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James B. Williams.

THE
Centennial History
OF
Webster County,
ITS
TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS,
ALSO THE CITY OF
FORT DODGE.

By E. G. MORGAN, Esq., with Addenda and Appendix by Geo. W. BRIZEE, Esq.

1876.

TIMES JOB PRINTING ROOMS, LAW BLOCK BASEMENT.

FORT DODGE, IOWA.



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P R E F A C E .

THE compiler of the following pages had intended to write a short history of Fort Dodge. Much of the material would have been from memory—more from that promised to be furnished by various old settlers, and a still greater portion from conversations had years ago with Major WILLIAM WILLIAMS, and others of the early settlers, together with such assistance as might have been derived from a careful search of the public records. Having been allowed to peruse certain manuscripts, of which E. G. MORGAN, Esq., was the author, written by him to have been read at the local centennial celebration on the Fourth of July, 1876, but which he failed to deliver in consequence of the rain-storm that day, I became impressed with the amount of statistical and other information it contained, and believing it to be much superior to anything I could have given to the public, reposed the use of such manuscript for publication. To this, Mr. MORGAN very kindly assented, and as a result, the public have the benefit of his labors.

The biographic sketches are written by myself, and are confined mostly to acquaintances of olden times. Some of them, the incidents of whose lives are given, will have their first intimation of our intentions, upon seeing their names in these pages. No man has paid, or promised a consideration of any kind on such account. We publish these sketches simply because we deem them interesting reading matter, and believe such interest will increase with years.

It is hoped and believed that copies of this history will be preserved in families and elsewhere, and that it may become the basis upon which the historian of 1976 may found his record of events.

The anecdotes herein related are believed to be strictly true. Those detailed as having transpired where the author was present, are precisely as related. Others are from good authority—the evidence of such as were auditors and witnesses.

The state of society twenty years ago was much more favorable to the development of the ludicrous than at present, and if we could collate for this work, the good jokes and frigate sayings of those days—we would be able to furnish a volume better filled with mirth-provoking articles than any comic publication of the day.

While we have labored in collecting the facts, and putting them in form for publication, Mr. CHARLES E. DENISON has busied himself upon the mechanical department. If any profits result or losses occur, we share them alike.

GEORGE W. BRIZEE.



HISTORY OF WEBSTER COUNTY.

HOW THE COUNTY WAS FORMED.

THE third General Assembly of the State of Iowa, which convened at Iowa City, on the 3d day of December 1850, passed an act entitled "An act to establish new counties and to define their boundaries," which was approved January 15th, 1851.

By this act, the territory lying within townships number 26, 27, 28 and 29, north of ranges 27, 28, 29 and 30, west of the 5th P. M., were constituted a county, which was named Yell.

By an act of the fourth General Assembly, approved January 12th, 1853, the counties of Yell and Risley, now Hamilton, were united in one and named Webster.

The fifth General Assembly again changed the boundaries of the county by enacting the following: "That the townships numbered ninety and ninety-one, of ranges number 27, 28, 29 and 30, which have heretofore been a part of Humboldt county, shall be, and are hereby attached to Webster. Approved January 24th, 1855." At this time Webster county contained forty congressional townships of six miles square, equal to 921,699 acres of land, then the largest county in the State.

ORGANIZATION OF WEBSTER COUNTY.

CHAPTER 12, laws of the fourth General Assembly, approved January 12th, 1853, attached Yell and Risley counties to Boone county, and prescribed the manner in which they should be organized. By virtue of this act the citizens of Webster county, in March, 1853, petitioned the Hon. SAML. B. McCALL, County Judge of Boone county, to order an election for county officers. The judge issued an order for an election to be held on Monday, the 4th day of April 1853. The election was held. The whole number of votes cast was sixty-three, and returns made to the judge of Boone county, who, on the 9th day of April, 1853, issued certificates to the following officers: County Judge, WM. PIERCE; Clerk of the District Court, JESSE GOODRICH; Recorder, JAMES HOOK; Prosecuting Attorney, GEO. W. HALL, and JOHN H. COFER each received twenty-eight votes—a tie; Sheriff, JAMES DOTY; Coroner, THEODORUS ESLICK; School Fund Commissioner, LOUDOWIC MARICLE and JOHN TOLMAN, each received twenty-seven votes—a tie; Surveyor, GEORGE W. HALL; Drainage Commissioner, DANIEL GAYLOR; Township Assessor, SAMUEL ESLICK; Justices of the Peace, JOHN H. COFER and JOHN TOLMAN; Constables, JOHN DEVORE and CHAS. BURCHARD; Township Trustees, ISAAC HOOK, ANDREW GROSSCLOSE and JOHN GAYLOR; Township Clerk, LOUDOWIC MARICLE.

The first official act of Judge PIERCE of which there is a record, was the issuing of a marriage license, May 14, 1853, to JOHN JACOB HOLMES, who was then Hospital Steward at the fort, and Miss EMILY LYON, a housekeeper for the officers. Soon after the organization of

the county, the District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District appointed three commissioners to select a site and locate a county seat. They selected the southwest quarter of section 6, township 87, north of range 26, and a town was laid out and named Homer.

In March 1856, the citizens of the county petitioned the Hon. WM. N. MESERVEY, County Judge, to order an election on the question of removing the county seat from Homer to Fort Dodge. The election was held on the 7th day of April 1856, and as soon as an office could be procured, the records were taken to Fort Dodge and the present county seat established.

COUNTIES ATTACHED TO WEBSTER FOR ELECTION, JUDICIAL AND REVENUE PURPOSES.

By chapter 142, laws of the fifth General Assembly, approved January 24th, 1855, the following unorganized counties were attached to this county, to-wit: Wright, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Palo Alto, Kossuth, Hancock, Winnebago, Bancroft and Emmett. These counties were all organized by the County Judge of Webster, as follows:

WRIGHT.

By an order of the County Court of Webster county, an election was held in the County of Wright, August 6th, 1855, and DAVID DEAN was elected County Judge. A full set of county officers was chosen, and the returns made to the judge of Webster. At this time Wright county polled twenty-eight votes.

KOSSUTH.

At the general election held on the 6th day of August, 1855, Kossuth county was organized in the same way as Wright. There were thirty-two votes polled and ASA C. CALL was elected County Judge, and LEWIS H. SMITH, County Surveyor.

HUMBOLDT.

ABOUT the first day of April, 1857, Hon. SAML. REES, then County Judge of Webster, deputized HENRY A. CRAMER, at that time a resident of Humboldt county, as Deputy Sheriff, and gave him a warrant for the holding of an election in that county, on the first Monday in April, with orders to serve the same. CRAMER took his warrant and went to Humboldt county, but found the homes of the settlers deserted, they having fled to Fort Dodge from fear of the Indians, who were at that time reported as being on their way down the Des Moines river. CRAMER found food cooked and warm on the stoves. He helped himself to eatables and returned his warrant unserved. Judge REES subsequently issued his warrant for an election to be held on the first Monday in August, 1857. The election was held and 163 votes polled. The returns made to the judge of this county, show JONATHAN HUTCHISON elected County Judge, A. McLEAN Treasurer and Recorder, and HENRY A. CRAMER, Coroner.

WINNEBAGO.

THIS county was organized by an order of the County Court of Webster, previous to the general election held the second Tuesday in October 1857. The returns made to the County Court show that there were twenty-seven votes cast, and ROBERT CLARK received the whole number for County Judge.

PALO ALTO.

ON the 23d of September, 1858, the County Court of Webster ordered an election to be held in Palo Alto county, on the second Tuesday in October following. The election was held, but the returns being irregular the election was held to be void.

On the 22d of November 1858, the Court again issued an order for an election to be held on the 20th day of December 1858, and a full board of county officers was elected. These returns made to the Court show that JAMES HICKEY was elected County Judge, and JOHN M. MULRONEY, Treasurer and Recorder. The whole number of votes cast was forty-four.

EMMETT.

ON the first day of January, 1859, the County Court of Webster issued an order for an election to be held in Emmett county on the 7th day of February following. The returns show that an election was held on that day at which there were cast twenty-six votes for county officers. A. JENKINS, was elected County Judge, and SEANDLEY WESTON, Treasurer and Recorder.

POCAHONTAS.

THIS county was organized by an order of the County Judge of Webster county, who issued an order the 19th day of February 1859, directing an election to be held on the 15th day of March, following. At this time a full board of county officers was elected. The returns show that twenty-three votes were cast, and DAVID SLOSSON elected County Judge, and WM. H. HAIT Treasurer and Recorder.

HANCOCK.

THE records of Webster county show no county organization of this county.

HENRY LOTT—THE FIRST SETTLER IN WEBSTER COUNTY.

HENRY LOTT, the first settler in the County of Webster, erected the first cabin near the mouth of the Boone river, on land now owned by LOUBOWIC MARCIELE, in section 24, township 87, range 27. The date of his settlement is unknown. He was found there in 1846, by the pioneers, engaged in the laudable enterprise of selling whisky to the Indians, stealing their ponies and running them off to the south. He cultivated but little land. Lott was a slim, dark eyed, shrewd man, with a fair education, and claimed to have been born in the New England States. His first wife, who was a daughter of one of the early Governors of Ohio or Pennsylvania, died in the winter of 1846 and was buried without a coffin, puncheons being placed at the bottom, sides and ends of the grave, the body lowered and others laid over the remains. Her grave is in the cemetery on the VIGORS' farm, section 25, township 87, range 27.

LOTT in his dealings with the Indians was so unfair, that they finally became suspicious of him, threatened his life and in the winter of 1846, drove him from his cabin, but did not meddle with his family. His two sons, fearing for the safety of their father, followed him, became lost and separated, and one was frozen to death near Elk Rapids. His remains were subsequently found, placed for protection from the wolves in a pile of drift-wood, and against the wishes of Lott, who desired to cremate the body, was buried in the spring near where it was found.

After the death of his first wife, LOTT married the daughter of FRANCIS MCGUIRE, one of the first settlers in Yell township, subsequently built a cabin on the bank of the Des Moines river, on the farm now owned by CLARK FULLER, near the spot where in later days stood the steam saw-mill of SAMUEL TOD, and spent his time trading with the Indians, hunting and fishing. Here his second wife died on the 10th day of December, 1851, and is buried on section 27, township 88, range 28, but all traces of the grave are now obliterated.

In November, 1853, LOTT made a claim near Lott's creek, in Humboldt county, which he and his son occupied, and laid in as a winter's supply—three or four barrels of whisky and some goods, as he said, "with a view of trading with the Indians."

In January, 1854, LOTT and his son went to the camp of the old chief, SIDOM-I-NA-DO-TA H who was then living on the creek, a mile west of LOTT's cabin, and telling him that there was a drove of elk feeding on the bottom lands, induced the old Indian to mount his pony and go with them. LOTT and his son followed, shot and killed him, and that night disguised as Indians, attacked the chief's wife, mother and six children and murdered all but two, a little girl aged ten, who hid in the bushes, and a boy about twelve years old whom they thought they had killed and left for dead. He recovered and escaped. Some ten days elapsed before the murder was discovered. Then his cabin was found to have been burned and his wagon tracked to Holiday creek, he avoiding Fort Dodge. At Mr. THOS. HOLLIDAY's the first intelligence was had of him. He passed there with his old covered carriage, containing his household goods, while his son led the Indian's pony heavily packed with furs. At the house of Mrs. J. GARMOE, then near the mouth of the Boone river, LOTT and his son stayed over night and offered for sale furs and other articles. Here his actions attracted the attention of other guests who were spending the night at Mrs. GARMOE's. Major WILLIAMS, who was among the number, made the remark that something was wrong with LOTT. His son refused to go to the barn and feed the horses after dark. He had the Indian's pony with him then, but knowing his mode of "raising ponies," no one suspected the great crime he had committed.

After the troops had been ordered from Fort Dodge, Gov. HEMPSTEAD issued a commission to Major WILLIAM WILLIAMS, granting him authority, if necessary, to raise men, and keep the Indians in check, and as far as possible, keep peace between them and the settlers. The roving bands who inhabited this portion of Iowa were very friendly to the Major. His word to them was law, and to prevent an Indian war, which was threatened, he promised them that LOTT should be captured, and worked faithfully to fulfill that promise. The civil authorities of the county assisted him with the strong arm of the law. A subscription was circulated throughout the country, funds raised, and every settler took an interest in his capture. While LOTT had traits of character that were admired, many of the settlers were afraid of him.

SIDOM-I-NA-DO-TAH was the leader of the band that drove LOTT from his home in the winter of 1846, and it is said that he then swore he would have revenge. After the death of his second wife he gave away his little twin daughters and his infant son, taking with him to Humboldt county, the son before mentioned, who was about fifteen years old. After leaving Mrs. GARMOE'S, nothing definite is known of LOTT. It was reported that he fled to Council Bluffs, joined an overland train bound for California, and was killed in a quarrel on the plains. But it is thought by those who knew him best, that this was a ruse to keep the officers in search from following him. After search for LOTT had been abandoned, the skeleton of the old Indian was found, and the fact reported to the county officers at Homer, who decided that under law, it was necessary to hold an inquest over the murdered chief.

Father JOHN JOHNS, the then acting Coroner, summoned a jury and went up to examine the remains. They collected a few Indians together and examined the boy and girl who had escaped the massacre. None of the Indians present could understand English. GRANVILLE BERKLEY, Prosecuting Attorney for the county, took the testimony of the Indians and pretended to interpret it. The interpretation was disputed by WM. R. MILLER, an old frontiersman, and a laughable scene ensued. BERKLEY quoted authors which MILLER could not answer. The former obtained from the Indians the skull of the dead chief, which he took to Homer. The records in the Coroner's office of the County of Webster, contain no account of the verdict of this jury.

TOWNSHIPS OF WEBSTER COUNTY.

WASHINGTON.

Webster County is divided into twenty-one precincts or townships, as follows :

WASHINGTON was the first township organization in the county, and embraced all the territory now contained in Webster and Hamilton counties. It was organized by an order issued by the County Court of Boone county. The first election was held on Monday, the 4th day of April, 1853, at which time the first township officers in the county were elected. The following were the officers chosen : Township Assessor, SAMUEL ESLICK ; Justices of the Peace, JOHN H. COFER and JOHN TOLMAN ; Constables, JOHN DEVORE and CHARLES BURCHARD ; Township Trustees, ISAAC HOOK, ANDREW GROSECLOSE and JOHN GAYLOR ; Township Clerk, LOUDOWIC MARICLE.

In August, 1853, Judge WM. PIERCE divided the county in three townships, and left Washington all the territory north of township 87 in the county. In March, 1857, the County Court again changed the boundaries, which, with a slight change made in 1870, were the boundaries Washington now contains, to-wit: All of township 88, north of range 27, and sections 1, 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, and 36, township 88, range 28, east of the Des Moines river.

The oldest settler in this town now there is GEO. C. GOSS. The first school taught was by MRS. FRANCIS R. DRAKE, in a log house on section 25, township 88, range 28. Mrs. DRAKE taught three months, had twenty-eight scholars enrolled, and on the last day of the school one of the directors called and paid the teacher her wages in gold. This district, then number four in the county, received that year \$29.92 public money from the school fund. There are now eight school-houses in the township, two hundred and three scholars enrolled—two hundred and sixty-seven between the ages of five and twenty-one.

The Evangelical Lutheran Norwegians have a church organized in 1870; they have a membership of fifty-four, hold their meetings in the school-house on Brushy, and are in a prosperous condition. Their pastor is the Rev. O. A. SAUER. There is a union society organized who hold their meetings at the school house near FRANCIS BREWER'S, and are supplied once in four weeks by Rev. L. S. COFFIN, a self-supporting missionary. The Methodist Episcopal organized a church here in 1854, and for a long time it was the leading church in the county. The members have moved away and the church to-day has no permanent pastor.

HARDIN.

HARDIN township as organized in August 1853, contained all the territory in township 86, in the county. It was named by the County Judge in honor of JOSEPH HARDIN, who settled in 1849, on section 21, township 86, range 27, and subsequently built the large hotel at Hook's Point. The boundaries of the town were subsequently changed by the formation of new townships, and now it embraces all of township 86, north of range 27, east of the Des Moines river. The oldest settler of this town, now there, is ANDREW JOHNSON. The first death was that of a child of Rev. JOHN LINN, in October 1850. The first birth was a daughter to the same gentleman. This event occurred on the 4th day of January, 1851. The first school taught in the township was in the summer of 1854. This was then District No. 1, and the amount of public money paid by the School Fund Commissioner was \$19.72. There are now two school-houses in the township, two hundred and two scholars between the ages of five to twenty-one, and one hundred and sixty-nine enrolled in the schools.

In the summer of 1854, the Rev. Mr. SMITH of Fairfield, Iowa organized the first Sweed Methodist church with thirty members. They have a large society, and are building a meeting-house to cost \$1,000. In the fall of 1854, the Rev. Mr. HOKANSON organized a Sweed Lutheran Church with ten members. They now have a good meeting-house which cost \$1,000, and a membership of twenty-six. In 1856, the Sweed Baptists organized with eighteen members and soon after engaged the Rev. Mr. FISK. Their meeting house is in Hamilton county. The society is in a prosperous condition.

There is a steam saw-mill in Hardin.

WEBSTER.

WEBSTER township originally embraced all the territory in township 87, in Webster and Hamilton counties. After the division of the counties in 1857, the County Court ordered the township re-organized, to contain all that part of township 87, north of range 27, east of the Des

Moines river. On the first Monday in April, 1857, the township was organized and the election held on that day at DANIEL DANIELS'. The first settler in this township was LOUDWIG MARICLE, who settled on the farm where he now resides in 1848.

The first school was private, taught in 1852, by the Hon. R. W. W. ALCORN, in a small house on section 13. There are now five school-houses, with two hundred and five scholars attending, and two hundred and thirty-three between the ages of five and twenty-one.

The first church organized was by the Rev. J. B. MONTGOMERY, Methodist Episcopal, in 1852, at the house of WILLIAM PIERCE. This church was subsequently moved to Homer, after that town was located, and the society have now a good house of worship.

WAHKONSA.

WAHKONSA township was organized on the 3d day of March, 1856, and its boundaries as then fixed by the County Court were as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of the County of Webster, thence east on said county line to the range line between ranges 26 and 27, thence south on range line to the correction line, thence east on correction line and south on range line to the northeast corner of section 12, township 88, range 27, thence west to the Des Moines river, thence down said river to the south line of section 8, township 88, range 28, thence west to the county line, thence north to the place of beginning, containing four hundred and seventy square miles of land.

The first election was held on the first Monday in April 1856, in the old log school-house built by the government. At this election, A. M. DAWLEY was chosen for Justice of the Peace and H. F. WATSON for Constable. WATSON subsequently resigned, and CHARLES B. RICHARDS, acting County Judge, appointed E. H. ALBEE to fill the vacancy. At this election the people at Homer determined to play a joke on our townsman, Hon. JOHN F. DUNCOMBE, by casting several votes for him for Coroner, taking care, however, to elect Rev. JOHN JOHNS, an itinerant preacher, who lived upon the west bank of the Des Moines river, near Border Plains. This reverend gentleman could shoot a bear, hunt a bee tree or preach, and perform either task with the same ability.

The township of Wahkonsa was named in honor of a young Indian chief of that name, a son of the old chief INK-A-PA-DO-TA. He was a very handsome and intelligent youth, and frequently visited Fort Dodge. In the winter of 1854-55, he, with his sister and others, came to town and camped at night on the ground floor of the old hotel bearing his name. In the morning, Ex-Governor CYRUS C. CARPENTER came into the office, when the Indian belle broke out into an uncontrollable fit of laughter. Those present tried to ascertain the cause of her mirth. For answer, she pointed at the head of the honorable gentleman, and exclaimed: Hedgehog! hedgehog!" The Governor, who was then a young man and a teacher, wore his hair quite short, and it had assumed a position at right angles with his pericranium, hence the hilarity of the Indian princess, and her rather inelegant comparison. Mr. CARPENTER enjoyed her amusement as well as any one present.

The first settler in the present township of Wahkonsa outside of the city, now here, was Mrs. GEO. H. ROGERS. This township is now in the Independent School District of Fort Dodge.

The first sermon preached was by the Rev. J. B. MONTGOMERY in 1851. In 1852 he formed a society and held meetings. This circuit at that time extended from below Polk City to Fort Dodge. Father MONTGOMERY is now residing in Boonsboro, near ninety years of age, with mental faculties well preserved, and he still remembers with pleasure his long and lonesome

rides over his seventy-five mile circuit, and the hospitality which the early settlers showed to him on all occasions. From this time the history of Waukonsa township is that of Fort Dodge.

