

Family History by Emery Addison Cheney and Irma Cheney Briggs.

written by Irma Cheney Briggs January, 1977

This is the family history as told to me (Irma Cheney Briggs) by Dad (Emery Addison Cheney) in the summer of 1960 after his 90th birthday, total from memory:

In the 1700's John Cheney came from England to New York state. Four brothers, descendants of John Cheney, came West traveling with the Mormons. It is believed they came from Ohio.

Two brothers left the Mormon caravan at Richardson's Point in Southeastern Iowa (1846). They went to Iowa County and settled three miles southeast of Millersburg. The other two brothers went on with the Mormons to Salt Lake City.

Aaron Cheney (Dad's great uncle) established a stage stop east of Millersburg for the stage route between Iowa City and Des Moines --- later called the Black Diamond Trail.

The other brother settled in Iowa County was Dad's grandfather, Amasa Cheney. They had traveled in a covered wagon with a team of oxen. The family settled about one and one-half miles southeast of Millersburg. They had five children. Dad's father, Amasa, was the baby. Later five more children were born.

These pioneers built their first house of bark. They cut logs and peeled the bark off with a blade. A round trench was dug and the bark stood upright and was drawn together at the top leaving a hole about two feet across for the smoke to escape . The house was round. They lived in this home the first winter after they had come in the fall. They made a hole in the stump in which to pound corn into meal to make mush. They cut slough grass and made hay for the oxen. They bought 120 acres of land from the government for \$1.25 and acre.

Later a church was built and a bell brought from the East was put on the new log church. This was the first Christian church in Iowa County. At age 50 Amasa Cheney donated the lumber for the church and went to Marengo for the permission to open the First Christian Church on March 14, 1860 in Iowa County, Iowa. Having only a Book of Mormon, Amasa borrowed his son-in-law's Bible for the texts until he could acquire a Bible of his own. Dad's grandfather, Amasa, was then one of the first preachers in the Christian church in Iowa County.

The bell referred to was later put on a Methodist church after the Christian church was torn down. After the Methodist church burned, the bell was taken to Deep River and again put on a Christian church where it is now.



Mason To Be Ordained at North English on Sunday

NORTH ENGLISH—Dean Mason, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Mason, of North English, will be ordained to the ministry Sunday evening at the Christian church here. Elders from the North English and Deep River church will assist in the service. Mason is now serving as minister of the Christian church at Lexington, Ky. He was graduated from the North English high school in 1937. He attended Drake university and the Floyd Jones School of Sacred Music in Indianapolis, and is now attending Johnsons Bible college in Kimberlin Heights, Tenn.

He has been active as a song evangelist for several summers and served in the Deep River church last summer, where he has been called on his return from school.



Christian Church,

There have been seven generations of Cheney's in Iowa County. Homer Cheney who lived east of Millersburg was a distant cousin. His father was a cousin of Dad's father. He was a descendant of Aaron through Aaron's son, Mart. The Emery Cheney family started going to Deep River to church because Iva got acquainted with Marjorie Wilson. We joined the church after we moved northwest of Deep River. I believe all of us except Mother and Dad were baptized there.