prisoners started back the 19th marched through the mud stayed there till the twenty-4 of February then marched to high hill. It was very cold and stormy.

14th Our Co and Co A went to Mexico [Missouri], snow on the cars.

16th The cavalry went out on a scout.

18th Got back safe with some prisoners. Found a dead man on the R.R. track the cars ran over him. 5 of our Co worked on a block house. I worked 9 days we boarded out got our rations cooked for 25 cents per week.

April Mexico 4th drew dress coats, hats and exchanged gray pants for blue.

17th We left Mexico for St. Louis stayed all night at high hill started then rain the next morning for Luter Landing took quarters in a tobacco house. We was only 4 miles from High Hill.

18th Marched to Luter Landing shot off our canon the Isibelon arrived at 5 o'clock went loading got through at ½ 11 o'clock.

20th Stopped at St. Charles took on the sick arrived at St. Louis rain and disagreeable moved to R. Campbell boat.

21st Payrolls fixed rec. our pay on the boat. 14 or 15 Co. officers were mustered out of the service also Col. Todd Holmes elected cor. Cap **Harney** elected major.

23rd Arrived at Cape Girardeau 12 o'clock at night marched 1 mile to our camping ground.

30th At 2 o c went on board the boat the boat for Pittsburg Landing.

May 1862 1st stopped at Paduea since 3 o'clock 10 o'clock a man jumped overboard with the delerium tremens.

2nd Passed Fort Henry 7:40 o'clock.

3rd We were fired into returned the fire two men got wounded arrived at Pittsburg Landing moved out and pitched tents heard scurmishing at a distance – 125 steam boats there lots of rebel arms piled up. One corporal shot a Sergt. by accident Co. A.

4th Buried the sergeant, started to march at noon went two miles pitched tents and it raining like rip.

5th Marched 7 miles, we camped in a cornfield 100 hundred yards from the Miss. [Mississippi] line, there is 7 reg [regiments] and 7 batteries camped here.

6th Marched 1 mile saw Gen. **Hubbard**.

7th No rain, marched a few miles Merder [?] Corinth [Mississippi].

8th Marched 4 or 5 miles had a scurmish went back in the evening, only a reconnoiter.

9th Our reg. went 2 mle on grand guard there was a house where we stayed the woman & 6 children all chewed tobacco.

10th Went back to camp.

11th Cleared camp.

12th Moved a few miles further.

Sab [Sabbath] 13th Dug trench in the forenoon.

19th Firing in front an alarm 1 mile from Farmington.

21st Rained very heavy last night sharp firing today.

26th Had a scirmish on front got 5 men wounded and one killed.

28th We marched 2 miles had a scurmish got 5 men killed and 40 wounded stayed till evening our Co. went on grand guard.

29th 5 Co of our reg had a skirmish got 5 killed and 24 wounded.

Friday 30th The rebels evacuated Corinth and our army marched through we marched till 12 o'clock at night found lots of secesh comasarys, stores of everything but coffey.

31st Baked bread lived fine the rebels left cooking utentials moved 1 mile formed a line then I took sick the reg. got marching orders with two days rations.

July 1862 1st I then gave up the case and was herded back to the brigade hospital.

July 3 The reg marched 12 miles crossed the mobele R.R. 7:40 o'clock they marched threw rain and after night till they were fatigued a great dele.

12th They got back to the old camp.

15th I returned to camp got two months pay and was very weak they moved 1 mile formed camp.

August 3rd Returned to Co I took sick again and did not return till the 9th of Aug.

15th Moved to Jasinto [Jacinto, Mississippi] our Co was guarding headquarters our Co went out a'foragin' brought in lots of potatoes and apples and roasten ears.

20th Changed our camp $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to the rear put up shades and bunks and had a fine time of it.

25th Our reg. was ordered on a march returned the next morning I was not along myself they brought three or four prisners.

September 9th Capton Todd started home.