YELL.

YELL township was organized March 3d, 1856, by an order of the County Court. Its original territory embraced all of townships 86 and 87, north of ranges numbers 27, 28, 29 and 30, west of the Des Moines river. The first settler in this township after HENRY LOTT, was Squire McGUIRE, who now resides in section 15, town 87, range 27. This township received the original name of the county. The first election was held at the house of STEPHEN STARK, on the first Monday in April, 1856. The first school was organized in 1856, and Mrs. ELI S. GEYER taught thirty scholars. There are now one hundred and fifty-two scholars in the township. Elder SPARK organized a Baptist church in Yell in 1856. They still keep up a society, have no stated supply, and report but twenty-nine members. Several years ago, the society built a meeting-house, which is near the center of the township. No Sunday schools reported. GRANVILLE BERKLEY says he found HENRY LOTT living in this township when he came up with Major OLMSTEAD to locate the site for a fort, and stayed all night with him. At that time LOTT was thirty miles north of any settlement. The present boundaries of Yell township were established by the County Court, September 14th, 1858. They embrace all of town 87, north of range 27, west of the Des Moines river. There is a steam saw-mill in this township, owned by LYNDE & ILES, and JOHN BEAM has one of the best veins of coal in the county.

DAYTON.

THIS township was organized September 14, 1858, by an order of the County Court, and the first election was held in the school-house at Dayton, the second Tuesday in October, 1858. The boundaries were originally all of township 86, range 28, and that part of township 83, range 27, west of the river, except sections 1, 2, and 3. The oldest settler in this township is ANDREW PETERSON, who settled on section 34, township 86, range 27, in 1848. The first school-house built in Dayton was in 1857, and STEPHEN KELLEY taught eight scholars the same year. There are now eleven school-houses in the township, where schools are taught, and they average an attendance of four hundred scholars. There is one steam saw-mill. Dayton is the largest township in the county, and the second in population.

OTHO.

OTHO township was organized March 2d, 1857, and contained all of township 88, north of ranges 28 and 29, west, lying west of the Des Moines river. The first election was held at the house of NORMAN HART, in April, 1857. In October, 1871, the Board of Supervisors set off township 88, range 29, leaving the boundaries of the township at present, that part of township 88, north of range 28, west of the Des Moines river. The oldest settler in Otho township, now there, is NORMAN H. HART, who came in the fall of 1853. The first school in this township was taught by Mrs. GEO. D. HART, in a small building, ten by twelve, on the northeast of northeast of section 28, in the summer of 1857. There are now four school-houses, with one hundred and twenty-two scholars enrolled, and one hundred and fifty-two scholars in the township between the ages of five and twenty-one.

The first Congregational church of Otho was organized by the Rev. T. N. SKINNER, the 13th of March, 1855, with five members. They now have eighty-two members. The society purchased, some years ago, five acres of land, upon which they have built a parsonage, valued at \$1,600.

There are seven coal mines now being worked in this township, which give employment to seventy miners. There is one steam saw-mill in Otho, which is operated the greater portion of the year in cutting native lumber.

Spartan Lodge number 226, I. O. of O. F., located in the town of Otho, was organized June 26th, 1871, by Deputy Grand Master J. W. ROPER. The first officers were, D. R. FULLER, N. G.; S. D. ATHERTON, V. G.; E. W. SORBER, Treasurer; E. O. PARKHURST, R. S.; B. B. GOODRICH, P. S. The number of members at present belonging are thirty-five. Deaths since the lodge was established, two—J. M. WILLIAMS and R. L. LEYSON. The present officers are W. K. GRAVES, N. G.; A. M. SMITH, V. G.; L. H. PRATT, Treasurer; D. R. FULLER, R. S.; J. L. FORD, P. S.

There is also a Rebekah Lodge, Virginia number 51, who hold their meetings in the same hall, and have a membership of thirty-two.

SUMNER.

SUMNER township was named in honor of the late CHARLES SUMNER, of Massachusetts. The boundaries remain now as when first organized. Sumner contains all of township 87, north of range 28, west of the Des Moines river. On the 2d day of March, 1857, the County Court of Webster county ordered an election to be held at the house of JAMES DOUGLAS, on the 6th day of April following. At this election thirty-one votes were cast. The first school taught in this township was in 1857, Mrs. E. V. MOORE, teacher. The first school-house in the township was erected in the village of Buchanan, in 1859. There are now eight school-houses, two hundred and thirty-three scholars [between the ages of five and twenty-one, and one hundred and fifty-six enrolled in the schools. In Sumner are located the celebrated Crooked creek coal mines, which furnish employment to a large number of men. [For churches, secret societies, etc., see Vesper.]

DOUGLAS.

By an order of the County Court, made on the 3d day of March, 1857, all of the territory lying in townships 89 and 90, north of ranges 29 and 30, west of the Des Moines river, were formed into a township and named Douglas, in honor of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. The first election was held at the house of THOMAS JACKSON, on section 17, township 89, range 29, in April, 1857. Before September 29th, 1859, the Court ordered township 90, of ranges 29 and 30, formed into a township, thus leaving Douglas township 89, of ranges 29 and 30. On November 6th, 1860, range 30 was taken from Douglas, leaving the township as it now is—all of township 89, north of range 29, and that part of sections 7, 18, and 19, in township 89, range 28, west of the Des Moines river. The first settler in this township, now there, is LORENZO S. COFFIN, who bought his claim of E. H. ALBEE, in January, 1855. The first school was taught in 1856, by Mrs. W. C. AINSWORTH, at the LUMPKINS' school-house. There are now seven school-houses in the township, and an average of one hundred and forty-seven scholars.

JACKSON.

THIS township was organized Sept. 20th, 1859, by an order of the County Board. The territory embraced was township 90, of ranges 29 and 30. The first election held in the township was at the house of RICHARD P. FURLONG, October 11th, 1859. On Nov. 6th, 1860, the County Court ordered township 90, range 29, set off and a township named Cass, formed of that territory, but the township of Cass was never organized. On the 10th day of October, 1865, township 99, range 29, was, by an order of the Board of Supervisors, detached and named Deer Creek.

The first settler in Jackson township now there, was HUGH COLLINS. The first school taught in the township was in the summer of 1856, by MRS. PETER DONAHUE, in a log house on section 26. There are now three schools in the township and the number of scholars is one hundred and forty-one.

The first church organized in this township was St. Patrick's Catholic church, which in 1871, completed a large house of worship on sections 19 and 39. This church has a membership of one hundred families, and the only meeting house in the township.

In 1870 a union Sabbath school was organized at Jackson Center, with a present membership of forty. Union service is also held in the school-house and Rev. L. S. COFFIN officiates.

JOHNSON.

THIS township embraces the congressional township of 89, north of range 30, and was organized November 6th, 1860, by an order of the County Court. The first election was held at the house of WM. PRESTON. The first school held in the township was taught by Miss MARY J. STEVENS on section 2, in a claim cabin, and so careful was she of the settlers right's that she allowed his cook-stove and bed to remain in the room. This was in the summer of 1857. This township has now five school-houses and an average attendance of one hundred and seventy-eight scholars. There are one hundred and ninety-four enrolled between the ages of five and twenty-one. The first settler in this township was GEO. W. YOUNG, who settled where he now resides on section 1, in March 1855.

There was a Methodist Episcopal church organized in this township as early as 1860. They still have meetings, but many of the members having moved from the county, they are unable to sustain a pastor.

BADGER.

BADGER township was taken from Wabkonsa by an order of the Board of Supervisors, October 10th, 1865, and when organized contained township 90, north of ranges 27 and 28, west. Range 27 was, October 11th, 1873, taken from Badger, and the present boundaries of the township are all of township 90, north of range 28, west, and that part of township 90, north of range 29, lying east of the Des Moines river. The first settler in this township was STEPHEN MAHER, who settled on section 19, township 90, range 28, in the spring of 1856. The first school organized in the township was taught by Miss SUSAN CALLIGAN, in 1862, in the granary of M. MITCHELL. There are now seven school-houses in Badger, and one hundred and thirty-eight children between the ages of five and twenty-one, of which one hundred and thirty are enrolled in the schools. This township has a large supply of native timber, and the inhabitants are all farmers.

DEER CREEK.

THE township of Deer Creek was organized by an order of the Board of Supervisors October 10th, 1865, and the first election was held at the LONG school-house. At this election there were twenty-four votes cast, of which DANIEL W. PRINDLE received twenty-three for Supervisor. Deer Creek township embraces all of township 90 north of range 21, and that part of township 90, range 28, west of the Des Moines river. The first settler in this township was DANIEL W. PRINDLE, who built his cabin in March, 1855.

The first school was taught by MISS HELEN GARDNER in a log cabin on section 23, in 1862. There are now four school-houses in Deer Creek, one hundred and thirty-one children between the ages of five and twenty-one, ninety-two of whom are enrolled in the schools.

This township has a fine quarry of sand-stone, and several mineral springs.

FULTON.

THIS township embraces all of township 88 range 30. It was organized by an order of the Board of Supervisors, made in September, 1868, and the first election was held at the house of J. L. FRENCH, November 3d, 1868, at which time JOHN B. SCOTT was elected a member of the Board of Supervisors. The first settler in the township was WM. CHASE, who resides on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 24, township 88, range 30. The first school-house built and school taught, was in the year 1869, on section 14, and Miss J. A. CHURCHILL was the teacher. There are now four school-houses in the township. Number of scholars between five and twenty-one years, eighty; number of voters in the township, 33.

LOST GROVE.

LOST Grove township was organized October 18th, 1869, and embraces all the territory of township 86, north of range 29. The township received its name from the name of a grove which stood near the center of the township fifteen miles distant from any other timber. The first settler in this township was RALPH MITCHEL. MRS. RALPH MITCHEL taught the first school in the township. There are now five school-houses, one hundred and two scholars attending school, and one hundred and twenty-seven between the ages of five and twenty-one. The first church organized in the township was the Swede Evangelical Lutheran, in 1871. They hold their meetings in the DANIELSON school-house and have a membership of one hundred and nine. The Rev. C. J. HEMBORG, pastor. There is a union Sunday school organized, and nearly all the children in the township attend.

PLEASANT VALLEY.

PLEASANT Valley township was organized October 11th, 1870, with its present territory and township 89, range 27. November 5th, 1872, the Board of Supervisors set off township 89, range 27, leaving Pleasant Valley as it now is, containing only sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17, township 88, range 28, and that part of section 1, township 88, range 29, east of the Des Moines river.

Pleasant Valley is the smallest township in the county and the richest so far as developed in mineral wealth. Here are found the extensive coal works of Messrs DUNCOMBE & RICHARDS, and the Fort Dodge Coal Company.

This township has the largest deposit of gypsum found in a body in Iowa. Messrs. RINGLAND, VINCENT & MESERVEY supply their large mill with gypsum from this township. This mill gives employment to a large number of men, and manufactures yearly over two thousand tons of stucco and a like quantity of land plaster.

The first settler in the township was THOMAS HOLIDAY. The first school was taught by Miss CURTIS, in 1856. There are now three school-houses, and three hundred children between the ages of five and twenty-one, one hundred and forty-two of whom are enrolled in the schools. There is a post-office, (Coalville), and two stores, in Pleasant Valley.

ELKHORN.

THE town of Elk Horn was detached from Otho by an order of the Board of Supervisors, October 10th, 1871, and the first election held. Elk Horn embraces all of government township 88, north of range 29, except a part of section 1, which is east of the river. The first school organized in this township was in 1858, and Mrs. GEO. D. HART taught twelve scholars. There are now nine schools in the township, with an average of one hundred and fifty scholars. On the 4th of August, 1871, an Evangelical Lutheran church (Norwegian) was organized with eleven members. They now have one hundred and sixty-five members, and hold their meetings in the school-house. The Rev. O. A. SAUER, pastor. The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in this township in 1871. They hold their meetings in the TAPPER school-house; have a membership of eighty-eight, and on every third Sunday in the month the Rev. P. A. PHILGREN officiates.

GOWRIE.

THIS township was organized October 10th, 1871, and embraces township 86, north of range 30, west. The first settler in the township, outside of the village of Gowrie, was JOHN STEINHOLM. There were no settlers in this township until the Des Moines & Fort Dodge railroad was built, and the village of Gowrie established. The township has but little *history* apart from the village. Quite a large emigration has come in during the past six months, and the township is settling up rapidly. There are two school-houses outside of the village, where schools are taught.

COLFAX.

THIS township was organized by an order of the Board of Supervisors, November 5th, 1872, and named after the Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX. The first election was held at the KELLEY school-house. The first school was taught by Miss MAY KELTZ, in 1871, at her father's house. There are now four school-houses in the township, in which schools are taught. The number of scholars between the ages of five and twenty-one is one hundred and ten. There are 10-day thirty-eight families and forty-nine voters in the township. ROBERT WOOD is President of the School Board. This township is well watered, and is one of the finest in the county for raising stock. The first settler in the township was HENRY E. KELLEY. This township comprises township 89, north of range 27, west.

CLAY.

CLAY township was organized November 5th, 1872, by an order of the Board of Supervisors, and the first election held at the house of SAMUEL ATHERTON. This township embraces the congressional township of 87, north of range 29, west, and was named in honor of the illustrious orator and statesman, the gallant HENRY CLAY. The first settler in this township was FRANK B. DRAKE, in the fall of 1867. The first school taught was by LUTHER W. HULBARD. In the winters of 1871 and 1872, he had a class of twelve scholars. There are now three school-houses in the township, with an average attendance of sixty-two scholars. In 1872 a Sabbath school was organized, which is in a prosperous condition, and in the fall of 1875 the Methodist Episcopalals organized with seven members. This township is all prairie, and well adapted to grazing. There are now forty-six families residing in the township.

NEWARK.

NEWARK township was organized October 14th, 1873, and embraces all the territory in township 90, north of range 27, west. The oldest settler in this township, now there, is Mr. JOHN TETERS. He came from Newark, Ohio, and therefore prevailed upon the Board of Supervisors to name the township Newark in honor of his native town. The present number of scholars in the township attending school is thirty-nine; number in the township between five and twenty-one, forty-eight. There are two school-houses in the township.

ROLAND.

ROLAND township was the last township organized in the county. It embraces township 87, north of range 30, west, and was organized by an order of the Board of Supervisors, October 12th, 1875. The first settler in this township was O. O. MYRBEC, who settled on the southeast quarter of section 12, in the fall of 1879. Miss HELEN COOK taught the first school in the summer of 1875. There is but one school-house in the township. The township now has thirty-one dwelling houses. Kesho is the post-office, and has a daily mail.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF WEBSTER COUNTY

VESPER.

VESPER, formerly Tyson's Mills, is located on the west bank of the Des Moines river, on section 12, Township 87, range 28. The first settlement was made as early as 1855, when Messrs. BOND & WILKINSON built the first saw-mill, which is still used for that purpose. The town site and mill property subsequently passed into the hands of OLIVER TYSON, who, in 1858, built a flour-dressing mill and did an extensive business as miller, merchant, miner and farmer until the fall of 1875, when he sold out to Messrs. BOND & POST. Vesper has a good school-house two-stories, several shops and a hotel.

The Methodist Episcopalists organized a church here in 1857 with six members. They hold their meetings in the school-house, have now a membership of ten, and their present pastor is the Rev. GEO. D. HOOK.

The Congregationalists organized a church at Vesper in 1863 with nine members. They now have a membership of nineteen and hold their meetings in the school-house. Their present pastor is Rev. T. FAWKES.

In the spring of 1857, Rev. AMOS SMITH organized a Universalist society and subsequently a church. He built a hall twenty-six by forty-six, which the society has used as a place of worship. They have now a membership of twenty-five, and are the only Universalist society in Webster County.

The German Evangelical church has an organization and a house of worship in Sumner township. They have a membership of sixty-five, and their present pastor is Rev. F. W. FISHER.

Vesper lodge number 395, I. O. of O. F., was organized January 14th, 1875. The present officers are E. P. YOUNG, N. G.; J. A. PADDOCK, V. G.; A. F. BOOMER, R. S.; E. B. PRICE, P. S., and G. P. WILLIAMS, Treasurer. Whole number of members, thirty-eight.

Sumner lodge number 457, I. O. of G. T., was organized December 8th, 1868, and has now a membership of sixty-five. This lodge has lost four members by death since the date of its organization. The present officers are WALT. WILLIAMS, W. C. T.; LAURA WILLIAMS, W. V. T.; W. C. HUMPHREYS, W. S.

An iron bridge is under contemplation at this place over the Des Moines river, which, when completed, will connect Vesper and Leokawanna and add greatly to the prosperity of the town.

The building of the Webster City & Crooked Creek railroad is hailed with joy by the people, who look forward to the time when they can transport their coal and other merchandise to market more rapidly and with greater ease than is now done by wagon.

DAYTON.

DAYTON, the largest village in the county, except Fort Dodge, is situated on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 14, Township 86, range 28. It was laid out, platted and recorded as a town by BENJAMIN F. ALLISON, in November, 1856.

The first school-house was erected and the first school organized in 1857. There is now a good school-house with an average daily attendance of eighty pupils.

The first church organization in Dayton was the Swede Methodist Episcopal in 1857. This society has a good meeting-house and a membership of one hundred and seventy. Their present pastor is Rev. ANDREW ERICKSON.

The second church organized was the Methodist Episcopal in 1858. This society has no meeting-house, but hold their meetings in the school-house. They have a membership of twenty-five, and the Rev. G. D. HOOK is their present pastor.

In 1860 the German Lutherans organized a church at Dayton. They hold their meetings in the country school-houses, having a membership of fifteen families. The Rev. Mr. GRAFELMAN is pastor.

In 1862 the Swede Lutherans organized a society and subsequently erected a large and commodious house of worship. They now have a membership of two hundred and fifty-four. Their pastor is Rev. C. J. HEMBORG.

In 1865 the Baptists organized a church. They now have a membership of twenty-six, hold their meetings in the school-house and are supplied by the Rev. J. D. CASSADY.

The Sunday schools are well attended, and about seventy-five scholars receive instructions.

The business of the town is represented by three dry-goods, two grocery, two drug, one hardware and one jewelry store; a hotel, several shops, and one steam flouring-mill.

JOHN HADIXE is the oldest settler in the town, now there, and has done much to build up this inland village.

HESPERIAN.

HESPERIAN, formerly Buchanan, was laid out, platted and recorded as a town site, June 16, 1855, on the southeast quarter of section 16, township 87, range 28. The original proprietors had great hope that their town would eventually become the county seat of the county. After several unsuccessful attempts to have the county seat removed, and its final permanent location by the building of a \$40,000 Court-house at Fort Dodge, the original proprietors, in 1870, sold their town site and emigrated to Colorado. Hesperian contains now a school-house, post-office and three dwellings. The Baptists have a church organization and hold their meetings in the school-house—Rev. J. D. Cassady, pastor. The United Brethren have also a church organization—their pastor is Rev. H. M. Porter.

BORDER PLAINS.

BORDER PLAINS, was laid out, platted and recorded as a town in September, 1857, by ABRAHAM INGLES, on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, and the southwest quarter of section thirty, township 88, range 27, and at that time was a place of some importance. The improvements at this time consisted of a large steam saw-mill, two stores, shops, etc. It being centrally located in the county, the public gatherings and conventions of the county were generally held in the Border Plains school-house. During the war of the rebellion this town became almost depopulated and to-day is not half as large as in 1857.

DUNCOMBE.

DUNCOMBE, a station on the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad, nine miles east of Fort Dodge, was laid out and platted July 20th, 1870, by the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad company. The town is located on the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, township 88, north of range 27, west. There is a hotel, two stores, several shops, an elevator and ware-house.

GOWRIE.

GOWRIE, a town on the Des Moines & Fort Dodge railroad, was laid out, platted and recorded by EDWARD A. LYNB, October 1st, 1870. It is located on sections 1 and 12 in township 86, range 30, and was the first station on the Des Moines & Fort Dodge railroad in the county. Messrs. LYNB, STEPHENS, MADDEN J. Y., and G. H. PORTER, were the first settlers. At this time the township was attached to Yell. The first school was taught in the summer of 1871, by Miss ALICE WEBSTER, who taught a class of six scholars. They now have a fine two-story school-building, which was erected in 1872, at a cost of over two thousand dollars. Two teachers are employed, and about seventy-five scholars attend school. There is a union Sunday school with fifty scholars. The first sermon preached in Gowrie was on February 10th, 1871, by the Rev. S. BASCOM, to a congregation of sixteen. The text chosen was: "Who despiseth the day of small things?" The Congregational and Methodist societies have each a church organization. Gowrie has three dry goods, two groceries, one drug, one hardware and one furniture store, several shops, and two good lumber yards. A large amount of grain and stock is shipped from this station.

