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Will/Grundy Genealogical Society

honors a pioneer,

Robert S. Dudgeon,

who lived in Grundy County in 1853.

Robert S. Dudgeon, a son of Israel Dudgeon, was born in Brooklyn, New York on the 3rd day of May 1823. Of Scottish-Irish descent, he traveled to Ireland at the age of 20 years, remaining there about two years. In 1845, upon his return to the United States, he married Eliza Jane Anderson (born 24 December 1824 in Birmingham, England).

In the spring of 1852, the couple moved westward to Illinois, near Lisbon, Kendall County. On 18 March 1853, Robert purchased 160 acres of land in Felix Township, Grundy County, from William T. Hopkins, at a cost of \$700. The terms of sale specified payment of "one dollar cash in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged: the Balance to be in four payments, the first for sixty dollars, payable on the first day of November next, the second for two hundred dollars payable on the first day of April 1854, the balance in two equal payments each for the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars, payable respectively on the first day of January 1855 and on the first day of January 1856 with interest at six per centum per annum..." The family moved at that time into Grundy County.

Eight children were born to the Dudgeons - Charles, William Israel, Amelia, Theodore, May, Sylvester, Alfred and Robert H.

Robert Dudgeon was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and active in community affairs as well. He held, at various times, different township offices, and his advice was often sought by his neighbors. He was known as "a true Republican." Following the election of Benjamin Harrison, whom he admired, to the presidency of the United States, Robert laid out a small town on his land and named it Harrisonville.

Robert S. Dudgeon died at his home in Felix Township 21 December 1889 after an illness of about four weeks, survived by his wife and five of his eight children. Three sons - Sylvester, Alfred and Robert H. preceded him in death.

NOTE: WGGG member Karen Dudgeon is a descendant of Robert S. Dudgeon.

