

Fairmount Man A Victim Of Jaundice
"Uncle Jimmy" Davis, Pioneer Resident,
Called To His Eternal Reward.

Danville Morning Press
Special to the Press
Friday, December 13, 1918, page 3

Fairmount, Ill., Dec. 12.—James Davis, better known as "Uncle Jimmy" is dead at his country home, three and one-half miles west of town, after a short illness of about two weeks with jaundice and complications. The Davis family is one of the oldest of the county, and James Davis well deserves honorable mention among the early settlers. He was born in the state of Ohio, January 21, 1828. In early manhood he was married to Miss America J. Boggess, who was born in Vermilion county on the 3rd of May 1833. To this union two children were born, who with the aged wife survive, and are as follows: John, Texas and Mrs. Rachael Danforth, Danville; also three grandchildren, J. Roy Davis of this vicinity and James and Jennie Danforth of Danville. Throughout the years of an active business career the subject of this sketch has carried on farming and as the years have passed he has added to his possessions until he is one of the wealthiest farmers in the vicinity, being one of the esteemed and worthy pioneers who deserves much credit for the active and helpful part which he has taken in the development and up-building of his adopted county. Funeral services were held at the home on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Burial will be made in Davis cemetery.

James and America Davis Golden Anniversary
October 26, 1899 page 4 *Homer Enterprise*

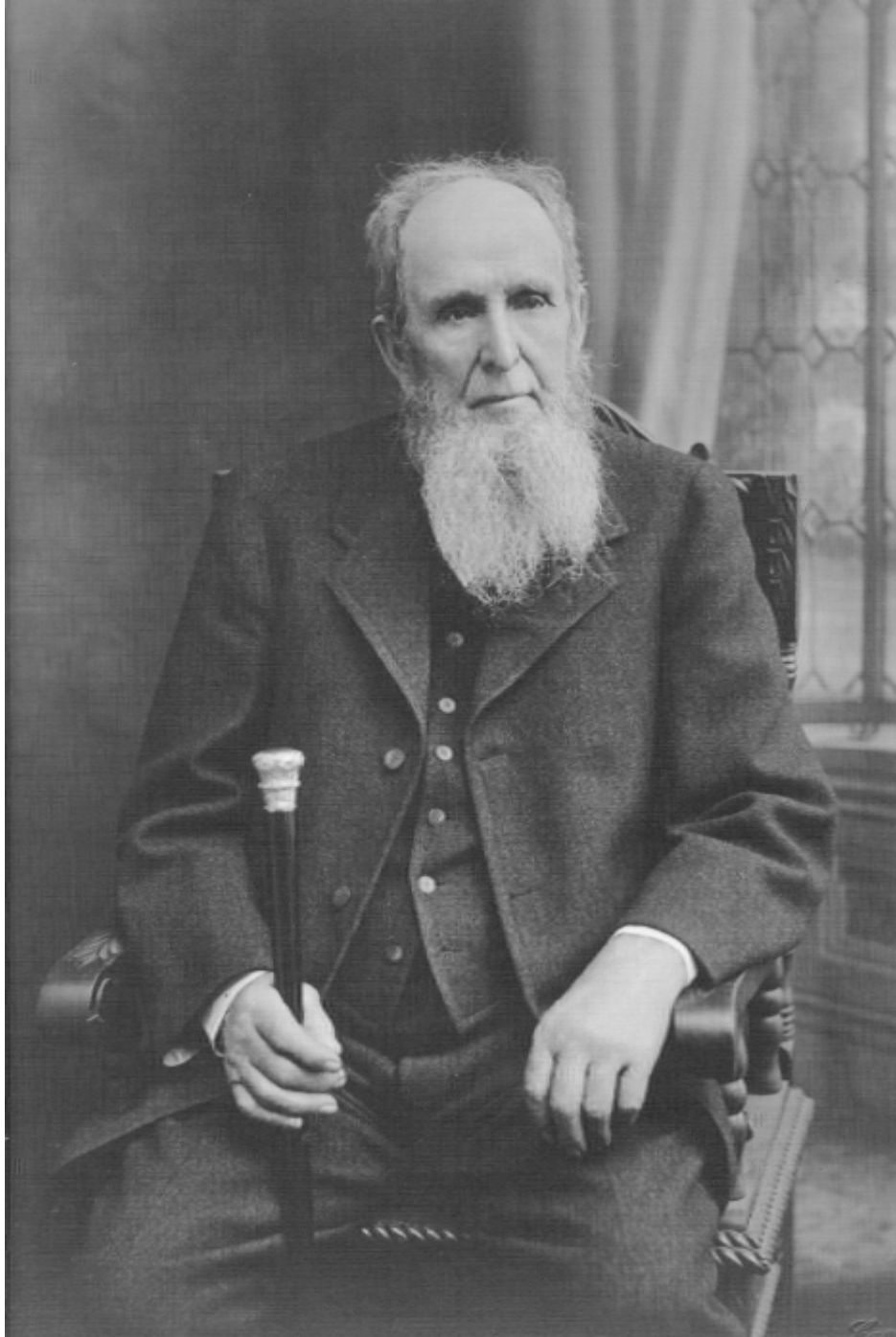
James Davis and wife, two of Vermilion county's oldest residents, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home east of Homer on Wednesday of last week in the presence of 85 relatives and life long friends. They were married in 1849 on a farm ten miles east of their present home. After their marriage they rode home on horseback and have lived all these years at their present home, something that very few residents of Illinois can record. In all these years there have never been but one death in the family - a grand child. The parents and their only children - a son and daughter- were present and dined together on this interesting occasion.