BARNUM.

BARNUM, a station on the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad, nine miles west of Fort Dodge was laid out and platted February 2d, 1875, by the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad company. The town is located on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter, and the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 22, township 89, north of range 30, west. Barnum has a post-office, depot and store.

CALENDER.

THE TOWN of Callender is situated upon section 12, town 87, range 39, and was platted and recorded by AGNES and JAMES CALLENDER, June 15th, 1875. This town contains a depot, post office, Kesho, one store, an agricultural depot, etc. The Des Moines & Fort Dodge railroad company established a depot at this point in the fall of 1869, and erected a house—twenty by sixty. There being but little business here, a track was laid under the building, which was then loaded on flat-cars and taken to Tara, and the station abandoned until the fall of 1875, when the present depot was built.

LACKAWANA.

LACKAWANA, the present terminus of the Webster City & Crooked creek railroad, was laid out and platted in July, 1876, by the Webster City & Crooked creek railroad and coal company. The town is located on the east bank of the Des Moines river, on section 12, township 87, north of range 28, west, and being situated in the center of the great coal district of northwestern Iowa, is expected to become a town of importance.

JUDD.

JUDD, the last town laid out in Webster county, is at the junction of the Iowa division of the Illinois Central and Webster City & Crooked creek railroads. The town is located on the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 1, in township 88, north of range 28. The proprietors of the town have labored faithfully to make Judd a success, but that fell destroyer fire, has so far managed to keep ahead of the proprietors. The latest dispatches state that they have fitted up a caboose for a boarding-house, and have the material on hand to rebuild their fire-stricken city. No doubt is entertained but that it will be a success, its only drawback being its close proximity to "Haskalia," which, being jealous of her new rival, has asked her proprietor for additional means to make her the great city of the plain.

J. F. DUNCOMBE.

C. B. RICHARDS.

THE DUNCOMBE & RICHARDS COAL COMPANY,

PROPRIETORS OF THE

Fort Dodge Diamond Coal Mine,

AND THE CELEBRATED

CARBON COAL MINES,

GENERAL OFFICE, ROOM NO. 1, LAW BLOCK, SIXTH ST.

Fort Dodge, Iowa.

JOHN F. DUNCOMBE,
PRESIDENT.

GUS. T. PETERSON,
SECRETARY.

C. B. RICHARDS,
TREASURER.

—OFFICE OF THE—

GREENE COUNTY COAL COMPANY,

PROPRIETORS OF THE

Grand Junction Diamond Coal Mine,

AND THE CELEBRATED

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All letters should be addressed to Greene County Coal Company, Fort Dodge.

ROOM NO. 1, LAW BLOCK, SIXTH STREET.

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Real Estate Agent and Dealer in Lands,

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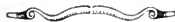
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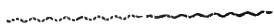
A. & P. SWALM,

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS OF

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GENERAL LAND

AND

INSURANCE AGENT,

FORT DODGE, - - - - IOWA.

HAS A FULL SET OF ABSTRACTS OF TITLE OF WEBSTER COUNTY.

A residence of more than twenty-one years enables me to have a thorough knowledge of real-estate matters.

LANDS IN THE COUNTIES NORTH AND WEST OF THIS CITY FOR SALE,
TAXES PAID, AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS OF THAT
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E. G. LARSON,
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Has always on hand a stock of cloths, embracing the latest styles, from which customers may make selections.

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ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
-AND-
FIRE INSURANCE AGENT,
Fort Dodge, - - - Iowa.

WILL ATTEND TO ALL BUSINESS ENTRUSTED TO HIS CHARGE.

ANGUS MCBANE.

W. M. GRANT.

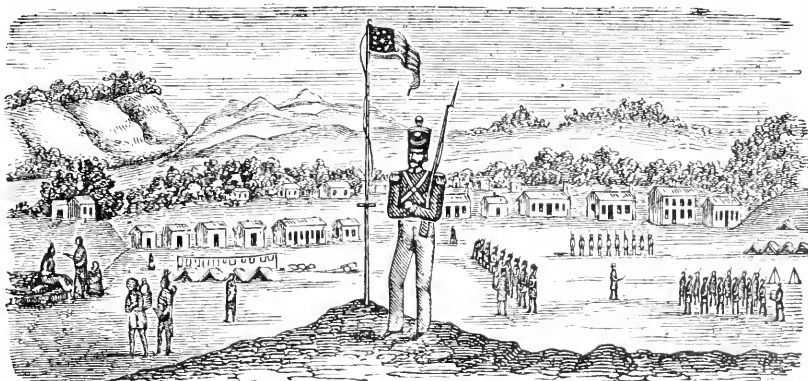
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BANKERS,

Fort Dodge, - - Iowa.

EXCHANGE BOUGHT AND SOLD.

CITY OF FORT DODGE.



[VIEW OF FORT DODGE IN 1854.]

FORT DODGE, the county-seat of Webster county, is situated upon the east bank of the Des Moines river, two hundred miles due west from Dubuque, one hundred and twenty miles due east from Sioux City, and eighty miles north of Des Moines, in latitude 42 degrees, 26 minutes, 15 seconds, and longitude 17 degrees, 17 minutes, 37 seconds west of Washington.

By an order of the Secretary of War, issued May 31st, 1850, for the protection of the frontier settlements of Iowa, a post was ordered established on the east bank of the Des Moines river opposite the mouth of the Lizzard fork.

On the 14th day of July, 1850, Brevet Brigadier General CLARKE, commander of the Sixth military department, ordered Brevet Major Woods, with his company E, Sixth infantry, to proceed to construct and garrison a military post at the point designated in the order of the Secretary of War, reserving eight miles in length along the river and two miles in depth on each side, as a military reserve for the use of the government. During the summer of 1850 the post was established, and in honor of General CLARKE named Fort Clarke. On the 25th day of June, 1851, by order of Major General SCOTT the name of the post was changed to Fort Dodge. On the 30th day of March, 1853, Brevet Brigadier General CLARKE ordered the garrison to be broken up, and marched by the most practicable route to the new post on the Minnesota river. The waters on the rivers being high, it was late in September before the order was fully carried into effect.

After the troops abandoned Fort Dodge, Major WILLIAMS remained, and in connection with JOHN LEMP purchased section 19, on which the fort was built, together with the improvements, from the State of Iowa.

In March, 1854, the town site was platted and recorded. At that time the only inhabitants of the town were Major WM. WILLIAMS, JAMES B. WILLIAMS, JOHN M. HEFLEY and WM. R. MILLER and family. On the 29th day of March, JOHN SCOTT, with his brother ROBERT and family, came, and on the 28th day of June, C. C. CARPENTER. Later in the season E. H. ALBEE came, and in the fall DANIEL W. PRINDLE, CHAS. BERGG, WM. H. PLUMR, E. E. COLBURN and others, and made a settlement.

At this time C. C. CARPENTER opened the first school in a small log building back of the old Waukonsa hotel and taught twenty scholars, and WM. R. MILLER, opened his famous hotel, the Waukonsa. In the spring of 1855, S. B. OLSEY, H. BECHER, J. L. CHEYNEY, H. A. CRAMER, JOHN F. DUNCOMBE, GEO. B. SHERMAN, JOHN GARAGHTY, R. P. FURLONG, THOS. SARGENT, ANGUS McVANE, A. M. DAWLEY, A. MORRISON, R. E. CARPENTER and a host of others arrived, and when MILLER'S dinner-bell would ring fifty persons would make a rush for the table, which was set for the accommodation of only ten. The ten lucky ones would eat and Mrs. MILLER and her daughters wash the dishes, replenish the supplies and again ring the bell. In this way the guests were fed, those coming last getting their meals three hours after the first. In May, 1855, WILLIAM HODGES bought out MILLER and at once set a well provisioned table that would accommodate one hundred guests, and our school-master left his good bed, consisting of a board laid on two barrels, with an army blanket for a mattress and another for a cover, and sought repose between clean sheets and a straw bed on an iron bedstead. At this time the population of the town was about one hundred and fifty, the greater portion of which were young men; a majority of them are now scattered from Maine to California. Those were not days of toil. Our hard-working lawyers, doctors and merchants of to-day could then have been seen pitching quoits with twenty dollar gold pieces, or in their rooms writing home to their "sisters."

It was at this time that SAM. M. ROBBINS organized the Waukonsa hook and ladder company, and after laying in a good supply of the "benzine" kept for sale by the County Agent at Homer, "for medicinal and mechanical purposes only," he saw a light in the room occupied by the correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*. Imagining a fire, he ordered his men up with their ladders. In a moment the whole upper story of the hotel was stripped of furniture; beds, bedding, etc., lay in the street. Put the correspondent refused to leave, and in an angry moment told SAM. he was drunk. Then came the order to charge, and out went the correspondent.

The first frame building erected in Fort Dodge, aside from the fort buildings, was the small house on lot 3, block 8. This house was enclosed in May, 1855, and used as an office. It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. AMANDA MCGREW. The first brick building was erected by MORGAN & BEER, in the fall of 1855, is on Fifth street, and now owned by ISAAC GARMOE.

Major WM. WILLIAMS was the first post-master. His office was in the back part of the store occupied by JAS. B. WILLIAMS & Co., one of the old fort buildings, and Dr. S. B. OLSEY, the first physician, occupied a canto of the same store for his office, laboratory, bed-room, etc. A. M. DAWLEY sold goods in a small log building now standing near the foot of Market street, and lived with his family in a small shed addition. JOHN F. DUNCOMBE, our first attorney at law, hung out his shingle in the broker's office of HENN, WILLIAMS & Co. HEZEKIAH BECHER, finding no room in which to display his law-library, burned a kiln of lime near the railroad-bridge and built the grove building, now standing on Williams street. THOS. SARGENT, desiring a home for his wife and family, shouldered his ax and marched to the woods, where he cut the greater part of the timber for the house he now occupies on Third street. JOHN GARAGHTY erected a log house, the first residence building erected in Fort Dodge, in the rear of the brick he now occupies on Williams street, and preserved his library, while he spent his time burning lime and getting together the materials for his brick house. E. H. ALBEE ran a supply train from Muscatine and Fort Des Moines to the fort, often competing with the weekly

stage in carrying passengers, at the same time cultivating the farm enclosed on the bottom south of town, while Mrs. ALBEE, the first woman in Fort Dodge who now lives here, opened her house to all who came until it was full to overflowing. DANIEL W. PRINDLE, after assisting in building the first store building erected in town, purchased a team and hauled goods from Muscatine, often having for a load down, the Receiver of the Land-Office, with his guard and boxes of gold coin. MESSRS. CHEYNEY and CRAMER, after building a house for themselves, assisted their neighbors in building houses when not engaged in improving their claims. ANGUS MCBANE, preferring "to wear out than to rust out," drew his logs to HINTON'S mill, saw them on the carriage, and then loaded his wagon with the lumber, never losing sight of the log until the last board was sawed. A lack of confidence in the integrity of the man of the mill led to this extra caution. With the lumber thus obtained, he erected on Williams street, opposite the Wahkonsa hotel, a banking house that he, in connection with Wm. & R. K. WILSON, subsequently occupied. This was the first building erected here for such purpose. Wm. H. PLUMB at once turned his attention to farming and the raising of blooded stock. GEO. B. SHERMAN opened the first grocery store, where he furnished the early settlers with choice groceries, often exchanging them for furs, deer skins, or any other commodity that would bear transportation to market, then at Muscatine. ROBERT E. CARPENTER assisted in subdividing the townships on the northern boundary of the State, and worked the balance of the time on his homestead. Thus time passed until fall, when a valuable acquisition to our population was made by the introduction of several families containing young ladies. Then the red shirts were laid aside and a white shirt helped to make the toilet of the Fort Dodge beaux. The hook and ladder company was abandoned, the sales of the County Agent grew less, churches were organized and quietness reigned in town.

The improvements up to this time had all been made on Williams street, west of Sixth. At this time two stores were built on Market street, the oldest of which has just been torn down by Mrs. SCHLAPP.

As winter approached the squatters began to come in from off their claims, and the hotel and boarding houses being full, "batchelor's halls" were opened. It was no uncommon sight to see a young batchelor broiling his venison ham or making doughnuts, or on an extra occasion begging the loan of a few spoons or an extra platter of some fair house-wife who had them to spare, that he might feed his hungry comrades.

The winter of 1855 and 1856 was cold, and snow lay on the ground all winter to the depth of ten inches. On the 8th of December it rained all day and at night snowed hard from the north-east. Young DAY, a son of the Rev. Mr. DAY, who lived near the slide, crossed the ford near the lower bridge, and although the lights from the town were discernable, he allowed his horses to turn about and wander down the river. One horse he mired in a ravine near PHIL. KARCHER'S, tied another to a tree, and the third he rode into a hole near JOHN MEASLES', killing the horse and injuring himself, so that he crawled out upon the prairie and froze to death. This was the first death from freezing, but during the winter there were several west of this.

By an Act of Congress approved May 15th, 1856, a grant of land was made to the State of Iowa for building a railroad from Dubuque to Sioux City. At a special session of the Legislature, which convened at Iowa City July 2d, 1856, this grant was given to the Dubuque & Pacific railroad company, who at once ran a preliminary line, selected their land and sought of the county subsidies. This county, under a promise that the road should be built at once, and Fort Dodge made a point, voted \$200,000 of bonds. This gave the town a new start, and more stores were opened, new hotels built, and the town grew rapidly, and for fear there would not be room enough for all that came, additions to the town were surveyed and platted.

SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE.

IN the month of February, 1857, a strolling band of Sioux Indians, numbering about seventy, including from twenty-five to thirty warriors, invaded the settlements on the Little Sioux river in Buena Vista and Clay counties, destroyed the cattle, horses and provisions of the settlers, and drove them from their homes at midnight to seek shelter with neighbors who were miles away. After destroying all the property they could find, and committing outrages too horrible to relate, they passed on up the Little Sioux to Lake Okoboji and Spirit Lake, in Dickinson county. Here on or about the 13th of March they first killed Mr. GARDNER, his wife and son and took with them as a captive a daughter about fifteen years of age. They then attacked the dwelling of Mr. LUCE, a son-in-law of Mr. GARDNER, killing him, his wife and two children. They next attacked Mr. MATTOCK, about one mile from GARDNER'S, and killed MATTOCK, his wife and five children. Across the outlet of the lake from MATTOCK'S was the house of Messrs. GRANGER, SNYDER and HENRIOTT, together with JOSEPH HARSIMAN, a visitor from Emmett City. Here the Indians had some fighting to do, and from appearances a severe conflict must have taken place, and the four young men had probably gone to the relief of Mr. MATTOCK and his family. Signs of Indians having been killed or wounded were seen, and Mr. HENRIOTT was found in a sitting position in a snow bank, his Sharp's rifle broken and lying near him, and a Colt's revolver in his hand, only one barrel having been fired. The Indians next killed Mr. HOWE and Mr. NOBLE and four children, taking Mrs. THATCHER and Mrs. HOWE prisoners. Mr. MARBLE, living two miles north of HOWE'S, they killed, and took Mrs. MARBLE prisoner. Near the lake shore the bodies of Messrs. CLARK and LIEU, of Waterloo, were found. Several others were found afterwards near the lakes. After the Indians had killed all the people in the vicinity of Spirit Lake, they crossed over the State line to Springfield, in Minnesota, and attacked the settlement there. The people were not taken unawares, having heard of the slaughter at the lakes. Here they first attacked the house of Mr. STEWART, killing him, his wife and two children. The citizens, on hearing the firing at Mr. STEWART'S, rushed into the house of Wm. L. CHURCH, now of Webster City, where they defended themselves bravely. Miss L. SWARGER, a sister to Mrs. CHURCH, ran bullets while Mrs. CHURCH loaded the gun and fired at the Indians, one of whom as he came from the stable with the harness on his arm, suddenly dropped his load and uttering a cry of pain disappeared. It is believed that he shortly after passed to "the happy hunting ground" of the Indians. The news of the massacre at the lakes was brought to Fort Dodge by Mr. ABNER BELL and Mr. WILLIAMS, of Little Sioux river. Messengers were at once sent to Webster City and Homer for arms, ammunition and men to march to the relief of citizens on the frontier. The two places furnished forty men and Fort Dodge eighty, which were divided into three companies of forty men each and officers elected as follows: CHAS. B. RICHARDS, Captain of company A.; JOHN F. DUNCOMBE, Captain of company B., and J. C. JOHNSON, Captain of company C., while Major WILLIAM WILLIAMS had command of the battallion.

A young Indian by the name of JOSH, who had lived with a Mr. CARTER, of Emmett county, during the year 1856, came to him and divulged the plan of operation of the Indians, which was to come down the Des Moines river to the forks in Humboldt county, and kill and destroy everything on their march. He urged Mr. CARTER to flee with his family. Josh was the boy left by LOFT for dead when he killed old SIDOMINADOTA. The volunteers, learning this, set out the morning of the 24th of March, and after a hard day's work through snow-drifts facing a keen northwest wind camped the first night on Badger creek. From there on to GRANGER'S claim in Emmet county the troops traveled on foot, at times hauling the baggage wagons with ropes through ravines filled with snow, and at others making a raft to float across the men and accoutrements and swimming their horses, sleeping at night on the snow covered ground with their clothes frozen stiff. On Monday, the 30th, they met a party of fleeing

settlers from Springfield, many of whom had been residents of this county, and upon learning that the soldiers from Fort Ridgely had scared the Indians away, they at once turned their attention to the relief of the sick and wounded, sharing with them their provisions and blankets and sending them with an escort to the nearest settlement in Palo Alto county.

This done, a company of twenty-three volunteered from the main body to go to the lakes and bury the dead. They went and buried twenty-nine and started across the prairie for the Irish settlement in Palo Alto county, as it was then called. The snow having melted the prairie was covered with water. Coming to a large slough the company separated, some deciding to go one way and some another, and late at night all but two arrived at the settlement, a few with their limbs badly frozen. Two of the company, Captain J. C. JOHNSON, of Webster City, and WM. BURKHOLDER, of Fort Dodge, were lost upon the prairie. When last seen they were tearing up their blankets and binding them upon their feet, their boots frozen so hard that they could not get them on. Days, weeks and months were spent by their surviving friends in searching for them, and it was not until August, 1868, that their bones and their guns were found lying side by side, and within sight of the settlement. These relics were gathered up and brought to Fort Dodge, when one of the largest funerals ever held in the city attested the love and respect of the people.

OUR FIRST STEAMBOAT.

IN the spring of 1859, the business men of Fort Dodge organized a stock company for the purpose of raising funds to build a steamboat to navigate the Des Moines river. The stock was readily taken and Captain AARON F. BLACKSHIRE and others were sent to Pittsburg to superintend the building of the boat. A small stern-wheel boat of fifty tons capacity, with adjustable smoke-stack and pilot-house, so as to enable it to go under the bridge at Des Moines, was built, launched and sent by the way of the Ohio and Mississippi to Keokuk, then up the Des Moines to Fort Dodge. The name of this boat was the "Charles Rogers."

One dark night in the month of April, 1859, as Captain BLACKSHIRE came steaming up the river, he blew the whistle so long and loud that the citizens imagined a Mississippi river fleet had arrived, and before he could land at the levee and make fast the bow line, the banks of the stream were lined with men, women and children, anxious to get a sight at the new comer. Captain BLACKSHIRE made some half a dozen trips with the boat to Des Moines and Keokuk, bringing up emigrants, groceries and provisions, and loading down with potatoes and grain. Excursion parties at half rates. Then the water getting low the boat was taken down to the White river and sold.

Ten years elapsed before our citizens again heard a whistle, but in 1869 the iron horse was heard on the prairie to the east of town.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE first school-house was erected in Fort Dodge in 1856 on Loerst street near the corner of Sixth, and is now known by the name of the "old brick."

