Rattlesnake Report 169
Reported by James Mahaffy

Account #1
Death of Harry Ford age 7.
From CHAPTER XXIX HICKORY GROVE TOWNSHIP of
Past and Present of Jasper County Iowa by B.F. Bowden & Company, Indianapolis, IN, 1912 on Iowa gen web at
url: http://iagenweb.org/jasper/history/1912/history/chapter29.htm Transcribed by Ernie Braida in July 2003

In the middle of August 1876, Harry Ford, a lad of seven years, was bitten by a rattlesnake in this township. The
fangs of the reptile struck him in the hollow of his foot and he being heated at the time, the poison was absorbed into
his system and as a result he died within twenty-four hours.

Analysis: I think this is an almost verbatim copy of the 1878 History of Jasper County, but I have found such
copying more often. A few more details are found in Paul’s Ford History (I don’t know the exact title yet)

She quotes an old timer, Charlie Bell telling her:

“Sure, they was rattle snakes around. There was a couple of kids that died from rattle-snake bites… One of
them was the Ford kid, he was followin’ his dad when his dad was breakin’ prairie. They lived about a
miles south of us when we were on the Campbell place.” (Paul 1977)

References:
Paul, Wendell 1977. Ford History

Account #2

Introduction: I found this looking at electronic historic papers on Newspaper Archives

Iowa State Reporter
Waterloo, IA
p. 5 col. 5
Vol. 9 #15
September 13, 1876

STATE ITEMS.
A few days since little Harry, a seven year old son of Mrs. Ford, of Hickory Grove township, some six miles north of Kellogg, was bit by a rattlesnake in the hollow of the right foot, while on the prairie after cattle, a half mile from home. Being heated, the poison rapidly diffused itself through his system, and though everything was done that medical skill could do to counteract it, the little fellow died Monday about 3 P.M., 23 hours after the bite. His body was covered with spots after death.