Mr. Davis and his wife, America Boggess, were introduced to each other a half century ago by Hiram Ashmore, who was also here from Peoria to attend the celebration of their golden wedding. Mr. Ashmore's father, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, married them. H. Ashmore made an interesting talk at the dinner table in recounting the acquaintance, courtship, etc. of the hosts.

A large portion of those present were relatives of either the Davis or Boggess families. Having lived so long in one place and prospered, the old couple have accumulated considerable property. Their land possessions alone consist of 400 acres of Vance township soil. Mr. Davis is 71 and his wife 67 years of age. The wife was married when but 18 years of age. Both are hale and hearty and give promise of living many more years.

Among those present left with the old couple as mementoes of the event were a gold

Masonic charm containing three small diamonds and nine opals, a gold lined silver berry set, gold lined mush and milk set, gold lined silver toothpick holder, China cup trimmed in gold, a fine picture of Priscilla and her spinning wheel in a frame of old gold, a Canadian \$2.50 piece and a gold watch chain.



84 Years Of Age Uses First Phone

Sunday February 11, 1912 page 1 *Danville Press-Democrat*

James Davis Talked for the First Time in This Manner Last Monday—Was Delighted. Press-Democrat Special

Homer, Ill., Feb. 10. - James Davis, the well-known farmer, residing just east of this village across the Vermilion county line, used a telephone Monday the first time in his life. It is stated that he was never particularly opposed to the telephone, but until that day never had one installed in his home, having never felt the necessity of it. He was finally convinced, however, that he and his aged wife could use a phone to good advantage; that they could talk, when they desired, with relatives and friends in other parts of the county, while others in whom they are interested and who are interested in them could call up whenever they felt like it. Perhaps one of the reasons Mr. Davis has not had a 'phone before this time is due to the fact that both he and his wife are advanced in years and they doubtless thought it would be a hard matter for them to talk over a telephone. Therefore, after having lived for a period of 84 years without the use of telephone, Mr. Davis installed one and when it was working right called up his brother-in-law, Dr. Boggess, of Catlin, and they conversed over the 'phone as easily as if they had been within a few feet of one another. Strange as it may seem, it was a veritable revelation to the aged man. He had seen others talk over the 'phone and noticed that it seemed easy to them, but for some reason he never realized that it would be easy for him. However, he is thoroughly convinced now that he can do it and the aged man is wondering why in the world he never tried it before.

Mr. Davis was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, January 21, 1828, and came with his parents to Vermilion county in 1836. They settled on the farm owned by Mr. Davis and the old Davis homestead stood within a few feet of the present house. He has therefore lived in almost the same spot for 76 years and it is related that forest trees that he planted when a boy have since grown to be mammoth trees. Mr. Davis can point out many of the sugar trees on his place that were mere saplings when he was a boy. He knows them because he has lived among them the greater part of a century and is as familiar with them as he is with individuals.

Mr. Davis excels in the making of maple molasses and his sugar camp has the reputation far and wide as being "one of the best." He has been making molasses for more than sixty years and during the Civil War there was a demand for his product that far exceeded the supply and for which he received a handsome price. Some of the old sugar buckets that were in use at that time are still doing service in that capacity, it being one of the careful practices of the aged man that all sugar-making paraphernalia be taken care of in the right way.

The Davis home is situated on the old state road and this place was headquarters for hundreds of emigrants and other who passed that way on their way to California in 1849. Mr. Davis, himself, crossed the plains and was also one of the few men from this part of the country who attended the Centennial at Philadelphia, Pa., in 1876.

Another distinction that the aged man is proud of is the fact that during the life of the old

Catlin fair he was its gatekeeper and in this connection he will be remembered by hundreds of people from this part of the country who attended the old fair, many of the boys and girls of that day who are not grown to men and women, remembering him in that way.

Mrs. Davis is 79 years of age, the aged couple having been married October 18, 1849, and have therefore lived together for almost 63 years. She is also finding the telephone, just installed in their home, a great pleasure, being able to now converse with her children, J. T. Davis and family at Fairmount, and their daughter, Mrs. E. R. Danforth, at Danville. The telephone, therefore, has become a permanent fixture in the Davis home.