At that early day it was the only public building in the town, and was used for holding the courts, political meetings, churches, festivals and all other affairs considered of public utility. It was there that the tocsin of war was sounded, on the news of the Spirit Lake massacre in the early spring of 1857, and two companies organized to visit Spirit Lake, bury the dead and chastise the Indians. It was in this service that the lamented BURKHOLDER, of Fort Dodge, and JOHNSON, of Webster City, lost their lives.

The first school was taught in this building by HENRY GUNN during the winter of 1856 and 1857, and dismissed on the news of the Indian massacre, the house being occupied in the mean time by the early settlers north and west of Fort Dodge, all of whom fled to our town with their wives and little ones, for protection against the cruel savages until the danger had passed, and the Indians had left for more congenial climes. The old school-house is in a fair state of preservation, and is regarded with veneration to-day, by several of our business men and ladies, whose first lessons were learned therein. It is doing good service to-day; the upper room is occupied by the German school, and the lower story by the Baptist church, who held service there every Sabbath.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES—CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

THIS school was established and the original building erected by Father JOHN MARSH in 1862, on what is known as "Seminary Square," a beautiful plat of ground just north of the Catholic church, and donated by the proprietors of Fort Dodge.

After the death of Father MARSH, the school was broken up, the finances of the school owing to the sparse population not justifying the "Sisters" to remain. In September 1873, the Sisters of Mercy from New York, took charge of the school, since which time additions have been made to the building, and still more room is needed to accommodate the scholars desiring to attend. The number of teachers and number of scholars at the present time is one hundred and eighty.

GERMAN SCHOOL.

THE German school was established in Fort Dodge in 1865, and for a long time was held in the Lutheran church. The school at present is held in the old brick school house, and is under the charge of Prof. J. RADEMACHER, who has 68 pupils. The English branches are taught one half the day and the German the other half. This school receives its entire support from the parish of the St. Paul German E. L. Church.

ST. MARK'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL PARISH.

THE St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Parish was organized July 22d, 1855, by electing E. H. ALBEE and JOHN L. CHEVENEY, wardens. STEPHEN B. OLNEY, CHAS. H. ALLEN, FREDERICK BOOTH, ALBERT MORRISON, ANDREW MILLER, WILLIAM O. RUGGLES, HEZERIAH BELCHER and THOMAS SARGENT were elected vestrymen. At this time the Rev. E. W. PEER held service and preached in the upper story of the Waukonsa hotel. At a meeting of the vestry held on the 23d day of July 1856, at which the rector, Rev. HENRY W. LEE, D. D., and the Rev. E. W. PEER were present, it was resolved to erect a chapel if \$1,000 could be raised. The Bishop held service on Sunday July 27th, in an unfinished store-room, and administered the rites of baptism and confirmation. On the 16th day of Dec, 1857, the Rev. J. B. FAIRCHILD was elected rector. At this time the parish agreed to raise \$300 per annum toward the salary of the rector. In the spring of 1858 the society purchased the lot now occupied by them on Sixth street, between Williams and Clinton, and commenced work on the church. The Rev. J. B. FAIRCHILD remained as rector until the church was enclosed in 1859.

The Rev. CHAS. T. SPOFFORD is now rector of the parish, his incumbency dating from Oct. 1st, 1873. On the 28th day of June 1876, Rector Rev. H. B. WHIPPLE, D. D. Bishop of Minnesota, acting for the ecclesiastical authority of this diocese consecrated the church building. The communicants of this parish now number ninety-three. The Sunday school in connection with this church has a hundred members. The rector is Superintendent. Their church property is valued at \$4,000.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

THE first Congregational church of Fort Dodge was organized by the Rev. T. N. SKINNER, in March 1856, with seven members, who for a time held their meetings in the old log school-house. Mr. SKINNER was succeeded in 1857 by the Rev. WILLIAM KENT who preached to the society in the "old brick school-house." In 1861 the Congregational and Presbyterian societies united in the support of the Rev. CLAS F. BOYNTON as pastor and remained together until 1863.

In August, 1869 the organization of the first Congregational church was disbanded and the Rev. DAVID WIRT reorganized the present church with a membership of twenty-one. They at once purchased their lot on Market street between Thrift and Merritt streets and commenced the erection of a chapel. The present membership of the church is forty-five, and the pastor Rev. D. M. BRECKENRIDGE. Connected with this church is a Sunday school under the superintendence of Prof. A. W. STEWART which has a membership of one hundred and eleven. The church property is valued at \$2,500.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH.

CORPUS Christi Catholic Church, was organized by the Rector Rev. Bishop MATHIAS LORAS of Dubuque, assisted by Father JOHN VAHEY in May 1856. At this time the society purchased lots number 1, 2 and 3, block 59, and commenced their present church which was completed in November 1857. In December following Rev. Father JOHN MARSH came to Fort Dodge, and remained with the society until his death on the 22d of February 1864. Father MARSH was a man beloved by all who knew him both within and out of the church. During his life-time the society grew, and the school under his charge as well as the temperance societies prospered. The present clergyman, Father T. M. LENEHAN has done much to enlarge the church as well as to build a fine parsonage, and additions to the school building. This society built the first church edifice in Fort Dodge, and have now a membership of two hundred families.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

THE first Presbyterian church of Fort Dodge was organized Sept. 21st 1856, by Rev. S. T. WELLS, missionary. Maj. W. WILLIAMS, JANNETTE J. WILLIAMS, SAMUEL REES, ELEANOR REES and ANDREW MILLER were enrolled members. ANDREW MILLER and SAMUEL REES ordained elders. The church received a donation from the proprietors of the town of lot 3, block 25, valued at \$100, Sept. 24th 1856, and at once commenced erecting a house of worship which was completed and first occupied the beginning of the year 1858. Rev. E. D. DODDER was the first minister. The church when organized belonged to the Presbytery of Dubuque now to the Presbytery of Fort Dodge and has a membership of 100, with Rev. L. C. GRAY, pastor. The Sabbath School in connection with this church numbers 100 and is under the superintendence of W. H. JOHNSTON. Church property consists of lot and church building worth about \$1,500.

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

THE first M. E. Church of Fort Dodge was organized Nov. 14th 1857 by the Rev. C. H. LAWTON, pastor and Rev. J. M. RANKIN, presiding elder. In the summer of 1858 the society purchased lots 4 and 5 in block 25, Fort Dodge, and commenced building their first meeting house, which was completed and ready for occupancy in the spring of 1859. Hon. STEPHEN B. AYRES (now of Penn Yan, N. V.) was the originator, and devoted his energies to its completion, giving his personal attention to the building. At this time the membership of the

church was small and a portion of the time without a pastor. In 1874 the society purchased two lots on the corner of Williams and Thrift street and commenced the erection of their present church. This building although in an unfinished state has cost the society including the lots about \$17,000. The present pastor is the Rev. J. A. POTTER, and the Presiding Elder Rev. T. M. WILLIAMS. The present membership of the church is 150. The Sabbath School in connection with this church is under the superintendence of ROBERT E. CARPENTER, and has an attendance of 150 scholars.

ST. PAUL'S GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

St. Paul Church was organized by the Rev. Dr. F. FIKENSCHER of Fort Dodge in 1869 with a membership of seven families. In 1864 the society erected their stone church on Bernhart street between Fifth and Sixth, to which they have since made a large addition. This church has a membership of sixty-five families, with about 250 communicants. Their present Pastor is the Rev. J. L. CRAEMER. In place of a Sunday School, Catechetical services are held every Sabbath afternoon, which are attended by old and young. This church is connected with the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, Missouri and other states. To St. Paul is intrusted the superintendence of the church mission in the state of Iowa. They have engaged a missionary whose duty it is to visit all German Lutheran settlements that are without a Pastor in the state. He is now visiting about eighty parishes. The church building and lot of the society are valued at \$5000.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

The German Evangelical Church was organized in the summer of 1865 by the Rev. H. LAGESCHUTTZE with twelve members. They erected and dedicated their church building on Williams street between Thrift and Merritt in the summer of 1868. This church has now forty-five members. Present pastor, Rev. G. YOUNGBLOOD. In connection with this church is a Sunday School under the superintendence of Wm. LONGHENRY. This school has a good German library and a membership of forty. The church and real estate is valued at \$4000.

INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Independent Lutheran church of Fort Dodge, was organized in the summer of 1868, by Rev. C. L. CLAYSON of St. Ansgar Iowa, with a membership of eight men. This society is at present without a pastor. Their membership at the present time is thirty.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first Baptist church of Fort Dodge was organized June 16th, 1871, by the Rev. H. D. WEAVER, with ten members. The church now has a membership of fifty-seven. The Baptist Sunday school, of which THOMAS HAWLEY is Superintendent, has a membership of sixty. This society has purchased a lot at the corner of Market and Thrift streets, and are erecting a large and commodious house of worship. Their present pastor is the Rev. GEO. W. FREEMAN; present value of property, \$5,500.

SWEDE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Swede Evangelical Lutheran church was organized with thirty members in the summer of 1873, by the Rev. H. OLSON. The society has erected a comfortable house of worship in West Fort Dodge, at a cost of \$1,700. Their present membership is sixty. They have a Sabbath school with a membership of twenty-one. Their present pastor, Rev. P. A. PULGREN, resides here, but spends a portion of his time at Manson and Elkhorn.

FIRST SPIRITUAL SOCIETY.

THE First Spiritual Society of Fort Dodge was organized in April, 1864, by Dr. JOHN MAYHEW, now of Washington, D. C., with eleven members and C. F. WESTON elected President. The present membership of the society is 123, and GEO. W. HENRY, President. A Sunday school was organized April 4th, 1869, under the name of "The Childrens' Progressive Lyceum." Whole number of scholars enrolled since the date of organization are 205. Present number attending, sixty-five. Superintendent Mrs. JAMES SWAIN. Number of volumes in library 125.

WEBSTER COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE Webster County Bible Society was organized Oct. 7th, 1858, by the election of the following officers: WILLIAM WILLIAMS, President, C. C. Carpenter, Vice President, SAMUEL REES, Treasurer, STEPHEN B. AYERS, Secretary. A constitution adopted and a subscription amounting to \$14.25 raised. The following counties were embraced in the association: Webster, Calhoun, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Emmett, Sac, Buena Vista and Dickinson. June 30th, 1865, a branch society was organized at the LUMPKINS' school-house, and D. S. SKINNER, elected President, and E. MAYNARD, Secretary. In January, 1873, branches were established at Otho and Tysons Mills. The present officers are WOLSEY WELLES, President, S. B. OLNEY, Vice President, ISAAC GARMOE, Treasurer, E. E. PRUSIA, Secretary. The depository is located at Fort Dodge. The assets of the society are now \$336.69 over and above all its liabilities.

ASHLAR LODGE, NO. 111, A. F. & A. M.

ASHLAR Lodge 111, received from the Grand lodge of the State of Iowa, its charter June 2d, 1858, and on the 9th day of July following, D. G. M. SAM. M. ROBINS installed the following officers: EGBERT BAGG, W. M., STEPHEN B. OLNEY, S. W., HENRY CARSE, J. W., LEWIS M. OLCOTT, Treas., WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Sec. The whole number of members belonging since date of organization is one hundred and eighty-one. The present officers are MYRON CHILDS, W. M.; SOLAN B. PRINDLE S. W.; JOHN L. MARSHALL, J. W.; SYDNEY J. BENNETT, Treas.; MOSES H. BLISS, Sec'y, with a membership of one hundred and twenty-six. Whole number of deaths since date of organization, three: JAMES A. HUMPHREY, who died at 1 A. M., February 24th, 1866, aged forty-one years; CHAUNCEY H. KINGSLEY, who died at 3 A. M., March 13th, 1879, aged thirty-eight years, and WILLIAM WILLIAMS, who died at 9 A. M., February 26th, 1874, aged seventy-eight years.

DELTA CHAPTER, NO. 51, R. S. M.

DELTA Chapter No. 51, received its charter, and the first officers were installed November 1st, 1879, by D. G. H. P., S. H. PACKARD. The whole number of members belonging since date of organization is fifty-seven. The present officers are LEWIS E. HURLBUT, H. P.; ERASTUS G. MORGAN, K.; SAMUEL REES, S.; JOHN HUTCHISON, Treas.; ROYCE W. JOHNSON Sec'y, with a membership of forty-nine. Companions CHAUNCEY H. KINGSLEY, and WILLIAM WILLIAMS are the only members who have died.

CALVARY COMMANDERY, NO. 24, K. T.

CALVARY Commandery No. 24 held their first meeting April 21st, 1871. E. G. Com. BUREN R. SHERMAN, presiding, received their charter October 23d, 1871, and on the 7th day of Dec. same year, D. E. G. Com. JOHN C. PARISH installed the officers. The present membership of the commandery is forty-one. The officers are NELSON B. EVERETS, E. C.; ERASBUS G. MORGAN, Gen. ADOLPHUS F. MESERVEY, C. G.; SAMUEL REES, Treasurer; LEWIS E. HURLBUR, Recorder.

OLIVE LODGE, NO. 85, I. O. of O. F.

OLIVE Lodge No. 85 was organized at Homer and received its charter Oct. 8th, 1856. WILLIAM N. MESERVEY was the first Noble Grand. In 1859 the county seat having been removed from Homer to Fort Dodge, the Grand Lodge was petitioned for consent to remove the lodge to Fort Dodge which was granted. During the first ten years after the lodge was established at Fort Dodge many of the members removed from the town, and for a long period there were no meetings held. In 1869 it was again revived and has since that time been in a prosperous condition. The whole number of members belonging since the date of its organization is one hundred and ninety; present membership, one hundred and five. The present officers are MARTIN WILFIE, N. G.; JOHN C. WATKINS, V. G.; SAMUEL J. ROBERTSON, R. S.; JOHN MARSHALL, P. S.; DEXTER A. WELLER, Treasurer; Rev. D. D. HALSTEAD, Chaplain. There has been no death among the members of this lodge. The financial condition of the lodge is good.

WAIKONSA ENCAMPMENT NO. 53.

Was organized February 17th, 1872, and has a membership of thirty-six. The present officers are S. W. GRAY, C. P.; S. J. ROBERTSON, H. P.; J. C. WATKINS, S. W.; D. A. WELLER, S.; A. McLEAN.

GRACE REBEKAH DEGREE LODGE, NO. 50.

GRACE Lodge No. 50 was instituted October 23d, 1871, and has at present sixty-two members. Present officers are J. W. ROPER, N. G.; MRS. M. F. FAIRCHILD, V. G.; MRS. H. W. BRIGGS, Secretary; MRS. W. LUMPKIN, Treasurer, and B. B. GOODRICH, Chaplain.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

The first Good Templars' lodge, Evergreen No. 155, was organized in Fort Dodge, November 1st, 1857. The last officers of this lodge, installed in the fall of 1861, were JAMES H. THOMAS, W. C. T.; MISS MARIA B. WELLES, W. V. T., and EMANUEL E. PRUSSIA, Secretary. The membership at that time was thirty-eight in good standing. In the spring of 1862, several of the members of Evergreen lodge entered the army, and after several unsuccessful attempts to call a meeting, for want of a quorum, on May 5th, 1862, the members of Evergreen lodge, No. 155 met at their hall and voted to surrender their charter.

WAIKONSA LODGE, NO. 464, I. O. G. T.

Was organized April 1st, '68, with nineteen members. The first Worthy Chief Templar was J. A. ROLLEN, and J. H. HAWKINS Secretary. The total membership of this lodge was forty-eight. They held their meetings in HENRY'S hall during the summer; in the fall they had to abandon the hall and they then held their meetings in the court-house. When cold

weather came on they were unable to keep warm, and at the last meeting, held November 6th, 1868, voted unanimously to surrender their charter. The officers at that time were CHAS. M. REDESILL, W. C. T. ; MISS MARY E. BOYNTON, Secretary.

FORT DODGE LODGE, NO. 12., I. O. G. T.

THIS lodge was organized and received its charter March 29th, 1875. The first officers were Rev. HORACE L. BOWERS, W. C. T., and WM. H. THOMAS, W. S. The whole number of members belonging since date of organization is two hundred and ninety; number at present in good standing, one hundred and forty. This lodge is in a good condition, and hold their meetings in WOLFINGER'S hall. The present officers are JOHN D. LAMBERT, W. C. T. ; MISS LENA McSTAY, W. V. T. ; MISS VINA LAMBERT, W. S. ; GEO. H. ROBERTS, W. F. S. ; MISS JENNIE HALSTEAD, W. T. ; P. H. EIGHMY, W. C. ; JAMES FREMING, W. M. ; MISS MINNIE TINKCOM, W. I. G. ; ALONZO HOWELL, W. O. G.

BAND OF HOPE.

THE Band of Hope was organized under the title of J. Juvenile Templars, and on the 8th of March, 1876, reorganized under the name of the Band of Hope. This society has eighteen honorary members, besides a membership of two hundred. The present officers are S. W. COLE, Superintendent ; Mrs. JAMES SWAIN, Assistant Superintendent, and WILL A. BERRY, Secretary and Treasurer. They hold weekly meetings in Good Templar hall.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

THE Emerald Benevolent Association No. 1, of Iowa, was organized in October, 1875, with seven members. The present officers are JOSEPH O'NEIL, President ; EDWARD LONDON, first Vice President ; PATRICK SCALLY, Treasurer, and P. J. NOONAN, Secretary. This society has at present a membership of sixty.

FATHER MATHEWS' TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

THIS society was organized October 3d, 1875, and since its organization over six hundred persons have taken a pledge to abstain from all intoxicating drinks. The society has a library of over five hundred volumes, and a branch society in Jackson township. The present officers are WM. RYAN, President ; ROBT. ALLEN, First Vice President ; R. P. FURLONG, Treasurer ; P. A. NOONAN, Secretary, J. N. CONWAY, Librarian.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

THE Independent District was organized and established December 3d, 1864, comprising all of Fort Dodge, Wabkonsa and Colfax townships. Schools were taught in the various townships in rented buildings, and educational affairs were not neglected. In 1868 the district purchased the block now occupied by our graded school, and erected the building burned in January, 1871. Happily for the district the building was fully insured, and the losses fully paid by the several insurance companies.

During the same year the present building was erected, and has been in successful operation up to the present time.

In due time Colfax township was taken from the independent district, and four houses erected within the same at a cost of \$1,000 each, and one in West Fort Dodge at a cost of \$1,520. The total cost of buildings and grounds within the present district amounts to \$46,520. The

total assessed valuation of all property within the district is \$792,557. The whole number of children in the district between the ages of five and twenty-one is one thousand, three hundred and seventy-two, of which the number enrolled in our public schools during the past year was seven hundred and fifty-nine, or less than fifty-six per cent. The total amount paid for teachers' salaries in 1866 was \$1,389.87, including Colfax township. The total amount paid for teachers' salaries during the year ending June 30th, 1876, was \$7,672.13. The total expenditures of the district during the past year was \$15,394.86. This seems like a formidable increase of expenditures in ten years, yet the growth of population, and the increased necessities of the rising generation would seem to demand it.

OUR NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

THE seventy-fifth anniversary of our National Independence, the Fourth day of July, 1851, was celebrated in Fort Dodge in a manner becoming patriotic citizens. On this day the Sons of Temperance, who at that time were represented here by a few of the officers and many of the men then stationed at Fort Dodge, and who had an active working division, holding their meetings in the old theater, which stood near the foot of Williams street, concluded to celebrate their national holiday. The arrangements having been made and the invitations issued to a few settlers then living south of the Fort, a large hospital tent, eighty-four by thirty-two, was pitched upon the ground where DANIEL M. CROSBY'S house now stands, and a hickory flag-staff erected seventy feet in height, where floated the stars and stripes. A beautiful repast was furnished and spread upon tables under the tent. The morning had been hot, with many signs of rain, and the settlers put their wagon-covers on before leaving home. Just as the exercises were to commence, the rain came pouring down and drove them all under the tent. Here, far from home and kindred, the soldier and the settler spent the balance of the day, in feasting and enjoyment. And there are still with us citizens who will long remember their first Fourth of July in Fort Dodge—that of 1851.

I know of no more appropriate way of closing this short sketch than by quoting the following lines from Fort Dodge's gifted poet.

