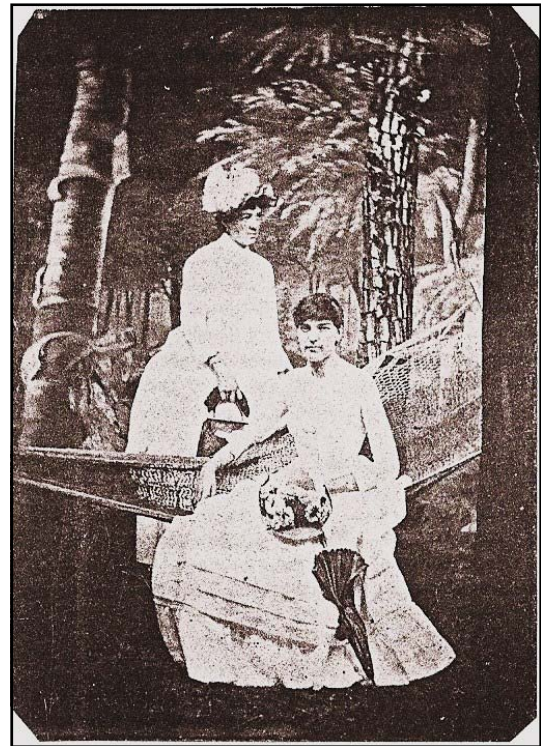


# ***A Teacher's Guide to***

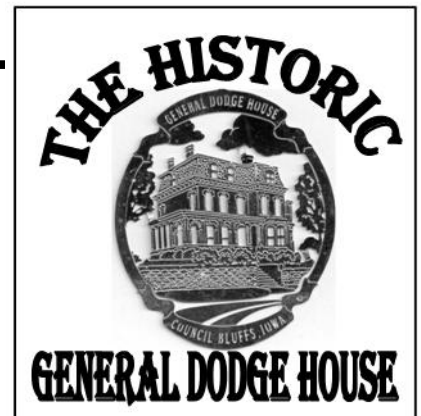
## ***"Keeping up with the Dodge's"***



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### **The Historic General Dodge House**

605 Third Street  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
(712) 322-2406  
[www.dodgehouse.org](http://www.dodgehouse.org)



## Keeping up with the Dodge's Activities and Discussion

### 8th grade and up:

#### Assign Characters from the character list

- ◆ Role play your character for the day. Make a list of the rooms in the Dodge House that your character would use; items used, etc. Keep these lists and notes for future writing assignments.

#### Servant's in the House:

- ◆ In the Victorian Era, servant's relied heavily on "references" to move from one job to the next. Contrast and compare these references from those we obtain today from employers. What was at stake for a servant who did not have references?
  - A. What were some perks and pitfalls for a young servant in regard to references? Use a Venn diagram or a visual map to share your information.
- ◆ Research why women and men in the nineteenth century would become servants or work for others. How is this different from today?
- ◆ As a servant during this time, what modern invention would make your jobs easier? What could you invent that would ease the work of your character? Things that have already been invented do not count!!!
- ◆ Many of the servants at the Dodge House came from Europe and most were, in fact, from Sweden. Research the routes that immigrants would have taken to get to Council Bluffs, IA in the 1870's. What obstacles might they have faced?
  - A. Discuss the trip that your character might have taken from Europe and share the obstacles that you might have faced (Ellis Island, train travel, ship travel, etc..)
  - B. Write a letter "home" describing your trip. Include at least 3 different modes of transportation that you would have used and mention 4 items that you were glad you had remembered to pack.
- ◆ Compare and contrast the difference experiences the servants had at the Dodge House. For your character, write a "help wanted" ad to fill your position. Imagine yourself as interviewing prospective servants. What qualities would they have had to possess?
- ◆ Discuss: As people moved West, the divisions between socioeconomic classes became less well defined. Why, and what do you think caused these changes? Would this "more equal" status have appealed to people of this time period? And Why?
- ◆ Write a letter to your family describing your position (as a servant) at the Dodge House.
- ◆ Write a radio play or a narrative about "A Day in the Life of \_\_\_\_\_(your character)". Use factual information you obtained on your tour as well as research of the time period.
- ◆ Develop a game using the people who lived, worked or visited the Dodge House. This could be a "who dun it" mystery game, a monopoly style game, etc..
- ◆ For your character, write a "help wanted" ad for your position, or write a letter of application applying for the position at the Dodge House. What qualities would the servant have needed for a position in the Dodge household?