17th We started for Juea [Iuka, Mississippi?] went one mile camped one mile from Jasinto. Our Co was on grand guard, baked bread.

18th Went on to Juea lots of troops ahead of us and had a fight lay on the battle field all night with any blankets. James **Young** got his finger shot, three of Co A got each a leg shot off, 14 of the reg. got wounded we was on the reserve our loss was 175 killed 325 wounded. The secesh loss was 390 killed 1010 took a good many prisners.

19th Tried to cut off their retreat but was too late. got one cracker for

dinner and $\frac{1}{2}$ hour rest at noon started back in the evening camp on the Juea Road.

20th Got rations from the divisions train started back for Jasinto got there in the evening.

21st We moved our camp 1 mile and fixed up bunks and covered with blankets.

25th Part of our reg. went out a'foragin 8 miles northeast of town got 11 or 12 loads of corn got our haversacks filled with sweet potatoes.

October 1st We left Jasinto for Corinth camped within a few miles.

2nd Moved our camp 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles nearer town.

3rd We moved into town heard cannonading in the morning that lasted till noon. Our reg got 14 killed and got 85 wounded, the rebel loss was 8 thousand killed and wounded our loss was three hundred killed, 11 hundred wounded, **Price** [Gen. Sterling Price] retreated to Hathee River.

5th Drawed one pair of shoes we got three days rations and started in persuit seen lots of dead and prisoners.

7th Marched on threw Co south where our cavalry had a fight we got to Riango [Rienzi, Mississippi?] at night.

8th Rested half day then started for Riply [Ripley, Mississippi] and got to Little Hatch River.

9th Heard of Price at Riply, Stanly formed a line of battle, Price ran again, got roasten ears.

10th We went back to Riango.

11th Marched back to Corinth and struck tents.

13th Moved a little closer 12 of our Co detailed for headquarters, guard corporal and sergeant.

15th Moved headquarters a little closer to town.

21st I seen the 12th Illinois.

26th Snow and cold

November 1862 2nd we started on a march with blankets and three days rations.

3rd Marched on toward Grand Junction [Tennessee].

4th Marched on toward Holley Springs, camped 4 miles from Grand Junction – 4,500 on this expedition.

8th Went to Davis Mills 6 miles.

9th Went out 5 miles reconnoitering toward Holley Springs came back in the evening.

12th Our brigade with a lot of cavalry started for Holley Springs

got there the 13th seen where the pickets fought. Started back in the evening camped at Hudsonville.

14th Got back to Davis Creek got our knapsacks I got some cloes stole – our Co. is guarding headquarters.

17th We marched to Moscow 10 miles west of LaGrange it is a nice place.

28th We started for Holley Springs, camped at Cold Water.

29th We got to Holley Springs at 10:00, we went to Lumkins Mills seen where the pickets fought her firing in front took guns.

December 6th We got to Oxford, Price retreated, our men got 100 and 20 prisners headquarters in town.

9th Seen the 81st Ill. Reg. found the boys in good spirits.

12th Moved out 6 miles formed camp.

16th Our men brought in 150 prisners.

19th Got a letter from Mother and Robert **Derring**.

29th Wrote to mother.

U.S. General Land Office Plats and Survey Field Notes

And Dr. James Noble's Log Cabin

One of the best tools for researching early Jefferson County properties is a set of hand-drawn maps (plats) and accompanying field notes by U.S. General Land Office (GLO) surveyors. In 1855 these surveyors traveled west to east and south to north, and east to west and north to south through Jefferson County with their measuring chains, compasses and axemen. They took the measurements that divided the land into precisely sized sections and townships, those very same townships and sections you see on your property tax bill today.

The surveyors, following new 1851 instructions, also marked corners of sections, often with large limestone rocks in Jefferson County. Perhaps most interesting is the commentary the surveyors were instructed to include in their notebooks, "field notes," was about the land conditions, whether it was hilly, rock, had a spring or stream, the quality of the soil, trees, early settlers' dwellings and fields, roads and the like. All of it can be an aid to genealogists and researchers.