All hail to the dawn of our Centennial birth,
 "Glory to God and peace to men on earth."
 The chiming bells—the children's joyous cry
 Ring o'er the land their cheering melody,
 From north to south a happy people raise
 Their loud hosannas and their hymns of praise,
 While gentle peace enlivens every sense,
 We render heartfelt thanks to Providence,
 Abundant blessings everywhere have crowned
 The circling seasons in their annual round—
 The varied harvests of surpassing yield
 Teeming, have blest each cultivated field,
 O'er the blue waters of the wide-spread seas,
 Our flag of commerce floats on every breeze;
 Stern labor, too, with every art allied,
 Have all our wants ingeniously supplied,
 No more 'mid factions shall a hostile band
 Imbue with filial blood our native land
 No more the galling chains of slavery
 Shall crush a people destined to be free,
 But everywhere shall equal laws proclaim
 A standard perfect—equal rights the same—
 Real worth alone to test the righteous plan,
 And elevate the dignity of man,
 One and united, prosperous, great and free,

Say, who can read our future destiny?
 Let each resolve on this auspicious day
 To love his country and her laws obey ;
 By honest means all needful ends to gain,
 And reap by noble acts an honest name,
 Discarding party for its aim and end,
 But country ever in its stead defend ;
 Ah, then, in time shall countless millions bless,
 Their cherished homes replete with happiness,
 Then 'mid our galaxy, no State more blest
 Than Iowa, our own, queen of the west ;
 Our gorgeous flag to gem, no star more bright,
 Shall shed amid its folds a purer light.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF WEBSTER COUNTY.

COAL.

In respect to the coal in Webster county, it may be said truly to defy all rules laid down on the subject. Knowledge of the general principles in relation to coal-beds seems to be of little benefit in prospecting in this county. The locality is its own peculiar law and each discovery supplying a new feature. There seems to have been so far three distinct beds discovered within the county, the first discoveries, of course, being made by means of out-croplings along the ravines. More recently there has been considerable prospecting from the surface by means of boring, with varied failures and success.

The first coal-mine worked in the county was above the town of Fort Dodge $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, on the east side of the river by the soldiers, prior to 1854. This vein was three feet, soft coal, light and free. The opening caught fire and burned a long time, consuming over an acre, when a slide occurred, smothering the fire and filling half the river channel, and is now known as the "big slide."

In 1856, E. E. COLBURN, who had made a pre-emption on the west side of the river, opened a vein and supplied the demand with coal at ten to twelve cents per bushel. This coal was hard and heavy, forming strong and unyielding clinkers, and using up cast-iron in a short time. This vein was nearly level with the river, and about three feet in thickness.

Next the Hon. SAM'L REES opened a vein below town, on the east side, within one mile, thirty to thirty-six inches thick, and worked it supplying the demand for some time with a much better article.

After this, numerous drift openings were made south of the town on both sides of the river, differing as to quality of coal and thickness of veins, until in 1866, Hon. STILAS COREY opened a vein on Holiday creek, six miles down the river on east side, with an expose of at least five feet, which attracted considerable attention, causing several parties to visit it, who expressed many opinions as to the dipping and extent of the vein. In 1867, Hon. J. F. DUNCOMBE, purchased this and leased and contracted for several tracts in that vicinity, and finally organized the Holiday Creek Coal Company, and built one and a half to two miles of railway, and opened up the Corey tract which proved a rich pocket, the coal from six to ten feet thick and of fair quality, which was shipped mostly, until they sold to what is now known as the Fort Dodge Coal Company, who

worked the same for eighteen months, then removed the fixtures to the works purchased of CAPT. YOUNG, of Sioux City, who had opened on sections 8, and 17, township 88, range 28, four miles from town, south-east, where they are now taking out about twenty-five cars per day. The office of the company is located near the central depot. A. F. GUNTHER is the cashier and agent.

DISCOMBE & RICHARDS have also opened and are operating a vein near by the Fort Dodge Coal Company, both using the same road built by DISCOMBE & RICHARDS to transport their cars to Central railway, a distance of three miles, the locomotive power being furnished by the Fort Dodge Coal Company. These veins are between three and four feet.

JAMES BROWN also opened a vein at Carbon, five miles east of the Central railway, on section 3, township 88, range 28, now owned and operated by DISCOMBE & RICHARDS.

STEINE, CRAIG, COREY, MILL BROS., HART, COLLINS, THORNTON and many others have opened drifts and are delivering coal by teams, Mr. CRAIG now working thirty-five men in his drift.

WILLSON & FUNK, of Webster City, have built a narrow gauge coal railway from Central railway to Tyson's Mill, and have opened some drift mines. On any of the wagon-roads leading west, northwest and north may be seen large amounts of this coal on its way to prairie homes.

Such has been the growth and development of this coal interest that it is estimated that one thousand tons are sold daily.

It is now supposed that we have plenty of coal, and that the Webster county coal field is a very important one, from the fact that it is the northern terminus of the Iowa coal-field, the St. Louis limestone, which is the underlying strata, coming to the surface fifteen miles north of here.

GYP SUM.

It is now generally conceded that Webster county contains one of the largest deposits of gypsum, available for mechanical and agricultural purposes, with an outlet and market, on this continent. JAMES HALL, in his State Geological Report, says: "As no attempt has yet been made to determine the extent of this gypsum deposit, it may, perhaps, be considered premature to speak of its value in an economical point of view, but from what is already known, there is very little doubt but that Iowa contains gypsum enough to supply the Mississippi valley for centuries to come." Many important discoveries have been made of this deposit since his examination and report, which render certain what he left to conjecture. From its great abundance, proximity, open exposure, roads easy of access by rail or otherwise, and facilities for quarrying, thousands of perches are used annually in Fort Dodge and its surroundings, in the construction of foundations, cellars, well walls, pavements, culverts, residences, out-buildings and other purposes. Its cheapness over lime and sand-stone has led to its use for these various purposes, and while we see no impropriety in thus using it, the stranger is apt to regard it as willful waste. There is no other deposit known to be in the State, and this is within a limit of five or six miles around our city, with some heavy beds within its corporate limits. It is conceded to be of the most superior quality, containing only about eight per cent, of impurity, while the general average is that of about thirty. We can scarce estimate its value when fully developed, and thus far no effort has been made in that direction, except what has been accomplished by RINGLAND, VINCENT & MESERVEY, proprietors of the Carditt mills some two miles south of Fort Dodge.

ROCK.

THERE is an abundance of lime-stone and sand-stone in the county. The former is of a very fine quality, and not only makes good lime, but works up into excellent building material. Near Parson's mill, about nine miles south of the city, there is a ledge of limestone some seventy-five or eighty feet in elevation above the bed of the river.

In truth, there is an abundance of rock in the county, which in time, will have a great commercial value. It may have been a million years since the corals deposited their shells where then was the bed of the ocean, and thus formed our limestone. It was done under the guiding finger of Him who doeth all things well, and who does nothing in vain.

NOTES.

IN giving the history of Waukonsa township, on page 9, it will be noticed that Mr. MORGAN believes WAUKONSA to have been a son of INK-A-PA-DO-TA. I think he could have scarcely fallen into a greater error. In the year 1879, a society was formed in this city, named the "Waukonsa Library Club." The name was given in the *Sentinel* which I, at the time, assisted in editing. The *Dubuque Herald* wanted to know what "Waukonsa" meant, and Major WILLIAMS gave the desired information. It was, that WAUKONSA was the son of UMPA-SHOTA (smoky-day); that he was very intelligent and useful to the first settlers; that he would map out the whole country northwest of this in sand, or dirt, with a stick. Those who best knew INK-A-PA-DO-TA, say he had but one son—a short, stout Indian, who was presumed to be above twenty-two years old at the time of the massacre at Spirit Lake. His name was COM-A-DO-CA, and he was killed near Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, during the summer of 1857. He died fighting. When the massacre at Spirit Lake occurred, WAUKONSA went to Fort Ridgely and delivered himself up, a thing very unlikely for him to do if he had been INK-A-PA-DO-TA'S son. Mrs. MARBLE, whom I interviewed in Chicago, after her captivity, for the *Times* of that city, declared most emphatically that INK-A-PA-DO-TA had but one son in the band, and that son was COM-A-DO-CA. We think there is no doubt of the correctness of our position in this respect.

In the history of Badger township, it is related that the first settler was STEPHEN MAYHER, and that he settled on section 19. We are now told that the section was 13, range 29, and that the first teacher was Mrs. MCGILL. Mr. MORGAN has taken a great deal of pains, and is generally very correct in his statements.

On page 27, JOHN MEASLES should read JOSHUA MEASLES.

Under the head of public schools, on page 39, second line from the top, it is stated that, "during the winter of 1856, and 1857," etc. This error is apparent. It should read 1856 and 1857.

Since the publication of a part of the history in the journals of Fort Dodge, many claims have been made to first residence in some of the townships. Among the rest, it is asserted that JOHN WARE was the first settler of Ohio; that he made his home there in 1852, and died in the fall of 1866, and that in 1869 PHILIP HAWLEY married his widow. We do not see that this conflicts with Mr. MORGAN'S account.

A POEM.

BY JOHN GARAGHTY, ESQ.

Land of my birth and home, America !
 Thy giant strength to matchless manhood grown,
 With banner waving o'er each land and sea,
 Thy march to greatness all the nations own.
 Hope of mankind, base, tyranny o'erthrown,
 Oppression vanquished, every people free !
 Thy glory's path, like Heaven's emblazoned zone,
 The world encircles. All hearts turn to Thee -
 Home of the oppressed - guardian of true Liberty.

Land of the free ! thy star-gemmed banner rose,
 Like meteor gleaming thwart the tempest cloud,
 When stalwart hearts mixed deadly steel with foes,
 And the moist earth drank deep the crimson flood,
 Thou, undismayed, the thunder-battle stood,
 My country, ever victor in the field.
 Twice Albion's vaunting power and pride withstood,
 A Frenchman's courage is his guardian shield,
 Will life to country give, but never, never yield.

Bland as the balmy, breathing birth of spring,
 Art thou in peace, ushering to unfold
 Thy teeming harvests, nature's offering,
 Spread wide the chequered fields of waving gold.
 Forage o'er fairest fields the fleecy fold -
 Arts and twin science matchless trophies gem
 Thy coronal. O'er all, thy name's enrol'd
 On fame's proud fame : No jewelled diadem
 E'er crowned or graced a nobler, braver race of men.

Majestic Land ! embracing every zone,
 The ocean floods thy wide-stretched borders lave,
 Sublime, terrific, impetuous, alone,
 Niagara leaps. Shrieks ocean's timid wave,
 City gem, thy lakes, on his bosom borne
 The boundless tribute of a thousand streams.
 The father of the waters - mythic gown -
 A continent course. Ah ! who but deems
 Thy mission far beyond all vain, utopian dreams.

Oh Greece, sole mistress of an ancient world,
 Nor less her rival thou, imperial Rome !
 What tho' thine conquering banners were unfurled
 O'er prostrate nations? in arms and arts alone
 Surpassing all? Not ages can atone
 Nations rent - sacked cities - all enslaved,
 From high estate ingloriously were hurl'd
 Adown the abyss by rank ambition paved,
 May thou, my country, from a fate like theirs be saved.

Conquerers and captives, alas ! in turn,
 Their glory long departed ; ruins tell
 Of fallen greatness. The monumental urn,
 Triumphant arch - the crown and sibyl's spell
 Like splendid pageants on the vision dwell ;
 Have they, who else in time's dread march o'er won,
 One model man, whose virtues all excel
 Sublime, majestic, unadorned, severe -
 As great, as just, as wise, as our beloved WASHINGTON?

M. F. FAIRCHILD & CO.,

DEALER IN

ADAMS & FRENCH HARVESTERS,

COOPER WAGONS AND GENERAL AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Also

Pianos, Organs, and other Musical Instruments.

Sheet music a specialty. We supply the latest pieces. Everything in the line of sheet music, instruction books, etc., will be ordered when not in stock at the lowest prices.

D. A. MCKINLAY,
SEC'Y, DUBUQUE, IA.

THOS. SARGENT,
GEN'L AG'T, FT. DODGE, IA.

LAND OFFICE

OF THE

DUBUQUE & SIOUX CITY RAILROAD COMPANY,

FORT DODGE, - - - IOWA.

We offer for sale 160,000 acres of land situated along the line of the Illinois Central railroad, in the counties of Calhoun, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster, Wright, Hamilton, Bardin, and other counties.

ON LONG TIME, AND IN QUANTITIES AND PRICES TO SUIT PURCHASERS

I also have a large list of improved and wild lands in various counties; also city property in Fort Dodge and its additions, and in the new town of Callender, Webster county, Iowa.

THOMAS SARGENT.

W. N. MESERVEY,

ATTORNEY AT LAW

- AND -

LAND AGENT,

Fort Dodge, - - Iowa.

I HAVE FOR SALE 50,000 ACRES OF LAND IN WEBSTER AND HAMILTON
COUNTIES.

WEBB VINCENT.

S. T. MESERVEY.

B. HUTCHINSON.

--OFFICE OF--

VINCENT, MESERVEY & CO.,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

Drugs, Paints, Oils, Wall-Paper and Stationery.

PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY COMPOUNDED.

ESTABLISHED 1855.

1877

E. E. PRUSIA,

Wholesale and retail dealer in

HEAVY AND SHELF

HARDWARE,

STOVES, IRON, STEEL, NAILS, GLASS.

Wagon and Carriage Wood stock,

BUILDING MATERIAL OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

Cement, plaster, Blosburg coal, fence-wire, fence-barbs, tin and copper ware, scales, mining-tools, powder, etc., etc.

Our stock is always full and complete and sold at the lowest cash prices

MARKET STREET, FORT DODGE.

E. E. PRUSIA.

(11)

L. D. LOVELL.

; PROPRIETOR ;

OF THE WESTERN HOUSE,

Fort Dodge, : : Iowa



Having recently leased, refitted, refurnished, and thoroughly renovated the WESTERN HOUSE, I am now prepared to furnish first class accommodations to man and beast at the most reasonable prices.

— :: —

FREE BUSES TO AND FROM ALL TRAINS.

— :: —

Hoping, by charging fair prices and giving first-class accommodations, to secure a share of your patronage, I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

L. D. LOVELL.

Chas. C. Smeltzer,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

FORT DODGE, - - IOWA.

No case taken without the usual retainer, except by special agreement.

COLLECTIONS MADE AND AMOUNTS ALWAYS PROMPTLY REMITTED

CHAS. C. SMELTZER,

REAL ESTATE AGENT,

FORT DODGE, - - IOWA.

REAL ESTATE BOUGHT AND SOLD, ABSTRACTS OF TITLE MADE, TAXES PAID, ETC.

An experience of more than twenty-one years has enabled me to familiarize myself with real estate matters in the northwestern part of the State.

J. SWAIN,

DEALER IN

NEWSPAPERS AND STATIONERY,

FORT DODGE, - - IOWA.

GEO. V. PATTERSON,

GENERAL AUCTIONEER,

FORT DODGE, - - IOWA.

Having been engaged in the above named business for a long time, I offer my services to such as have goods or stock they wish to dispose of at Auction.

PATTERSON

H O U S E ,

ON MAIN STREET, WEST OF T H E PUBLIC SQUARE.

Guests at this house will find an excellent table, good rooms and clean beds, while the charges are less than similar accommodations can be procured for elsewhere.

GOOD STABLING ON THE PREMISES.

ENCOURAGE YOUR OWN.

G. E. WILSON,

DEALER IN

Chewing and Smoking Tobacco,

MEERSCHAUM AND OTHER PIPES, TOBACCO-BOXES, POUCHES,
ETC., ETC.

AND

MANUFACTURER OF CIGARS.

I can and will sell cigars cheaper and better than those furnished by commercial travelers. Why, then, will not the people of Webster county and vicinity encourage their own industries?

(47)

J. L. PLATT,
PRES., KEWANEE, ILL.

A. T. HALL,
SECY., CHICAGO.

A. F. GUNTHER,
SALESMAN & COLLECTOR.

FORT DODGE

COAL COMPANY,

OFFICE NEAR ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD DEPOT.

Fort Dodge, - - Iowa.

BEST QUALITY OF IOWA COAL FURNISHED IN ANY QUANTITY UPON
SHORT NOTICE.

GENTLEMEN'S PARLORS,

ON THE EAST SIDE OF FIFTH STREET, NEAR MAIN,

WM. C. HAILSTOCK, - - Proprietor.

Shaving, hair-dressing, shampooing, hair-dying, etc., etc., done in the highest style of the art.

LADIES' AND CHILDRENS' HAIR-DRESSING A SPECIALTY.

LAW AND COLLECTION AGENCY

OF

GEO. B. SHERMAN,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,

IN AND FOR WAHKONSA TOWNSHIP, INCLUDING THE CITY OF FORT DODGE, WEBSTER COUNTY, IOWA.

All collections placed in his hands will be attended to with fidelity and despatch.

OFFICE ON FIFTH ST., OPPOSITE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL.

FORT DODGE, - - - IOWA.

ADDENDA.

THERE is something so *almost* true in the following poem, read at a meeting of the old settlers' society in January, A. D. 1871, held at the court-house, that we reproduce it, hoping that so far as we are concerned, the reader will make due allowance :

THE EARLY SETTLERS.

BY JOHN HAIRE.

" Westward, the Star of Empire takes its way,"
Thus sang a poet once in early day,
But had he had the happiness to lodge
At the Waukonsa tavern, in Fort Dodge,
As kept in fifty-five, by William Hodge,
His visions of the west would there expand
To vast proportions ; such a fight for land
Was never seen before nor since, I ween,
The land sharks on their mettle went in keen
For the broad acres, with their swamps and sloughs.
It mattered not, no man would then refuse
A piece of land wherever he could find
A chance to enter, they were " going it blind "
In those bright, joyous, happy halcyon days—
" Days of our youth, when every spot could PLEASE ;"
When men, devoid of care, their time did pass
With golden eagles, playing pitch and toss ;
When 'round the circle passed the knotty riddle,
And Humphrey sang, and Pollock played the fiddle,
And Garaghty, with his refulgent muse,
Sang sonnets to the stars, then got the blues,
And swore that nowhere, short of the north pole,
Was ever found so d—d corrupt a hole ;
When every bed up stairs (I tell no fable)
In the Waukonsa, was a good card-table,
When bags of gold strewn round were deemed not risky,
But woe, alas ! to a stray flask of whisky !
Each agent, then, as he retired to bed,
Had his black bottle snug beneath his head ;
And in his dreams, he mingled with his slices
Of whisky from the bottle—" d—n the bugs !"
These were the happy, happy days of yore,
(The olden times when no man here was poor) ;
When Merritt, and Van Antwerp, and Dan Finch,
And old Judge Mac were never known to flinch,
But took their drop in comfort—" SIX CUM ROUSE"—
(I use this phrase to rhyme with old Ike Crouse)
Who joined them in their revelry and glee ;
For like King Cole, a merry soul was he.
When Bagg, Brizee, Sam Robbins and Bob Gray,
And Safford helped to vocalize the day,
To make night hideous with their fiercest yells,
And wake the echoes in the Soldier dells ;
When land agents' land offices you'd meet
At early dawn, out in the public street,
And other offices not quite so sweet ;
When Grayson kept his bachelor's free hall,

Back of Ben Brown's, and at his trumpet call
 His STEADY (?) boarders sallied one and all,
 From the 'Oscalooosa trying to navigate
 To his hotel, to get a bite to ate ;
 When Skimmer, Berkley, Finch and Timber Wood,
 Mixed rum with law - His HONOR CALLED IT GOOD !
 For at the BAR, or on the judge's bench,
 Old Mac was partial to his Brother Finch.
 When Sargent, Stockdale, Komts, and other lights
 Of those gay times, spent happy days and nights,
 Pitt Cook and Broadhead, Wilsons and MacBaue,
 In finding who could drink the most champagne ;
 When William Wilson vanquished in the fight,
 Closed up the door and said "THE BANK IS TIGHT !"
 When Beecher, Richards, Rees, and Ruggles, too,
 Helped us along in early struggles, true
 As needle to the pole, our banner bright,
 Borne by these heroes, triumphed in the fight ;
 We vanquished Homer, whipped our Border Plains,
 (Of which, alas, but little now remains),
 And as a trophy for our valor meet,
 Secured beyond recall, the county-seat.