## Keeping up with the Dodge's Activities and Discussion

### Visitors to the Dodge House

- ◆ Research the socioeconomic classes during the Victorian Era (1850-1901), Using your character card and the six traits of writing to, write about your role in visiting the Dodge House.
- ◆ Research etiquette and what was considered proper etiquette for visitors during this time period. Specifically research calling cards. Develop a game or a radio play to teach your peers how to behave properly as visitors to the Dodge House during the 1870's.
- ◆ Using a Venn diagram, compare/contrast your Council Bluffs character with a modern day celebrity or community official.
- ◆ Using the same system, compare Grenville Dodge to a current General (David Petraeus, or Colin Powell) and compare Ruth Anne Dodge to a female role model in your life. How are their values the same or different? How are their roles the same or different?
- ◆ Research Council Bluffs during the Grenville Dodge era (1853-1914). Who were other community notables in Council Bluffs and what roles did they play in the growth and development in Council Bluffs.
  - A. Develop character cards for these new Council Bluffs leaders.
  - B. Create a power point presentation about the impact of the Dodge family, or another notable family in Council Bluffs



### “Keeping up With the Dodge’s” lesson objectives:

Students will:

- 1) understand the Dodge family’s impact on life in Council Bluffs and their place in the Nation.
- 2) be able to contrast and compare life and culture in Victorian America to that of current day.
- 3) be able to contrast and compare employment in Victorian times and today.
- 4) develop an understanding of the different expectations of life on the frontier. Understand that Council Bluffs was on the frontier during the 1870’s.
- 5) analyze and understand the activities of women in Victorian society as is typified by the Dodge’s home.
- 6) compare the experience of women and their various roles in Victorian society and be introduced to the concept of the dress reform movement and feminism through the person of Amelia Bloomer.



Grenville Dodge circa  
1865



Lettie Dodge circa  
1869



Ella Dodge circa  
1869



Anne Dodge circa  
1869



Theta Beresheim



Clara Beresheim



Broadway and 4th Street 1870  
Council Bluffs, IA

Courtesy of the Council Bluffs Public Library

### General Grenville Dodge

You came to Council Bluffs in 1853 after surveying across the State of Iowa for the M & M Railroad. You are a decorated Civil War General and were injured at the Battle of Pea Ridge. You were the Chief Engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad during the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. You built this house in 1869, just after the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

### Ruth Anne Dodge

You came to Council Bluffs in 1854 right after you married Grenville. Initially, you lived out on the Elkhorn in a homestead, but later returned to Council Bluffs. When your husband, Grenville, was wounded at Pea Ridge, you crossed enemy lines to bring him out and then nursed him back to health. You loved the house at 605 Third Street, but not the rabbit painting in the dining room.

### Lettie Dodge

You were born in Council Bluffs in 1855. Your parents are Grenville and Ruth Anne Dodge. You love gardening and following your father around. In fact, you are more of a “Tom Boy” than is strictly proper. Once, while visiting your Father in Tennessee during the War, you stowed away on a wagon taking a condemned prisoner to be executed. Everything had to be delayed until you were safely out of the area! You even played with Mr. Lincoln’s children at the White House!

### Ella Dodge

You were born in Council Bluffs in 1858. Your parents are Grenville and Ruth Anne Dodge. You are the middle child and very much a Daddy’s Girl. You and your sister Lettie shared a room.

### Ann Dodge

You were born in Fort Leavenworth, KS in 1866. Your parents are Grenville and Ruth Anne Dodge. Your mother and sisters followed your father whenever possible from duty station to duty station. You were the baby of the family and got to move into your big beautiful house when you were 4 years old!

### George Simons

You are the cook on the General’s railroad surveying crew. Lucky for everybody you have a real knack for re-creating in paint what you see around you. You think that the General even kept some of your paintings for himself.

### Dexter Bloomer

You came here in 1854 with your wife Amelia Bloomer. You are committed to education and love having a house full of kids even though you never had any of your own. They have even named a school after you!

### Antoinette

Maid. You are a maid at the Dodge house. You share a room on the third floor with the laundress, Bridgette. It can be very hard work getting up before any one else to lay the fires and to keep the house clean. If any one needs anything they always call for you first!.

