This history indicates that the son of an early settler, Henry Simcoe, died of a timber rattlesnake. No age or date is given. I posted to the Posted to Jefferson County Rootsweb board to see if I can find the age of the boy and date of his death.

From The History of Jefferson County, Iowa 1879

The western branch of Crow Creek rises in Section 24, Fairfield Township, and the eastern fork in Section 20, Buchanan Township. These branches flow in a southern direction and unite in Section 30, Buchanan Township; thence south through Cedar Township, and empty into Cedar Creek from Section 18. Crow Creek and its branches waters eight sections. This creek was first known as Ballard's Branch after the name of the first settler on its banks, whose name is elsewhere mentioned as one of the "squatters" of 1836. When the settlement and society began to encroach on Ballard's domain, and he "pulled up stakes" and moved on west, it came to be known as Dyer's Creek, but W. B. Culbertson and John A. Pitzer rechristened it and named it Crow Creek, from the frequent gatherings of large flocks of those birds in the timber skirting the course of the stream.

Little Competine rises in Section 18 of Polk Township, and empties into Big Competine in Section 6 of Locust Grove Township, watering five sections.

Big Competine enters the county in Section 31 of Polk Township, flows south through Locust Grove, emptying into Cedar in Section 21, watering seven sections.

An old Indian, among the Sacs and Foxes, of the name of Competine,* had a child that died in the western part of the county, near where Daniel Morris then lived. The child was buried on the east bank of a small creek which passes through Locust Grove Township, and from this circumstance, and in honor of the Indian Competine, the settlers called the creek Competine, by which name it is still known. The meaning of the word Com-pe-tine, in the Sac and Fox tongue, is—a small office. Competine, however, had two other names—Ma-cul-wah and Mich-la-wam-pa-tine.

Coon Creek rises in Sections 7 and 9 of Polk Township, flowing into Competine in Section 21 of Locust Grove Township, watering thirteen sections. This creek was so named because of the large number of raccoons that were found along its course in early days.

Smith Creek rises in Section 24 of Polk Township, flows south, emptying into Coon Creek in Section 3, Locust Grove Township, watering six sections. This creek was named after the first
settler on its banks.
Richland Creek rises in Section 18 of Black Hawk, flows north, leaving the county from Section 5 of same township, watering three sections. No origin for the name of this creek is recorded, but it was probably so named because of the exceeding richness of the land through which its course is directed.

Rattlesnake rises in Section 13 of Cedar Township, flows through Round Prairie Township, emptying into Cedar Creek in Section 33 of Round Prairie Township, watering seven sections. This creek was so named because of the large number of yellow rattlesnakes that used to den among the rocks along its course. A son of Henry Simcoe, and early settler, was bitten by one of the reptiles, from the effects of which he died soon afterward.

Wolf Creek rises in Sections 26 and 27 of Buchanan Township, flows eastward, crosses Section 1 of Cedar, passes through Round Prairie, and

**Analysis:** This confirms that rattlesnakes were in the county early on. The description is clearly that of timber rattlesnakes. They were known as yellow rattlesnakes and they dened in rocks. Also the creek given the name rattlesnake creek is a good indication. Jefferson is right next to Counties that currently have timber.