The Kansas State Historical Society's archives in Topeka contain the maps made of each township in each range for Jefferson County and members of the public may have copies made. In addition, the archives contain the surveyors' field notes books, which may be viewed, as well. Closer to home, the Jefferson County Genealogical Society holds a copy of a book containing the surveyors' field notes for all of Jefferson County and a large map composed of copies of the survey plats is on an interior wall in the society's library. A few of the Jefferson County plat maps are online at: <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/223914>

With these tools, I'd like to share an example of the information a researcher can draw from the plats and field notes.

The standard histories of early Oskaloosa say that when Oskaloosa co-founder Jesse Newell (the other founder was Joseph Fitsimons/Fitzsimmons) moved to the area, he acquired the log cabin of settler Dr. James Noble. Various accounts say that cabin was somewhere on the east side of Oskaloosa possibly near commercial sites or Old Jefferson Town just east of U.S. Highway 59.

I asked Bill Noll, Jefferson County's public works director and a licensed surveyor, to try to zoom in to a more precise location for Dr. Noble's log cabin. A year and a half earlier, Mr. Noll had solved a more challenging mystery of where an Underground Railroad "train" led by John Doy had been ambushed by

For Dr. Noble's cabin, Mr. Noll used the GLO maps on file with the county and the accompanying copy of the field notes written by the original surveyors of the land. In this case, the early surveyors paid particular attention to the north boundary of the Delaware Reserve lands, which ran along the south end of what is now Oskaloosa. Noble's cabin was on the northern edge of the Delaware lands, which were not open to settlement or purchase by anyone outside the Delaware Indians.

While the colorful GLO maps depict a close approximation to where various landmarks were located (a road, a stream, a cultivated field, etc.), they weren't always precise in mapping every landmark. The maps were an artist's interpretation of the survey. But in the case of Dr. Noble's cabin on the map, compared with the field notes taken by the surveyor, the map was on target, Mr. Noll reported.

That puts Dr. Noble's log cabin about where the Edmonds Chapel stands now at Old Jefferson Town. (See images on following pages)

Finding properties on old survey maps in Jefferson County to compare with what's in place now is astonishingly simple because of a mapping program put together by **Kirk Webb, GIS specialist** in Jefferson County's GIS (geographic information system) Department.

With the county's GIS aerial photography as a base (the GIS system allows for every land parcel in Jefferson County to be viewed with its property identification numbers, land description, acreage, etc), the GLO 1855 survey maps can be "overlaid" on the same location of the latest aerial map and compared.

You can get to Jefferson County's Historical Map by copying and pasting this link into your Internet browser address bar:

<http://jfcogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=05bcc934d8834a8f8a5fc64766323c03>

The interactive map includes instructions on how to use all the map's options from current aerial photos of the land to the old GLO maps. Also included are helpful explanations about GLO maps and about the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's GLO records, along with Internet links to those websites. These sites explain how to use the measurements contained in the field notes as well as how to interpret all the numbers and markings on the GLO maps.

Back to Bill Noll and his finding. The GLO map offered a good siting of Dr. Noble’s cabin. Field notes written by surveyor William Shields for this spot in the NW ¼ of **Section 4, Township 10S in Range 19E** say Noble’s “dwelling house” was about 10 chains northeast of a “corner” where the Delaware Reserve’s east-west boundary line ran across Sections 5 and 4.

> **The image on the next page** is a close-up of Jefferson County’s GLO map. On the “west” side of the image you can find Mr. Noble’s cabin marked with a small black square within a shaded area. The corner from which the surveyor figured the northeast distance to the cabin is formed by the vertical section line between Sections 4 and 5, and the faint line running east-west, slightly sloping (the north Delaware Reserve line).