### Helga

I have a beautiful room on the third floor of the house but I am not often there! I am the Cooks Assistant and it falls to me to wake up at 4:30 in the morning to start the fire in the stove so that everyone can have hot tea and coffee in the morning!!

### Sylvanus Dodge

You were Grenville and Nathan Dodge's father. You followed your oldest son Grenville to Council Bluffs in 1854. You loved the countryside so much that you moved your youngest child, Julia and your wife here to join your sons, Nathan and Grenville.

### Julia Theresa Phillips Dodge

You are the Mother of Grenville, Nathan and Julia Dodge . You followed your sons and your husband to the Elkhorn in what is now Nebraska, from Danvers, MA, and homesteaded there a time before finally coming to Council Bluffs.

### Julia Dodge

You are the younger sister of Grenville, and Nathan Dodge . You were just 13 when your family moved from Danvers, MA to the Elkhorn in what is now Nebraska,. You were a courageous child and have many fond memories of living in the small, mud street, town of Omaha.

### Mrs. Prassey

You are the head housekeeper for the Dodge's family home at 605 Third Street. You are so lucky to work for this family because you actually have a whole room all to yourself on the third floor of the house. The family travels so much, that you often have the house to your self, but when they are home, you have to be ready to entertain Presidents!

### Frank Pusey

You are the son of the Pusey's who hosted Abraham Lincoln on his visit to Council Bluffs in 1859. Later you married Ella Dodge.

### Nathan Phillips Dodge

You are the son of Sylvanus and Julia Theresa Dodge. You followed your brother to Council Bluffs and have taken a liking to the area and to banking! A local real estate company now bears your name: N.P. Dodge!

### John Beresheim

Your family built the house right next to the Dodge's and your are business partners with Grenville at the Council Bluffs Savings Bank. You have a son, August Beresheim and a beautiful grand-daughter Theta.

### August Beresheim

You now live in your families home next to the beautiful Dodge mansion. It is so exciting to see the important guests coming and going from this great house. You also work in banking with the Dodges, just like your father!

### Clara Beresheim

You are proud to be the next door neighbor of the prestigious Dodge family. You husband and father-in-law do business with the Council Bluffs Saving Bank that was begun by the Dodge brothers, Grenville and Nathan. You are the mother of Theta Beresheim.

### Theta Beresheim

Your family lives next door to the Dodges and your families have a good and friendly history together. Your father and Grenville Dodge were even some of the first people to own automobiles in all of Council Bluffs!

### William Squire

You are a real estate investor in Council Bluffs and you can't see why people make all this fuss over the General and his family. In fact, you are going to build a big and tall house right across the street and block the General's precious view of the Missouri River, just to SPITE him!!

### Amelia Bloomer

You came here with your husband Dexter and lived at 123 4th Street. You believe passionately in education and equal right for women, although your are most well known for your Bloomers!

### Mrs. Jacob Spencer (Anna)

You are the head cook for the General and you are so proud to work in a kitchen with so many modern amenities. Your husband works as the Carriage Driver for the Dodges, and you both live above the Carriage House which is certainly an nice arrangement.

### Mr. Jacob Spencer

You are the Carriage Driver for the Dodges. You live with your wife Anna in the carriage house. Each day you walk down from the Carriage House to the livery stable downtown because the Dodge's kept the carriage at their house but the horses at the stable.

### Bridgette

You are the laundress for the Dodges and your job is to wash, iron and maintain all of the Dodge's clothes, bed lines and table linens. You work in the laundry in the basement of the house,. But you share a room with Antoinette on the Third Floor.

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A site with amazing information and interactive. Good for student research and extensions.

<http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/19thcentury1860.htm>

An overview with many links about the changes in American life and cultural in the 19th Century.

[http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?id=422](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=422)

This has information and lesson plans about the Industrial Revolution from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

<http://historywired.si.edu/detail.cfm?ID=502>

This site explores the history of the sewing machine.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/bloomer/#documents>

This is the petition that Amelia Bloomer wrote to Congress about taxes. Also information about Amelia Bloomer and her roles in the dress reform and women's suffrage movements.

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iapottaw/Dodge.htm>

For more information, please contact :

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenville\\_Dodge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenville_Dodge)

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[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/tcrr/peopleevents/p\\_dodges.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/tcrr/peopleevents/p_dodges.html)

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<http://www.nps.gov/archive/peri/dodge.htm>

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