No man in those good times e'er had the phthisic,
 And if he had we were well stock'd with physisic ;
 For Olney, Nicholson and Pease,
 Were bold enough to conquer all disease ;
 Besides a sprig of true nobility,
 Renowned for polish and gentility,
 A nobleman, a Celt, or No-man -
 I don't know which - one Pat. O'Gorman,
 Shed on our town the lustre of his mind -
 His forte was not the deaf, the lam - nor blind,
 But on the negro he was mighty great,
 As Dawley can to you with truth relate,
 The Major, then, as now, the father
 Of our good town, I would much rather
 Not sound his praise, best, perhaps,
 I tell he sometimes took his SCHNAPS,
 He loved to gaze on female charms,
 His greatest weakness was - SCHOOL-MARMS,
 A bevy once from Cedar Falls
 He brought ; who is there but recalls
 The pleasant time he had providing
 Them with places of abiding,
 His pleasure greater was, perchance,
 When he got up that Indian dance
 Out on the common, ne'er was seen,
 A prettier sight than Johnny Green,
 As round him slow the squaws all waddled,
 Alas ! the ladies all skeddaddled
 As he unmindful of his duty
 To be discreet, the dirty, sooty
 Old scamp, pulled off his coat and vest
 And would, no doubt, pull off the rest
 Of his apparel, but the Major
 Stood up in wrath and mighty rage, or
 Other feeling, I can't tell,
 And told the old chap to go to hell
 Or some such climate, I forget
 What place it was - he went, "you bet,"
 Some one has said he was desirous

To hear about our Gov'nor, Cyrus,
 Well, he was here in early days,
 And now must figure in our lays,
 A right good fellow, then as now,
 And studious, with a thoughtful brow,
 He went about with book in hand,
 When he was not surveying land.
 I know he made a telling speech
 Once, at a party of 1866 Soc.,
 That showed some day to power he'd reach,
 Though then his future was incog.,
 But who could tell, that early date,
 He would be Governor of our State?
 Good men like him who have the nerve
 To strike out boldly, well deserve
 Such great success, may it attend
 Him in his career to the end.

" Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
 The dark, unfathomed caves of ocean bear ;"
 Full many a hero in those days was seen,
 Slow wend his way to make a call on Haire,
 And slower and less steady was his track,
 As in the mud his devious course he bore,
 And with a heavy step he wandered back
 From classic precincts of the New York store,
 Altest it, heroes of these ancient days,
 Come, Boott and Colburn, Garaghty and Lynch,
 Come, verily the justice of my lays,
 Bob Wilson, Albee, Morrison and Finch.

And in our early settlement was blent
 Divinity, with chemistry and law ;
 We had Clagg and Arnold, Bissell, Swain and Kent,
 All men with characters without a flaw,
 Whose names the coming age will honor with ECLAT.

Then there was Duncombe, Beecher and Jim Strow,
 And Garaghty, who Blackstone did explain,
 Meservey, Bagg, and others, I don't know,
 And Stockdale, who had swamp land on the brain,
 Men whose great merits I can't here explain.

If, in my feeble efforts, I have here
 Forgot to chronicle the honored name
 Of any noble, worthy pioneer,
 I pray forgive the error, and don't blame
 The bard : he loves, respects you all the same.

What shall I say here of that noble band
 Of ladies who were with us in those days?
 Who braved the hardships of this far off land
 To smoothe the tenor of our rugged ways?
 No pen of mine can meet them half their praise !

The hallowed memory of their presence then
 Is as the sunlight's penetrating ray,
 Diffusing radiance in some lonely glen,
 Contented with the sombre shade to play,
 Cheering some lonely traveler on his way.

They were the sunbeams of our darker hours ;
 They were our morning and our evening stars ;
 Sweeter were they than all the summer flowers,
 And brighter than a long-tailed comet, far ;
 Molasses candy could not near compare

With them in sweetness. How can I reveal
The fragrance of their presence in the air,
Those sweet emotions that we used to feel,
"Which I can ne'er express, yet cannot well conceal?"

Shades of departed comrades, list to me,
If from above you look, or from below,
Our kind regards, as you may plainly see,
We send you greeting from this vale of woe ;
Your honored names I never mentioned once,
"Twould make us sad, whatever be your doom,
(In blissful glory, you are all, perchance),
As sleeping tenants of the silent tomb,
We drop for you a sympathetic tear,
And wish, alas ! in vain, that you were here,
And now, farewell, old pioneers,
Who've listened to my simple song ;
May guardian angels, from the spheres,
Protect you, and your joys prolong.

INCIDENTS.

IN the year 1857, JOHN F. DUSCOMBE was a candidate for the legislature against C. C. CARPENTER. At the request of A. S. WHITE, proprietor of the *Sentinel*, and the gentleman first named, I stopped in the city, (for I had business at many land offices though here most of the time) edited the paper, and stumped a part of the district, composed of nineteen counties. During this time JAKE BELL, who lived in the southern part of the county, came to the city and requested JOHN M. STOCKDALE, then Register of the land office, and myself to go down to the Swede settlement and make speeches. Upon the day appointed, THOMAS SARGENT, then Receiver of the land office, W. O. RUGGLES, candidate for County Treasurer against E. G. MORGAN, STOCKDALE and myself started on our mission to enlighten the natives. At that time there was a question before the people relating to the establishment of banks in the State, and Mr. STOCKDALE, in his address, discoursed on financial matters most learnedly. I was not much surprised that he was not applauded. I deemed him too profound for such a crowd—that he lacked judgment of human nature ! What was needed most was eloquence—string appeals, poetical language—I would do it ! He had not acquired his political education in Chicago ! He had not addressed the sovereigns of America at ward meetings, like myself. When it came my turn to address that audience, I talked eloquently about the Indian expedition—how JOHN F. DUSCOMBE had risked his young life and rendered invaluable services in the Spirit Lake expedition. I pinched the eagle until it fairly screamed ! No one applauded me. I really did not know what to do, think, or say. After the audience began to depart, BELL came up to us and confidentially said : " Boys, you have done splendid ; I never heard you speak so well ; there wasn't a d—d one of 'em could understand you. You see they are all Swedes, but I can tell 'em ! " I shall never forget the expression of STOCKDALE'S countenance.

WHEN Judge McFARLAND was holding court in this city, in 1855-6, and there was no court-house, it looked stormy one afternoon, and an attorney, we believe it was GRANVILLE BERKLEY, moved that the court adjourn on account of the threatening appearance of the skies. The Judge looked about in every direction, and said : " God Almighty reigns above, and Judge McFARLAND reigns below ; there will be no storm, and consequently no adjournment. Gentlemen, go on with your ease."

IN 1855-6, court was accustomed to be held in an unfinished building on Williams street. Judge McFARLAND, of Boonsboro, was holding term. Upon one occasion, JAMES M. WOODS, of Burlington, known as " Timber Wood," was summing up a case to a jury, and was declaiming in one of his high flights. Suddenly a donkey, hitched upon the outside, drowned the orator's voice. The Judge, sitting very quietly in his chair, exclaimed : " One-at-a-time, Timber !—one-at-a-time !"

It would be a source of amusement to our citizens of the present time if they could but see how the political meetings in the country surrounding Fort Dodge were conducted from eighteen to twenty years ago. When in 1857, Hon. JOHN F. DUNCOMBE was a candidate for the General Assembly against Hon. C. C. CARPENTER, many mass meetings were held in groves and log cabins, where not more than ten or twelve citizens attended. Their conduct was not so decorous as at present. A jug of whisky was as inseparable from such a gathering as the orator, and when these American sovereigns had drunk sufficiently, which was generally before the speaker had arrived, they were quite boisterous and their uproar was sufficient to drive wolves into their holes or cause the prairie chickens to fly affrighted for a great distance. A meeting of this kind was held on the Lizzard, in Douglas township, in the fall of 1857, near the house of JOHN McLAUGHLIN. Quite a large delegation went from this city, among them Dr. NICHOLSON, Major WILLIAMS, JOHN M. STOCKDALE and G. W. BRIZEE. The meeting was the largest we had seen. Thirty or forty were present, including those from Fort Dodge, and a sort of platform erected, composed of three boards for the speaker. This latter was an unusual luxury and denoted the rapid advance of civilization. As the horse, wagon or buggy of each new comer hove in sight, there arose a yell which would have put to the blush a gathering of untutored Apaches. By the side of this platform was a two gallon jug of whisky. A settler named JOHN WHITE had this in charge, and each new comer was requested to drink, or go through with the motions. Upon the appearance of Major WILLIAMS the enthusiasm was terrific and he was at once urged to drink and speak. The latter part he did admirably. He was then followed by STOCKDALE, Dr. NICHOLSON and BRIZEE. By this time it was almost night. "Here's another one," said a man present, his face beaming with smiles, as he ran towards the stand, jug in hand, "our pond holds out well—these Fort Dodgers can't go home without taking another nip with us." It was difficult to get away from that patriotic crowd and as we drove home we could hear them cheer until we were out of sight.

THE first legal investigation for murder that occurred in this county was at the old Wahkonsa house, before Judge PEASE, then County Judge. Palo Alto was then attached to Webster county for judicial and other purposes. Two families, named respectively SHIPPY and McCORMICK, lived about three miles apart—the SHIPPYS just south of Cylinder creek and the McCORMICKS near the east bank of the east branch of the Des Moines river, further south. They had a feud in relation to a timber claim. One day during the month of August the McCORMICKS were chopping wood on this claim, and Gavitt and Washington Shippy appeared on the scene. Gavitt Shippy had a rifle with him, and shot Robert McCormick dead. James McCormick returned the fire without effect. Gavitt Shippy immediately left the country, while Washington was arrested and brought to this place, charged with murder in "aiding, assisting and abetting," etc. C. B. Richards, Prosecuting Attorney, George Richards, John F. Duncombe and Hon. Wm. N. Meserve appeared for the prosecution, and Counselor Howe, from Spirit Lake, and George W. Brizee for the defence. It took two days to get in the testimony and hear arguments. Nothing of the kind had occurred here before, and there was a large attendance of citizens. Washington was held in the sum of \$1,000, his father signing the bond. The old gentleman soon after forfeited his bond, deserted his claim and left the country for parts unknown, driving with him a fine cow which he had promised us for our services. If this article should meet his eye, we hope it will remind him of what is still a moral obligation!

JOHN SCHAFFNER was the proprietor of the old Wahkonsa house in 1856. A very gentlemanly man came from the city of New York and stopped with him. He had come with the intention of buying land, and had money upon his person confined in a belt. This guest desired a private room, and stated his reason—he was fearful of being robbed. "How much money have you?" said the landlord. "Why, \$2,000," was the reply. "Two thousand dollars with you," repeated SCHAFFNER, apparently surprised. "Why, my boy FRANK has more than that about him—toss it around anywhere, I will be responsible—but if you have got any whisky you hide it." There was no temptation for men to steal then. Money could be obtained otherwise with little labor.

IN the year 1859, HINTON kept the Wahkonsa house. The old gentleman was ambitious to acquire a literary reputation. He had in his house ABBOTT'S life of NAPOLEON, which he kept upon his desk and often read. He had a roguish boy for a clerk, who removed his book-mark each day one week and replaced it to the point where the French Emperor was about to cross the Alps. HINTON succeeded daily in getting to where NAPOLEON descended into the plains of Italy. One day a gentleman guest came to his hotel, and the conversation turning upon historical matters, HINTON observed: "That NAPOLEON was a mighty smart man; he crossed the Alps six times in one week."

OLD RESIDENTS ABROAD.

WE have no doubt but that many of our readers would feel an interest in knowing what has become of a number of old residents who migrated from this place to "Pike's Peak"—now Colorado.

WE first saw Dr. C. R. BISSELL in the fall of 1859, at Mountain City. He commenced the practice of medicine, but being soon after elected Judge of the Miners' Court, abandoned the practice. He acquired quartz mining property and sold out in 1863, for \$60,000 cash. We last saw him in 1867, in New York. He claimed Bridgeport, Connecticut, as his home. He had invested all his means in Connecticut State bonds. Dr. G. G. BISSELL, his elder brother, had possessed himself of considerable property, but had not sold it, while the youngest brother, EDWARD BISSELL, met with no success.

WILSON SMITH, who came here at a very early date, lived in town and owned a claim about two miles up the river, on the west side, had a butcher-shop in Mountain City in 1859, in partnership with one WITCHEL. Upon our return in 1865, after an absence of a little over three years, we found him the owner of a line of stages running between Central City and Georgetown. He appeared to be doing well.

SAM M. ROBBINS came to Mountain City in the summer of 1859. We asked him what he intended to do, and he replied "practise law"—and he did! He went into a new mining district and the very first territorial legislature, he turned out a veritable Senator—elected there member of the Council. When the war broke out he obtained a Captain's commission, and at its close became Major in the regular army. Both in 1865 and 1867 we saw him in Denver clothed with the insignia of his rank.

WM. P. POLLOCK came to us at Mountain City in 1861, after the election of LINCOLN, with a request that we sign a petition for his appointment as U. S. Marshal. We signed, but it did him no good. The appointees were all from the States. He mined for a time near Russell's Gulch, but soon abandoned that locality and crossed the mountains into Summit county, where we found him at Breckenridge, the county seat, in 1865, 1866, 1867 as Recorder, making large sums of money and the owner of considerable property.

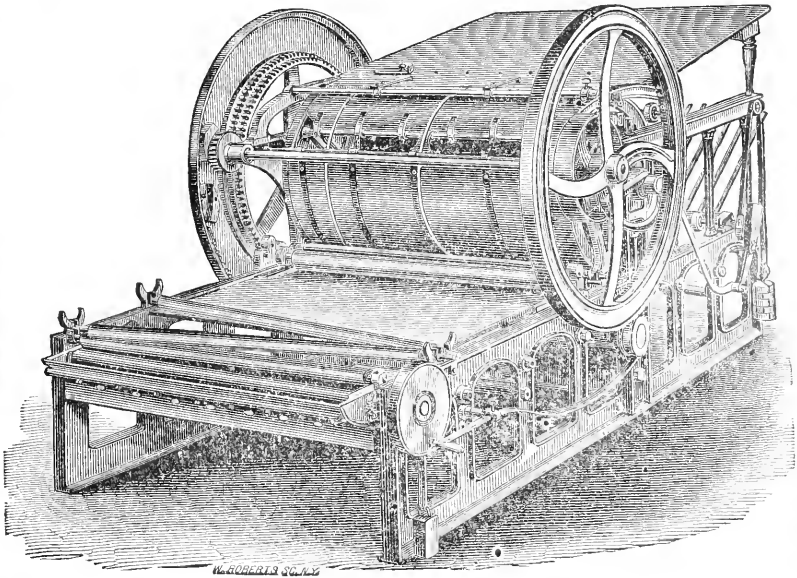
We met C. C. CARPENTER at Mountain City upon one occasion, but see no call for detailing his success more than our own—whatever that may have been.

SOME idea of the knowledge of law entertained among the administrators of justice in minor courts in old times, may be formed from the following: In the summer of 1858, a suit was entered before Squire COFFIN, in Douglas township, against THOMAS CALLIGAN, who was charged with maliciously maiming, by cutting, some of a neighbor's cattle which had repeatedly broken into his enclosure and destroyed his corn. We knew that no evidence could be adduced, except that the defendant in an angry mood had told the plaintiff that he would shoot such cattle if they were not kept up, and prepared ourself accordingly. The case was tried, GEORGE RICHARDS appearing as plaintiff's counsel. We read the law and submitted the case. What was our astonishment upon hearing the court deliver his opinion, thus: "Mr. CALLIGAN, since this suit was first instituted before me, I have made up my mind to do justice in the case. I have been among your neighbors making inquiries, and they all think you cut those cattle and ought to be fined," &c. It was a civil suit—was appealed, and upon consultation the plaintiff dropped it. MR. COFFIN was a very good man—a man of blameless character, but was ignorant of the fact, while he was zealous to do what he conceived to be substantial justice, that he was bound to render a verdict in accordance with law and evidence produced in court, and that the very words he used in indicating his judgment, would legally subject any judicial officer to impeachment.

NINTH YEAR.

The Fort Dodge Times

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

EX-GOVERNOR C. C. CARPENTER.

WHEN we first became acquainted with CYRUS C. CARPENTER, he was filling a very honorable position in the County of Webster—that of a land agent who performed his business without being accused of dishonesty. We have camped with him upon the prairies of Wright, Hancock, Palo Alto and Humboldt counties, and once under desperate circumstances, on Cylinder creek, on our return from the Spirit-Lake affair. Upon one occasion we were with him in company with ANGUS MCBANE, WALLACE MARLATT and a surveyor employed by WILSON, MCBANE & Co., of the name of ANDY HOOD. CARPENTER was one of the most kind-hearted men we ever knew, and at that time was possessed of a very high degree of intelligence. His advancement in life was in a great degree due to his honesty in all his dealings, private and public.

CARPENTER was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, on the 24th of November, 1829. When young, he worked in a tailor shop, and after on a farm. He emigrated to Ohio, where he devoted his time at intervals to both educational and agricultural pursuits. In 1854, he arrived at Fort Dodge, where he carried chain for a government surveyor, and during winter taught school. In 1857 he was a candidate for the legislature against JOHN F. DUNCOMBE, and was elected. After the war broke out he obtained a commission in the army, and ranked as Lieutenant Colonel; returned to Iowa, and in 1871, was elected Governor and re-elected in 1873. He now fills a position in the Treasury Department at Washington. Gov. CARPENTER married a lady of this city, named BURKHOLDER, who was universally respected and considered one of our best ladies. Her converse with those of high position has no doubt rendered her more accomplished, but old settlers will remember her still—as the same good, honest woman.

HEZEKIAH BEECHER.

HEZEKIAH BEECHER was born in the town of Bethany, New Haven county, Connecticut, on the 19th day of June, 1821. In youth he took a special course at Yale College, and afterwards graduated in the law department of the same institution. He was admitted to the Litchfield bar in January, 1854. From Connecticut he went to Chicago, and after stopping there a few months he emigrated to Des Moines. On the 28th of March, A. D. 1854, he came to this post and engaged in the practice of law, entering land and caring for the real estate of non-residents. He married Miss ELEANOR MORRISON in December, 1858, and has continued in business within this city since that time. He has met, with considerable success. He is now engaged in the insurance business, besides that of his regular profession. Mr. BEECHER has filled many local official positions, and refused the candidacy of a great many more.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIAMS was born in Greensburgh, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 6th day of December, 1796. He acquired his title of "Major" in the State militia, and did not, as is generally presumed, hold a commission under the United States government. He came to Fort Dodge as is elsewhere stated, with the soldiers, and was a post-trader. He was universally respected and filled many honorable commissions under the government of the State. He was the first civilian who settled in this city with his family. The details of his life it is impossible to ascertain for reasons not necessary to state. He died February 26th, 1874, aged seventy-eight years. There are few men we have met for whom we have entertained so much respect.

C. H. VINCENT.

C. H. VINCENT came to Fort Dodge from Erie county, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1855. His family followed in the succeeding August, consisting of TYRZA VINCENT, AMARETT VINCENT, WEBB VINCENT and BETH VINCENT. C. H. VINCENT died in February, 1859.

His sons are now leading merchants of this city, WEBB being one of the firm of VINCENT, MESERVEY & Co., and RINGLAND, MESERVEY & VINCENT, while BETH is the junior partner of WHEELER & VINCENT.

JOHN F. DUNCOMBE.

HON. JOHN F. DUNCOMBE was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, October 22, 1831. He graduated at the Alleghany College, and immediately thereafter attended Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, from which he was also a graduate. He read law in Erie with MARSHALL & VINCENT, and having been admitted, he practiced for a short time in his native city. He came to Fort Dodge in 1855, and though young, at once occupied a leading position, not only at the bar but in political life. He opened his law office in the banking house of HENN, WILLIAMS & Co. Neglecting to mention many incidents in the life of this gentleman, we find him in 1857 a candidate for representative against Ex-Gov. C. C. CARPENTER. CARPENTER obtained his seat. We have our opinions as to the justice of his claim. In the year 1858, Mr. DUNCOMBE married "MOLLIE WILLIAMS," a daughter of Major WILLIAMS, a young lady whom all regarded with respect and an acknowledged social leader of female society in this section of the State. The same year he was elected State Senator, where he rendered services to his constituents which we feel well assured, will, after a time, be properly appreciated. Being one of the editors of the Democratic journal published at the capital during his term, and often at the state-house, we think we have abundant reason to give an opinion. In 1860, Mr. DUNCOMBE was a candidate for Presidential elector on the BRECKENRIDGE ticket. In the year 1863, he was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket with General JOEL TUTTLE, a "kangaroo" affair, which endured defeat. In one respect the gentleman has received a acknowledgement. The Democratic party, to which he had always been attached, has twice since nominated him for congress, and always for delegate to the State conventions; has been nominated for Judge of the Supreme Court; has been elected to the legislature several times, and though a party adverse to him in principle has been in power, where talent, sterling worth and intelligence have been required, his services have at times been called into requisition, as for instance, his unsought appointment as Regent of the State University. It may be well enough to state in this connection that Mr. DUNCOMBE was a delegate to the National Democratic convention which nominated HORACE GREELEY for the Presidency. He supported that gentleman during the canvass, and has since classed himself as an Independent. He has, in fact, entirely withdrawn from political life—his large practice at the bar and immense coal mining interests, monopolizing his entire attention. Mr. DUNCOMBE is, and always has been, a most energetic man. He has had more to do with railroads tending thither than any man in Iowa. If we had space, we would give particulars not only in this but other respects. Such men as JOHN F. DUNCOMBE are seldom appreciated until they die. It is then that the people wonder why they or their fathers, did not honor them more.