> **The image on the page after that** is from the interactive Jefferson County Historical Map from the county’s GIS department. It shows the most recent aerial image of the same area at Oskaloosa, with the old GLO map depiction of where Noble’s cabin was. Unfortunately, the way the image comes together for off-line use it’s hard to see Edmonds Chapel under the Noble “box.”

Shields, the surveyor for the north Delaware Reserve border across several sections in of Jefferson County, wrote this of Township 9, which contains most of Oskaloosa and up Hickory Point: *“The quality of the land in this Township is considerably above the common average. There is a fair proportion of rich bottom land on both sides of Slough Creek, which is the principal stream in the Township. The stream has a gentle [?] generally, high steep banks and stony bed. The uplands are generally rolling, good 1st rate land – and well adapted to cultivation. Timber chiefly Oak, Walnut, Hickory, Elm, [Lime?], Ash, Locust and Mulberry – undergrowth Hazel, Oak & hickory bushes, [?] and vines.”*

Notes on the Public Land Survey System

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Sections in a township, left.

“Range” measures distance, in six-mile units, east to west from a specific meridian. **“Township”** is a measure north and south of a specified baseline. A township usually has **36 one-mile sections**, six miles wide and six miles tall. Sections are further divided into quarters and those quarters further divided.

How they measured: A **mile is 80 chains**. A chain is **66 feet** long. Each chain has **100 links**. A link is **7.92 inches**. If you read that a field was 12.59 chains from a line, it means 12 chains and 59 links. To get the number of feet, multiply 12.59 times 66, for 830.94 feet.

The information above is taken from multiples sources, easily found on the Internet. You would need further reading on “bearing direction” to be able to follow a surveyors’ notes.

100010
95-19E

60.11

7.74760 E

Section 34, T9S, R 19E

Section 33, Township 9S, Range 19E

Section 32
T9S, R 19E

Jacksonville

7.10137 E

7.10°43'E

43.10

44.14

69.65

68.77

74.49

< Dr. Noble's cabin

^

Delaware Reserve line

113.78

22.40

143.20

36.69

35.0

33.58

32.55

31.77

31.31

SP. 1.7

4.50

100020
105-19E

Section 4, Township 10S, Range 19E

Section 5,
T10S, R 19E

Section 3, T10S, R 19E

*Section 33, Township 9S
Range 19E*

< Grocery store

< Old Jefferson Town

Bellevue Reserve Boundary

*Section 4, Township 10S
Range 19E*

Ninceheler Museum on State Register

William Jefferson Ninceheler was born in Cable, Ohio on January 29, 1854. He was the second son of Henry and Elizabeth (Strohl) Ninceheler. The Nincehelters named their sons with Biblical names and names of US presidents, thus the name William Jefferson. William's birth year being of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and his birth date later become the birth date of Kansas.

William J. Ninceheler at the age of 25 moved to Jefferson County about 1880. Upon coming to Kansas, William worked for Charley Golden to do blacksmithing. When the Leavenworth, Topeka, and Southwestern started running passenger service to Oskaloosa he turned to the livery business. At first he was an assistant to Jim Sprague. Later he went into business for himself in 1887 when the Kansas City Wyandotte & Northwestern came to the Oskaloosa area, missing the town by 2 miles.

In 1881 George Parsons and his wife, Elizabeth bought four lots in block nine at the southwest corner of Washington and Cherokee streets, one block east of the Jefferson County courthouse. He began construction of a one-story, L-shaped wood-frame house. After the death of their daughter, the Parsons sold the property. In May of 1884 it was sold to Dr. J.W. Balsley and his wife, Sarah (S.E.)

William Ninceheler met a local woman named Minnie Wendorff. William and Minnie married October 21, 1885 and moved to a residence across the street from Dr. Balsley and his wife Sarah. In 1886 William and Minnie (Wendorff) Ninceheler purchased the house from the Balsley's and began residing in the Victorian house at 506 Cherokee St., Oskaloosa, KS. The Nincehelters moved to their new home to start their family.

