

SLOPER BURIAL

The following is the only excerpt that could relate to the Sloper Burial. The Seaman property was in the W½ of Section 27 and the E½ of Section 28, T. 79 N., R. 3 E. of the 5th P.M., Sheridan Twp. The following information was from Mrs. Harold Wilson, R.R., LeClaire, Iowa

from: Descendants of Abraham Tegarden by
Helen Elizabeth Vogt 1967

d.7-15-1927 both bur. Newton Cem.

Winfield's father had a wagon and carriage factory in back of the colonial brick house on 1st Ave., a Newton landmark in which Emma and her husband lived for thirty years. They moved to Boone for 3 years in 1908 and then to Des Moines where he was in the hotel business. Emma was active in the Christian Church and died from sorrow over her husband's death in an auto accident. No issue

11.21(10) BETHIA⁵ TEAGARDEN

b.4-17-1820

m. 1843 to JOSEPH SEAMAN (b.9-3-1816 son of William (1786-1871) & Mary (Nickerson)(1796-1874)S. of Wash. Co., Pa.; d.2-4-1889 Scott Co., Iowa)

d.4-11-1901 at 81 yrs. both bur. Oakdale Cemetery

Joseph, brother of Mary Seaman who married Enoch Harvey Tea., had m. 1st Permelia Squires who died at the birth of their first child, Ezra b.10-9-1842. Bethia raised the boy until he left home to enlist in the Union Army, Civil War where he lost his life in the New Orleans yellow fever epidemic in August 1863.

Bureau of Land Management records show a patent to Joseph Seaman issued on Military Warrant #52176 for 160 a. in Sec. 27 and 28 Scott Co. under Act of Feb. 11, 1847. Purchase of this land in the rich Mississippi Valley at \$1.25 per a. had left them with just 25¢. Family legend tells that Joseph took a sack of corn to be ground at the mill and lost the quarter on the way. The miller trusted him, ground the corn and gave him some strychnine so he could poison the carcass of their cow which had died. He left it in the field as bait for the wolves; with the bounty money from their pelts he was able to replenish their funds.

In 1854 Scott County had a cholera epidemic and neighbors died by the score. Joseph was the only person for miles who would go near the victims. He had faith that no harm would come to him and gave a portion of his field as a burying ground. Against the protests of Bethia who was pregnant with their fourth child and fearful for their lives, he wrapped the bodies and buried them along the old Slopertown Road. None of the family contracted the disease and years later these heroic efforts were remembered by neighbors who placed his son in the Iowa State Legislature.

Bethia had raven hair and gray eyes; she was intelligent, rather stern, brusque and out-spoken. "Take off your style and come out and help me" was apt to be her greeting to her elegant Craft and Mann cousins when they came a-visiting. In the early days she was fond of riding and her side saddle and riding habit with the divided skirt brought from Pa., were objects of curiosity to her grandchildren. Lin and Nell would sit at her knee listening as she spun tales of her youth in Pa. She was beloved by her grandchildren and after she moved into town they all stayed with her in the winter during their high school days in Davenport.

Bethia and Joseph built a frame house on the Slopertown Farm which was taken down after Joseph died to make room for a large barn. She had a marvelous scrap trunk filled with beautiful silks and produced choice gifts out of her collection of pink lustre and moss rose cups, hanging walnut what-not shelves, etc. The bread and honey in her pantry in town drew the neighborhood children as well as her own, and her "crumbwoman" Jennie Wooden-sides came every morning to scrape the crumba off her tablecloth and out of the breadbox. The inventory of Joseph's estate in 1889 lists a family library valued at \$100 and \$40 worth of *antique*