

HISTORY OF APPANOOSE COUNTY - WELLS TOWNSHIP

WELLS, STEVENS, JONES, COOKSEY, SCURLOCK, FINDLEY, HORN, STANSBERRY, CRAIG, ELAM, BOND, ROBINSON, ANKROM, EDWARDS, LAW, DEAN

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THE TOWNSHIPS - FIRST COMES WELLS BECAUSE IT WAS FIRST SETTLED - PIONEERS AND THE TOWNSHIP OF THEIR CHOICE - OPENING OF A NEW COUNTRY THAT IS NOW TEEMING WITH GOOD FARMS AND FINE HOMES -

HISTORY OF THE VARIOUS TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES - Past and Present of Appanoose County Iowa, Volume 1, 1913, pg 351-353

WELLS TOWNSHIP

Wells Township was an inviting locality for the early settler. There was man that settler in Appanoose county and is honored in having given to the locality the name of the pioneer, **Colonel James Wells**.

The township was organized in January, 1848. It is the extreme southwest township of the county and was quite heavily timbered in the center, running diagonally from the northwest to the southeast. There is considerable good farming land in this vicinity and there are farms that will vie with any in the county in productiveness. There are many small streams, the principal one being the Chariton, which mean that the land is generously watered and drained. The township is traversed by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Keokuk & Western and the Iowa and St. Louis railroads.

Colonel James Wells was the first settler, coming with his family in 1839. He selected a location on section 16 and in the fall built a log cabin, in which he installed his family. Two years after he began the construction of a sawmill on his claim, which was followed a few years later by a flouring mill.

During the year 1841 Adolphus Stevens made a claim not far from where Wells had set his stakes and in the same year Austin Jones settled in the neighborhood. Jones remained but a few years and then removed to California. Stevens improved his farm and became a fixture in the township, living on his place for many years.