Sometime between 1886 and 1893, the house was expanded, presumably to meet the needs of a growing family. In 1893 three of the four Ninceheler daughters had been born. Changes to the one-story house appear to be an addition on the north side and a one-story appendage on the southwest side of the house, connected to the main house by a hyphen.

Mr. Ninceheler had a livery stable on the North side of Oskaloosa square and operated a hack service, freight and hauling service to take passengers between the two train depots located about a mile outside town. He was also a coal dealer. William was a very successful businessman. A clipping from the Oskaloosa Times on March 30, 1894 states:

“William Ninceheler has treated himself to a brand new hack (carriage) from Elkhart, Indiana Carriage Works. It is one of those long – bodied fellows, almost as long as Will, capable of seating anywhere from ten to fifteen, according to the size and disposition of its occupants. Will is making some substantial improvements in his business and when he gets his new barn completed will have one of the most complete stables in the state.”

In 1887 their first child was born. The new baby girl was named May. In 1889 another baby girl was born to the couple. Her name was Maud. In 1890 Nell was born. In 1897, their last child, another daughter Agnes was born. All four girls were christened in the same dress. All of the girls attended Oskaloosa Public Schools, graduated from Emporia State University and became schoolteachers in Jefferson County. Only one of the girls married. The others lived their entire lives in this house.

In 1913, at the age of 24, Maud met and married Frederick Thomson. In 1915 the couple moved to Horton where Frederick became the superintendent of Horton schools. They did not have any children from this marriage.

May, Nell, and Agnes never married. They taught at local schools and were very active in their community. May served as county superintendent of schools for a few years. The girls continued to live with their parents in the house.

In September 1939, William died at the age of 84. He and Minnie had been married for 54 years. Minnie lived another 9 years and passed at the age of 88, 1948. The girls continued to live in the house after the passing of their parents.

In 1969, at the age of 82, the eldest daughter May died. In 1978 the youngest daughter, Agnes died at the age of 81. Nell continued to live in the house alone until her death. She died in 1980 at the age of 90. In her will she left the house and furnishings to the Jefferson County Historical Society. Maud donated approximately \$25,000 to help with the moving expenses of the building. Several other home furnishing gifts were also received from Maud Ninceheler Thompson before her death in 1984. The Ninceheler daughters did many of the watercolor paintings displayed in the house. Their art teacher was Alice Worswick of Oskaloosa, who also taught John Steuart Curry.

The house was moved to Old Jefferson Town in 1980 from its location on the 500 block of Cherokee Street in Oskaloosa. It was opened to the public in May of 1981. In restoring the house and contents, period furnishings that came with the house were used, and more modern furnishings were replaced with donated and purchased pieces representing the years from the early 1900s through World War I.

The curtains and shades throughout the house were replaced, but the lamps, vases, pictures and other miscellaneous memorabilia came with the house. The ceiling fixtures, doorknobs, radiators, etc., are all original. In the dining room, everything except the teacart belonged to the Nincehelters. The kitchen has been restored to the turn of the century. The table, chairs, highchair, ironing board, crocks and other utensils displayed came with the house.

All of the bedroom furniture (except for one bed) was Mr. and Mrs. Ninceheler's when they set up housekeeping in 1885. The daughters used the beds until their deaths. A blue and white quilt that was made by Mrs. Ninceheler for each daughter rests on the beds.

After the move was complete to Old Jefferson Town, Maud expressed interest to see the home at its new location. She was living in a nursing home at the time of the move. Friends made sure Maud got to see the house. It was said that she was quite pleased with the house. In 1984, Maud passed. She was 95 years old.

**In April 2016, the house was placed
on the Register of Historic Kansas
Places.**

The house remains as the Nincehelters had left it. It is open for tours during the summer months on weekends or by private tours arranged through the Jefferson County Historical Society. – By Margaret Dick, past president of the Jefferson County Historical Society