The foregoing is no proper biography of Mr. DUNCOMBE. It could not be written in full in so small a compass as this little work contains. We have given a few incidents occurring to our memory, and which we have been able to otherwise obtain.

 BENJAMIN GRAYSON.

BENJAMIN GRAYSON was born at Belmont, Loudon county, Virginia, on the 27th day of October, 1823. After the usual rudimentary education acquired in his native place, he placed himself under the tuition of Professor BENEDETTI, of the Washington Observatory, who assumed the charge of a private class in the capital city. He completed his studies at the mathematical school of BENJAMIN HALLOWELL, at Alexandria, Virginia, with the intention ultimately of joining the coast survey, in which service he had obtained an appointment. Finding that a class-mate would be pleased to accept his prospective position, he resigned in his favor. During his studies, the feature of which had been mathematical, it had been the aim of GRAYSON to become acquainted with civil engineering. After some service in the line of his profession in the east, Major BUCKLIN, chief engineer of the Hannibal & St. Jo. railroad in Missouri, made overtures to the gentleman to take charge of the western division of that road. This position was accepted, and Mr. GRAYSON attended to his duties acceptably until the fall of 1854. He then resigned and in casting about for a new field of labor, stopped in Des Moines for the space of three months, opening a real estate office. Fort Dodge began to attract much attention, and GRAYSON determined to adopt this point as his home. He arrived on the 18th day of October, 1855, and building an office commenced a very successful career in matters connected with real estate. On the 27th day of October, 1858, Mr. GRAYSON was married to Miss NANNIE S. RHODES, at St. Louis, Missouri. She was a daughter of HILARY M. RHODES, a captain in the United States navy. Mr. GRAYSON has since that time continued in the real estate business and managed it with care and prudence, and is one of the few who have anything left of the golden harvest succeeding the opening of the Government land office in this city.

CHARLES. B. RICHARDS.

HON. CHARLES B. RICHARDS was born in Warrensburg, Warren county, New York, on the 13th day of August, 1832. His father was PELATIAH RICHARDS, a gentleman whom we well knew in early life as President of the Glen's Falls Insurance Company. Mr. RICHARD'S mother was a BENEDICT, of Albany. The name of the family is well known in the judicial annals of the State.

The subject of this sketch graduated at Union College, Schenectady, New York, and then entered upon a course of study at the Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, the same State, after which, he read law with JOSHUA A. SPENCER, a distinguished attorney of Utica, New York. In 1854, Mr. RICHARDS was admitted to practice in all the courts of law in that State. Soon after this he received a commission as Brigade Engineer of the 14th brigade, fourth division of the militia of the State.

Judge RICHARDS removed to Fort Dodge in the spring of 1856, and as soon as eligible was elected Prosecuting Attorney, and for a time was acting County Judge. We were in his company upon the occasion of the Spirit Lake expedition, and we will bear witness to his gallantry and kindness of heart. Judge RICHARDS was then a man of marvelous powers of endurance, and his thoughts seemed to be constantly upon the welfare of the men under his command. His bearing upon the occasion spoken of, added in a great measure to his subsequent success and popularity. In June, 1857, he married MARY OLCOTT, daughter of L. M. OLCOTT. In 1858 Governor GRIMES appointed him Commissary General of the State; Governor LOWE subsequently re-commissioned him. He had charge of and disbursed the money to the State troops on the northwestern frontier.

In 1861, Judge RICHARDS was appointed Register of the U. S. land office, and his commission was once renewed, but he resigned, so that he could exercise the duties of President of the First National Bank, to which position he was elected in 1867.

In 1865, the Judge became associated with Hon. JOHN F. DUNCOMBE in the development and working of certain coal claims in Mongona, Boone county. These were afterwards sold.

Passing many events in the life of this gentleman where he has exhibited remarkable energy and business talent, we come to the well-known fact that in 1872, Judge RICHARDS became associated with Hon. JOHN F. DUNCOMBE in the coal business; that it is now one of the most, if not *the* most successful company in the northwest, owning mines in this and Greene counties and other points. The pay-rolls of the company now amount to \$10,000 per month, their business as well as the value of their property is daily increasing. Taking in view Judge RICHARDS' prospects, and his success in the past as a criterion, who can guess the amount of his future accumulations.

DOCTOR NICHOLSON.

DOCTOR W. L. NICHOLSON was born in Tipperary county, Ireland, in 1832. He came to this continent at 1853, and landed in Quebec, after which he went to Lewistown, New York, but not meeting with, or caring for much success there, he wandered westward. In 1856, Rev. JOHN VEHEV'S colony came here, and with it the Doctor. For a time he remained comparatively unknown, and made part of his living with a fishing rod and gun, with the use of both of which he was an expert. We remember very well of his shooting one hundred and twenty-eight prairie chickens during an afternoon on the west side of the Des Moines river. In the course of the war, the Doctor went into the thirty-second Iowa regiment. This was in 1862. From first Lieutenant he became regimental surgeon, and at the close of the "unpleasantness" was mustered out bearing the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After coming home he married Miss ANNA J. LEONARD. She died in the fall of 1874. Dr. NICHOLSON married Miss SARAH L. SHERMAN in the fall of 1876. There is a pretty incident connected with this last affair, which might well become the text of some writer of a novel. The Doctor now enjoys a fine practice.

E. E. PRUSIA.

E. E. PRUSIA was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1855. He removed from thence to Des Moines in 1849, and came to Fort Dodge in the fall of 1855. He opened a little slab shanty back of Williams street, in the rear of BRUCE'S office. The firm name was then PRUSIA & KLINEDOB. The last named gentleman died in 1865, and Mr. PRUSIA married Miss MARY A. COLWELL, of this place, in October, 1869. He is now one of the best established and most reliable merchants of the city.

DR. S. B. OLNEY.

DR. S. B. OLNEY was born in the town of Moreau, Saratoga county, New York, and from thence removed to Wood county, Ohio, when but twelve years old. He began the study of medicine in 1814, and commenced its practice in the spring of 1817. He has devoted his entire attention to his profession ever since. The Doctor came to Fort Dodge on the 1st of April, 1855, and occupied one of the buildings between the old Waukonsa and the residence of Major WILLIAMS, on the north side of Williams street. Dr. OLNEY always seemed to have a good practice. On the 16th day of April, 1862, he received an appointment as Surgeon of the Thirty-second regiment, Iowa Infantry volunteers, and having become sick in the service, retired from it on the last of January, 1864, and coming home resumed practice as a physician. Dr. OLNEY'S practice is of the homoeopathic school. In matters of religion he is an Episcopalian; is a Mason—a member of Ashlar lodge, and has been Worthy Master twelve out of the nineteen years since it was chartered; is a member of Delta Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and of Calvary Commandery No. 21 of Knight Templars. Dr. OLNEY has never sought or held a political office, with the exception of school director.

MIRAM KEEFER

MIRAM KEEFER was born in Coeymans, Albany county, New York, in the year 1824. In early life he was apprenticed to a carpenter and joiner at Albany. As soon as he had learned his trade, he commenced his business life as a contractor. Pursuing that line of business for some years, he at last became uneasy with the monotony of eastern life and concluded to accept HORACE GREELEY'S advice and "go west." He first moved to McHenry county, Illinois, 1856; but Illinois was too far east for the subject of this sketch, and he came to Webster county, in April, 1858. He then engaged in the lumber business, and formed one of the firm of BLANDEN, NORTON & Co. About one year since, Mr. KEEFER parted with his interest in the concern. His connection with the establishment was quite profitable, and he is now supposed to be in easy circumstances.

Mr. KEEFER, since his residence here, has filled various public positions, such as member of the council, school board, etc. He is a KNICKERBOCKER, and consequently no office-seeker; simply a business man, and as such, so far in his life, has proved quite successful.

✠ G. V. PATTERSON.

G. V. PATTERSON was born in Dutchess county, New York, on Fishkill Plains, in 1821, and came to this city in 1855. He was a builder by trade, and following such occupation, constructed some of our first important public structures, such as the old brick school-house on Locust street. When the St. Charles hotel was put up in 1857, he was the architect. For a time he kept a restaurant. At one period he was deputy sheriff. He is a good auctioneer, and keeps one of the best public houses in northwestern Iowa.

✠ HON. L. M. OLCOTT.

L. M. OLCOTT was born in Rockingham, Windham county, Vermont, in the year 1812. In 1856, he moved to Fort Dodge, and engaged in the real estate business. In 1862 was County Judge of Webster county, which position he held until 1864. Judge OLCOTT has since filled many honorable positions in the city and county.

R. P. FURLONG.


R. P. FURLONG was born in Jefferson, Lincoln county, Maine, on the 8th day of January, 1828, and came to Fort Dodge in 1855. He first engaged in the business of farming, but is now a merchant. He is pursuing business in a store facing the public square.

J. SWAIN.

J. SWAIN was born in New Hampshire, in 1816, and moved from that place to Livingston county, New York, during the year 1818. He came to Fort Dodge in 1858, and has been engaged in mercantile pursuits since.

CHARLES CLARKE SMELTZER.

HON. CHARLES CLARKE SMELTZER was born in Loudon county, Virginia, on the 29th of January, 1837. When he was quite young the family moved in Fredericks county, Maryland. He worked on a farm and at intervals attended school until his father sold the place and moved to Middletown, the same State. Here Mr. SMELTZER pursued a more regular course of study and entered Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, as a sophomore, though he finally graduated at Union, Schenectady, New York. He then took a course in the law department of the same institution. After spending some time in the office of Gov. LOWE, of Frederick City, Maryland, he came west. For a short time he settled in Galena, Illinois, from thence went to Dickinson county about the time of the Spirit Lake massacre. Finally he moved to Clay county, where he became County Judge, but soon after resigned. In 1861 he was elected to the legislature. It was during his term that the Indian disturbances took place, better known as the New Ulm massacre, in Minnesota, about seventy miles from the line. SMELTZER was very active in getting troops stationed in the northwestern counties to protect the inhabitants. He engaged in mercantile pursuits in 1862, in this city, and retained such interest about two years, still having an office on Williams street, New York, and operating in mining and other stocks. In 1865 he built a number of business houses in this city, and was one of the incorporators of the First National bank, of which he was for a long time Vice-President. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors from Waukonsa township a few years ago; a candidate for Circuit Judge, and subsequently for Congress against Hon. JACKSON ORR. Mr. SMELTZER is now engaged in the practice of law and in real estate matters.

 DANIEL W. PRINDLE.

DANIEL W. PRINDLE was born in Sandgate, Bennington County, Vermont, March 29th, 1834. His father, DESMOND PRINDLE, was several times a member of the Vermont legislature, and a gentleman intimately identified with the political and business interests of his locality for many years. His mother was a daughter of Dr. TUCKER, a physician of much note in his locality and time. The subject of this sketch graduated at Washington Academy, Salem, Washington county, New York, in 1852, when he accepted a business situation with an uncle in New York City, where he remained for two years, when he emigrated to Iowa, coming to Fort Dodge in December, 1854, and engaged in business of different kinds until January, 1857, when he married LUCY M. HURD, of his own native place and removed upon his farm four miles from Fort Dodge, and for several years engaged in farming and stock raising. He removed to Fort Dodge in 1874, and engaged in the grain business as the successor of Col. L. BLANDEN.

WM. N. MESERVEY.

HON. WM. N. MESERVEY was one of the first settlers of this section of Iowa. He was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1820, and after the usual course of studies pursued by gentlemen of his profession, was admitted to practice law in 1843. He afterwards removed to De Witt county, Illinois, where he acquired a prominent position. In 1853 he came to this county and settled in Honer. His family followed the next year. He succeeded PIERCE as County Judge and filled that position when the county seat was removed to Fort Dodge by means of his decision. He soon after followed the county seat, and has lived here ever since. There has scarcely been a public enterprise in the county with which he has not been connected. All men of ability have enemies as well as friends. The people have frequently expressed their appreciation of the gentleman in a manner quite honorable to him.

THOMAS SARGENT.

THOMAS SARGENT was born in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, July 19th, 1819, and removed to Fort Dodge in the summer of 1855, where he succeeded General VAN ANTWERP as Receiver of the government land office, receiving his appointment in the summer of 1857, and held that position until September, 1861. He has been several times elected Supervisor, has been a land agent and has charge of the real estate of the Dubuque & Sioux City railroad company and Iowa Homestead company. He was appointed to the latter position in 1864, and the former in 1874. Mr. SARGENT has been one of our oldest and most reliable business men.

SAMUEL REES.

HON. SAMUEL REES, was born on the 7th of November, 1817, in Hamilton county, Ohio. When twelve years old he worked on a farm, and afterwards clerked in a store until in 1832, after the house he had been with failed, he alternately read law, taught school and boated on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. In May, 1854, he started for California, but believing when he reached Des Moines that a good chance presented itself, he opened business as a land agent. While there, the land district was divided, and he immediately came to Fort Dodge and opened an office. His residence dates from September or October, 1855. He was elected County Judge in 1857, and in 1859, to the General Assembly. In 1867 he was an independent candidate for the Assembly from the counties of Webster, Calhoun, Pocahontas and Humboldt, and again elected. Judge REES was again returned to the legislature in 1875, and the next year became the Democratic candidate for congress in this district, when he was, of course, defeated by the Hon. ADDISON OLLIVER, although he made a strong run at home. The Judge is a member of the Presbyterian church, a Free and accepted Mason and a Knight Templar.

ISAAC YOUNG.

HON. ISAAC YOUNG was born in Warren county, New Jersey, in the year 1835. He was a foundryman by trade, and conducted that business twenty-one years in the county of his nativity. In 1852 he moved to the City of Sandusky, Ohio. He came to Black Hawk county, Iowa, in 1857 and from thence to this county in the fall of 1858, where he stopped for a short time. Levi Young had preceded the family, and pre-empted a quarter section of land on Deer creek, about nine miles from this city. To this the family repaired, consisting of Isaac Young, his wife, M. Young, L. L. Young, E. C. Young, W. C. Young and Levi Young, who died in the military service in 1864. Hon. Isaac Young had been assistant revenue collector and for a number of years County Judge of this county. He died October 6th, 1875, aged seventy years.

ALBERT MORRISON.

ALBERT MORRISON was born in Baltimore, Grafton county, New Hampshire, in the year 1818. His studies during youth were mainly of the mathematical order, and he became a professional civil engineer. In 1853, he procured a position on the survey of the Marietta & Cincinnati railroad, and held such position until the road was completed. He then came to Fort Dodge in the summer of 1855 and opened a land-location office, nearly opposite the old Wahkouska hotel, east of A. M. Dawley's store. For several years Mr. Morrison was County Surveyor, Superintendent of Schools, and ranked well among the *lordly* land agents. When times became dull, Mr. Morrison returned to Ohio, where he did very well, but somehow conceiving that there was some of the "golden fleece" still left at Fort Dodge, he returned in 1865, and has resided here ever since.

ISAAC GARMOE.

ISAAC GARMOE was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, A. D. 1827, and moved to Iowa in 1847. He came to Webster county in 1851, and married the widow, Mrs. JOHNSON, heretofore spoken of in the sketch of the life of HENRY LOTT, as Mrs. GARMOE. In 1861, Mr. GARMOE was elected Treasurer and Recorder. He served in that capacity four years, and then engaged in the dry-goods business. Since then he has been a real estate agent, and is now in that business.

JOHN HAIRE.

JOHN HAIRE was born in Ireland, and emigrated to the United States in 1848. He came to Fort Dodge in 1856 and established a grocery near the public square, where for many years he did a thriving business. He was, and is, well known throughout the county. He still resides in this city, and is, as then, a merchant. Though we have been absent many years, most of the time in the Rocky mountains, our recollection of the gentleman and his business is quite distinct.

CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD.

CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD is of medium stature, robust frame, and healthy organism. He stands five feet and ten inches in his feet, and weighs two hundred and twenty pounds, is rather thick set, has good muscular activity, and a strong lease on life. With a motive temperament serene, with vital mental, he is enabled to fulfil successfully the duties of life. Few men are more diligent or consistent. Without ostentatious show or superficial flattery, he goes calmly at whatever he has to do, and does it as though but one of the ordinary incidents of life. He has dark fair tinged with gray, full, round features, high forehead, and large, tough and active brain. Through the perceptive faculties he is enabled to give at a glance that practical knowledge that others might require a long course of reason and study to fully comprehend. He is firm, but not stubborn, emphatic only in defence of right, social, yet reserved, firmly attached to friends, generous in his intercourse with non-familial in his views and benevolent, faithful and unflinching in his business and social life.

CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD is a native of the city of Nideckhall, Württemberg, Germany, where he was born February 24th, 1822. He spent several years at school in his native city, and graduated in 1846 from Latin Gymnasium, Ingeltingen, Württemberg.

In 1848 he was appointed Chief of Police of the city of Esslingen, one of the old free cities, which at that time contained over fifteen thousand inhabitants, which position he filled with satisfaction to the government until the breaking out of the revolution in 1853, when his liberal views not being in harmony with those of WILLIAM, the King, he concluded "discretion the better part of valor," and obtaining passports "for a friend," bid his native country adieu, and after spending some time in Switzerland and France, he sailed for America, landing in New York in the fall of 1854. From there he went to Erie, Pennsylvania, engaged in business and subsequently sent for his wife and two children, who joined him in 1855. The property he had acquired in Germany having been confiscated, he had to commence new in the Western World, and finding business everywhere at Erie, he concluded to seek his fortune on the frontier, as this portion of Iowa was then called. In the spring of 1857 he came to Fort Dodge, carrying all his worldly possessions in a small satchel. But he still had energy left, and borrowing a stove he opened the first tailor shop in Fort Dodge in a small room on Williams street, between Second and Third, and as soon as he could save money enough, so to do, he sent for his wife and little ones. In 1859 Mr. ARNOLD was elected Town Clerk of Waukopsa township, since which time he has held many important positions of honor and trust, in the city and township, and has been connected with the School Board in position he is eminently qualified to fill since the organization of the city district. In the fall of 1865, he purchased of Mosses, MORCAN & RICHARDS the mill property he now owns, just north of the railroad bridges, and subsequently built a dam across the river, at a cost of \$10,000. The floods have injured his dam, and the large gorges of ice have crushed out portions, but Mr. ARNOLD not knowing the meaning of the word fail, has "put his shoulder to the wheel" without calling on Hercules for help, and has repaired his mill and dam from the ravages of ice and floods, having spent for this purpose alone, during the past ten years over \$25,000. He now has one of the best furnished mills in northwestern Iowa, with all the modern improvements. Mr. ARNOLD'S energy and perseverance have not alone been expended on his mill. Twice has the fire fiend destroyed his block at the corner of Market and Fourth streets, yet to-day he has one of the finest brick blocks in the city, where only four months ago lay a mass of smoking ruins.

ISRAEL JENKINS.

ISRAEL JENKINS was born in Falls township, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of February, 1812. He learned the carpenter's trade and became a contractor. His son, JOHN S. JENKINS, preceded him in his residence, and was well known as a land agent when the subject of this sketch came to Fort Dodge. We were in the stage with Mr. JENKINS when he came to the city. It was in March, 1857. He has resided here ever since.

C. RANK.

CHARLES RANK was born in Württemberg, Germany, A. D. 1828. He emigrated to the United States in 1852, and stopped for some years in Crawford county, Ohio. In 1856 he came to Fort Dodge and opened a bakery, and continued in that business four years. For the past twelve years he has been engaged in the mercantile business in his present location on Market street, in this city.

HENRY BURKHOLDER.

HENRY BURKHOLDER was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1807. In early life he was a clothier. In the year 1843 he removed to Benton, Holmes county, Ohio, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. The family moved to this city in the spring of 1856. It consisted of Henry Burkholder, his wife, J. Davis Burkholder, Susan E., wife of ex-Governor Carpenter; Sarah M., whom we knew as "Tillie,"—she married R. E. Carpenter, and has since died; Wm. E. Burkholder, who lost his life in the Spirit Lake expedition, of March 1857; Barton Burkholder, killed at the battle of Winchester, Virginia, September 1861; Walter Burkholder, now a merchant in Fort Dodge; Arthur Burkholder, Clerk in the Treasury department at Washington. Mr. Burkholder has always been a useful citizen and though many of the family died young, they lived long enough, each and every one, to command the respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

A curious circumstance may be related of one of the family, Wm. E. Burkholder. He was a candidate for Treasurer and Recorder at the time he volunteered in one of the companies under Major Williams, to go to Spirit Lake. He was elected after he had died. We were quite intimate with him—he was a brave and gallant gentleman. Henry Burkholder still lives in the city and is a merchant.

A. M. DAWLEY.

A. M. DAWLEY was born on the 19th day of March, 1820, at Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio. He afterwards removed to LaSalle, Illinois, and read law. In February 1855, he married Miss Ella Parker of Dexter, Maine, and moved to Fort Dodge on the 7th day of April following. Mr. Dawley was the first Justice of the Peace in the township. He opened a store in the building where Hailstock's barber shop now is, in June 1855. The building is the first brick business house built in town. In 1856 he bought out Wilson & McPhee's interest in the store room on Williams street and moved into it. It is a early opposite the walk on it. Dawley had a very fine store. In the fall of 1857 he sold out and following 'he nature' or in a his nature read law. He subsequently became Register of the Government Land office, which position he filled in 1869 and 1870. He occupied a large farm three miles north of town and cultivated it for a time. Mr. Dawley has recently been admitted to practice at the bar, and will devote his time and talent in the future to its practice.

DAVID FESSLER.

DAVID FESSLER was born in the Province of Baden, Germany, A. D. 1831, and emigrated to the city of New York in 1852. He came to this State and settled in the city of Des Moines in 1855. After doing business in that city about three years, he moved to Fort Dodge in 1858, and engaged in the clothing trade in the first office building on Williams street, occupying a room about twelve by fourteen feet. Six months later he moved to a building near where the court-house stands, owned by HENRY BURKHOLDER. During the year 1855, he purchased a frame building and did business in it until 1872, when he erected his present brick store. Mr. FESSLER is one of our well-established fortunate merchants.

J. P. R. BALDWIN.

J. P. R. BALDWIN was born at West Liberty, Logan county, Ohio. In youth he learned the trade of saddle and harness maker. He came to this city in 1857, and opened his shop in the old cannery building on Williams street. He continued in such business until 1859. He then entered the military service, in which he continued three years. After his term of service had expired he returned, and in 1870 he entered into the business of selling agricultural implements, being agent for the McCormick reapers. He does a general business in the agricultural implement line, and his place is on the west side of the public square.

GEORGE S. RINGLAND.

GEORGE S. RINGLAND was born in Pennsylvania, and coming to Fort Dodge in 1855, opened a land location office. He is the senior partner of the firm of RINGLAND, VINCENT & MISERAVEY, who own the plaster mill near this city. It is generally known as the "gypsum mill," and is the only establishment of the kind in the State.

GEORGE B. SHERMAN.

GEORGE B. SHERMAN was born in Sandgate, Bennington county, Vermont, January 7th, 1833. He lived upon a farm until sixteen years of age. From 1848 to 1850 he attended school at the Troy Conference Academy. He entered Bethany College, Bethany, Virginia, in 1852, and graduated July 4th, 1854. He came to Fort Dodge in October, 1854, returned home to Vermont and came to Fort Dodge with the intent of making it his permanent residence in April, 1855. His first employment was as clerk in Major William Williams store. He continued in this employment about three months and in September, 1855, erected the first store-room in Fort Dodge after the town was laid out, going into the timber to cut the logs with which the lumber and shingles were made. In December, 1855, he became connected with N. B. Morrison in business and under the firm name of Sherman & Morrison sold goods until some time in the month of December, 1857. From 1863 until 1869, Mr. Sherman occupied a clerkship in the Treasury Department at Washington. Meanwhile Mr. Sherman studied law at the Columbia law college, Washington, and was admitted to practice in the courts of the District of Columbia. Mr. Sherman returned to Fort Dodge in the fall of 1869 and became a partner of M. D. O'Connell in the practice, the firm name being O'Connell & Sherman. In 1871 he was elected Mayor of the city and served one term. The confinement of office life did not agree with Mr. Sherman, and he accepted an appointment as route agent in the postal service in December, 1872. His duties were performed between this place and Sioux City. In the fall of 1876, he was elected Justice of the Peace, and is now filling the duties appertaining to that office.

JAMES B. WILLIAMS.

JAMES B. WILLIAMS was born May 11th, 1837, in Blair county, Pennsylvania. He came to Fort Dodge with his father, Major Williams, on the 4th of February, 1859. For some time anterior to this, Mr. Williams had lived in Muscatine. When his father received the appointment of Sutler, Mr. Williams tended the store and assisted in the transaction of the business. He afterwards became connected with Jno. Leup in business and had a store on Williams street. His father was postmaster, and the office was kept in the rear of the building. In 1860 Mr. Williams retired from the mercantile business. When the war broke out he took an active part, and in August, 1862, joined Company "I," Thirty-second Iowa Infantry Volunteers. He remained with his company and regiment until discharged, performing his duties faithfully. In 1863 Mr. Williams was married to Annie R. Marshall, of this city. For several years past he has had a desk in the Auditor's office in the court-house, where he has been engaged in the land and loan business, making abstracts of title, etc. We have known Mr. Williams about twenty one years. He is one of the friends of our youth whom we shall not be apt to forget.

JACOB KIRCHNER.

CHRISTIAN KIRCHNER came to Clay county, in this State, in the spring of 1859. His family consisted of eleven children. The following named members of the family resided with him upon a claim made by him where is now the town of Peterson, in Clay county: J. A. Kirchner, Jacob Kirchner, C. Kirchner, Jr., Philip Kirchner, William Kirchner, Mary Kirchner, Barbary Kirchner, Lottie Kirchner, Lena Kirchner, and Julia Kirchner. They were visited by Ink-a-pa-do-tah's band in the fall of 1856. On their return they pinned a piece of a percussion cap-box upon Jacob Kirchner's breast, and made as though they were firing at him. He laughed at them and the Indians ceased firing, calling him "brave smokemou." He was a mere boy at the time. They robbed the house of nearly all it contained and the Kirchners had a hard time to get through the winter. In 1867 Jacob Kirchner and C. Kirchner came to this city to reside. Jacob Kirchner first engaged in the sash and blind business. In March, 1875, he took possession of the steam mill where he is now doing business, and has run it ever since. He is reckoned as one of our substantial business men.

JOHN GARAGHTY.

JOHN GARAGHTY was born in Lancaster, Ohio, April 23d, 1813. He read law with W. H. Hunter, Esq., of the same city, and afterwards became his partner. After the organization of Lancaster as a city, he became the first Mayor. This was in 1833. At the close of his term of office he came to Fort Dodge. This was in May, 1855. He built a log cabin and the next year put up the first brick residence that was erected in the city. Mr. Garaghty has been engaged in the practice of law since he came to this city, and we are quite sure enjoys to a great degree the public confidence.

ERASTUS GOULD MORGAN.

ERASTUS G. MORGAN is the oldest son of John C. Morgan, deceased, who was the son of Erastus, who was the son of Titus, who was the son of Joseph, who was the son of Nathaniel, who was the son of Miles, who emigrated from Wales in 1636 and settled in Springfield, Massachusetts. Erastus G. was born in Naples, Ontario county, New York, January 31, 1829, studied base ball at the district school and graduated without a diploma at Rushville Academy, in 1850; was clerk in a store until March, 1855, when he emigrated to Iowa and settled at Fort Dodge, on the 29th day of April, the same year. After building the first brick house erected in the town, he entered the office of General Verplank Van Antwerp, then Receiver of public monies at Fort Dodge, as a clerk, which position he occupied until the fall of 1857, when he was elected Treasurer and Recorder of Webster county, and subsequently re-elected in 1859. In 1862, he, in connection with Hon. Chas. B. Richards, erected the flouring mill now owned by C. Arnold. In 1866 he was elected cashier of the First National Bank of Fort Dodge, which position he filled until 1870. He was married November 18th, 1857, to Miss Hannah Wilder, of Bristol, New York. They have a family of five children. Mr. Morgan's first literary production, "The Centennial History of Webster County," was written at the request of the committee, to be read at the celebration held in For. Dodge July Fourth, 1876. The time allotted him for the purpose of gathering facts necessary for the production of a work worthy to be called a history, was short, and he wrote hastily expecting to subsequently revise the matter for publication. Sickness and other causes deterred him from so doing and the reader now has in the foregoing historical sketch of Webster county the first effort of one who we believe would, with practice, patience and perseverance, become a historian.

ANGUS McBANE,

ANGUS McBANE was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, in 1828. When about twenty-one years of age he emigrated to California, where he staid about four years and was quite successful. He then came to Fort Dodge in the year 1855, and established a bank under the firm name and style of Wilsons, McBane & Co. It is probable that Mr. McBane is the only one who knows how much capital he had when he came to this city. We have heard it variously estimated at from \$15,000 to \$20,000. We know that for a time he made money very fast. After continuing in partnership with the Wilsons for about three years, Mr. McBane became a partner of Wallace Marlatt. For the last eight years Mr. McBane has been a partner of Wm. Grant as a banker on Market Street. His wealth is variously estimated at from \$100,000 to \$175,000.

JARED FULLER.

JARED FULLER, Esq., was born in Colchester, Delaware county, New York, August 16th, 1821. He came this county in 1857. During the war he attached himself to Captain Ringland's company of the Thirty-second Iowa, and served nearly three years. After his discharge and return home he purchased a farm in Pleasant Valley township, and commenced farming. In 1865, he was elected County Treasurer, and filled the office two years. In 1874 he was elected County Recorder, and was re-elected in the fall of 1876.

JONATHAN HUTCHISON.

MAJOR JONATHAN HUTCHISON was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on the 19th day of June, 1871, and came to Fort Dodge in 1854. He moved here with the intent of making it his home in 1858. In August, 1862, he went into the army as Captain of Company "E," Thirty-second Iowa. He remained in the service three years. He was elected County Treasurer in October, 1867, and has filled the office ever since.

JACOB CROUSE.

JACOB CROUSE was born in Surry county North Carolina, 1824. He was a farmer from his youth. Mr. Crouse came to Webster county in 1853, and settled near the mouth of Boone river. Hamilton and Webster had not then been divided. He moved in 1863 on his farm on Brushy. He resides now five miles from town on Holiday creek.

GEO. W. BRIZEE.

GEO. W. BRIZEE was born at Catskill, Greene County, New York. Being unmarried, we believe we will not give the date. We attended a select school, kept by R. L. Ross, for many years in our native town; then attended an academy in Salem, Washington county, and Ball seminary, in Hoosic Falls, kept by R. L. Lord, son of President Lord, of Dartmouth College. We looked at Williamstown College, Massachusetts, and afterwards at Union, Schenectady. Neither President Mark Hopkins of the former, or Dr. Nott of the latter admired us, and the tutors were equally perverse! We were admitted to practice law first in all the courts of New York, then to the Supreme Court of Vermont; next to all the courts of Illinois; then to the United States District and Circuit Courts, and was admitted at Fort Dodge in 1857. We had been here most of the time for a year and a half previously. In March, 1859, we started for Colorado and did well, but got rid of our means before we left. During the war we were in an Iowa regiment first—after in the Forty-third Missouri. We are not ashamed of our record in that regiment. Since the war we have been to the Colorado mines three times, and always made money, but money and ourself never could keep company long. We were never mercenary—always charitable! We have been connected as contributor, correspondent or editor of the following journals: Vermont *Gazette*, Bennington Vermont; Chicago *Post*, (partner with R. P. Hamilton, grandson of Alex. Hamilton,) Fort Dodge *Sentinel*, (editor at intervals for two years, A. S. White, proprietor,) Chicago *Times*, Des Moines *Times*, assistant editor; *Daily News*, St. Joseph, Missouri—editor in chief, 1861; New York *World*, correspondent from Colorado; *Sunday Herald*, Troy, New York, editor; *Whitehall Times*, New York, 1868, editor; *Saturday Bulletin*, Troy, 1869, editor; Peru *Sentinel*, Indiana, 1873, assistant editor; La Porte *Chronicle*, Indiana, 1874, assistant editor; Peru *Daily Times*, Peru, Indiana, 1875, editor in chief.

CHARLES E. DENNISON.

CHARLES E. DENNISON was born in Cold Spring, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on the 7th day of December, A. D. 1856. Was a farmer's boy until thirteen years of age. Latest occupation has been in connection with "The Centennial History of Webster County."

SPIRIT LAKE EXPEDITION.

We had been in Fort Dodge before, and were pretty well acquainted when we arrived at the Waukonsa House about the middle of March, 1857. There was a terrific excitement. The Indians had been killing whites in the vicinity of Spirit Lake. A meeting was being held at the old brick school house, and Dumcombe and Richards, and the father of the town, Major Williams, had been haranguing the crowd. Others had been expending eloquence and there was a general ambition with each man to kill an Indian. Judge Richards raised a company, of which he was Captain, and we joined as a private; John F. Dumcombe got up his company—a very fine one; Captain J. C. Johnson, of Webster City, assisted by Judge Maxwell, raised another company and their services were accepted by Major Williams, who held a commission under the authority of the State to preserve the peace and raise men when necessary on the frontier to prevent Indian depredations. There was one hundred and ten men of us when we left the town on the 24th of March, 1857. We marched up Williams street and halted near the Major's house, then we marched by the Catholic church, crossing Soldier creek and camped the first night on Badger. When we left, the women waved their handkerchiefs and little children cheered us on our way. The second night we were at Dakota, and the third, on a swell of the prairie, miles from timber, where we suffered very much. The next day we arrived at McKnight's Point. The snow, of which there was an abundance, began to be soft, and where the prairie was rolling it became necessary for us to tread a track for the baggage wagons. One day while in Palo Alto county, a part of the advance guard came riding back and reported Indians at the front. They were not Indians, however. It was a party of settlers driven from Springfield, just over the line, in Minnesota. We remember of them Wm. L. Church, his wife, and Lussella Swanger, her sister, who had a bullet in her shoulder; a man named Thomas, who was shot in the arm, which had to be amputated; a boy named Stewart, whose father, mother and sisters had been killed, and who only saved himself by lying down by the side of a log while the butchery was going on, and a man named Slugley. There were several other grown persons and many children with this crowd. The women had waded the Des Moines river and had become wet and had their clothing frozen about them. When they first saw us they believed we were Indians, and gave themselves up for lost. We made them as comfortable as possible, dividing our blankets. The next day the Major sent them with a guard to the "Irish settlement"—Ennettsburgh. Then we pursued our way and camped at Mud lakes and the day following at Granger's claim, thirteen miles from Spirit Lake.

When we had arrived at the last mentioned point, Major Williams detailed a number of men, we believe about sixteen, to proceed to the lake and bury the dead. Being a newspaper correspondent, we thought we had the right to accompany the crowd. Dumcombe advised us not to go, and Major Williams positively forbade it. He told us afterward that it was on account of sore feet. The burying of the dead and other matters are detailed in E. G. Morgan's part of this work.

Our detachment marched immediately for home. It was on Saturday about two o'clock when we reached Cylinder creek. Any of us could step across it on our way up, but on our return it was at least a quarter of a mile wide. We made boats of our wagon-boxes, calking them with blankets. Major Williams, Charles B. Richards, John F. Dumcombe and some others crossed and got to Shippy's claim, where they passed Saturday and Sunday nights. They did the best they could to rescue us, but of no avail. There was no timber in five or six miles, and the wind blew a hurricane. C. C. Carpenter, Frank A. Stratton, Winton Smith and myself lay together covered with a blanket and had a small piece of canvass to break the wind. It was attached to the wheels of a wagon near our heads. There we lay without anything to eat until Monday morning, when we crossed on the ice. There was no difficulty whatever in removing horses and wagons in the same way at the same time. Though there was water all about us, we had not dared to leave our berths to get a drink fearful of freezing before we could get back. It was upon this dreadful Saturday afternoon that Burkholder and Johnson perished. On the return of the detail they chose to go around a slough which the others marched through. They finally took off their boots to cross

it, and could not get them on again. Their feet being bandaged up with rags, they traveled with difficulty while the cold was intense. It is said that "whom the Gods love die young." We were intimate with them both, particularly with Burkholder. They were noble young men.

We made our way back to Fort Dodge from Shippy's in squads. Gov. Carpenter, Frank A. Stratton, "Lew," a fellow who teamed for Humphreys, Winton Smith and ourself, stopped the last night out at Cramer's claim in Humboldt county. We afforded our companions much amusement by going through the ice on Badger creek and just keeping our neck out, after which we pursued our way to Fort Dodge.

A big meeting was held at the brick school-house on our return. The Major reported to the citizens, and Duncombe, Richards and others made speeches. The scare, however, was kept up for weeks, not only here, but in Wright and other counties.

The origin of this Indian difficulty was as follows: Ink-a-pa-do-ta's band had camped on Herron and Spirit lakes and vicinity for a long time. In the fall of 1856 they went down through Clay county to Smithland. They commenced stealing and the settlers disarmed them. It was intended to return their arms, but they moved off in the night. They went to Correctionville, to Cherokee, to Taylor's claim, to Kirchner's, to Mead's, and to Gillett's Grove, taking all the arms and ammunition they could lay their hands on, and robbing as they went, becoming worse as they approached Spirit Lake, where the massacre was perpetrated. We interviewed Mrs. Marble in Chicago at the Blossom house, in the summer of 1857, for the *Chicago Times*. She said that after the massacre the Indians encamped on Herron Lake, about twenty miles north of Spirit Lake, and staid there several weeks, keeping out a strict watch. Com-a-do-ta, Ink-a-pa-do-ta's son, took Miss Gardner for his squaw. Mrs. Thatcher was shot while crossing the Big Sioux river. Two La Parle Indians bought the captives and took them to an agency. The price paid was a pony and five gallons of whisky. Miss Gardner was afterwards brought to Fort Dodge and lived for a time at Major Williams' house.

READ AT THE OLD SETTLERS' MEETING, MARCH 23, 1872

BY JOHN HAIRE.

I'm going to sing a good old song about the good old times,
And the grand old band of pioneers, who came from other climes,
To settle up these prairies, and never seek repose,
Till they made this dreary wilderness to blossom like the rose
This brave old band of pioneers, all of the olden time.

This band of ancient settlers had a very large estate,
They claimed most of the land in the northern part of the State,
Each man then had his town plat in the most enchaining spots,
With a mill site, and a gold mine, county seat and corner lots
This grand old band of pioneers, all of an ancient time.

The mansions of these pioneers were simple and *unique*,
But of their architecture here I do not mean to speak;
Some dwell in cabins built of logs, while others camp'd out;
Some lived in tents, while others had their dwellings made of ground
This ancient band of pioneers, all of the olden time.

The costumes of those pioneers were of the plainest kind,
No coat nor vest, but just had pants, *with shirt-tail out to hind*;
They wore their pants inside their boots, as o'er the hills they sped,
Their flannel shirts and *noses were of most retulgent red*
This brave old band of pioneers, all of the olden time.

The habits of those pioneers were plain, as plain could be,
They never fancied coffee, and they cared still less for tea;
They smoked their pipes and sang their songs, and freely did partake
Of bourbon and fat bacon, old rye and johnny-cake—
These noble, fine old pioneers, all of the olden time.

Sometimes these gallant fellows, as history relates,
Froze out their buuks would fall at night, and crash their fine old pates,
And sad to say, some pioneer, who was well when going to bed,
Froze tumbling out this way at night, *next morning got up dead*
These glorious old pioneers, all of the olden time.

The exploits of these pioneers beat the times of Robin Hood,
No braver hearts e'er roamed the wilds since Noah stemmed the flood,
When luckless wights tramped on their rights, *with feathers and cool tar*,
They rode them off upon a rail, like Betsy and old Carr
These grave old ancient settlers, all of the olden time.

In manly sports these heroes bold were not amiss nor slack,
In *assonship* they did excel, ask Rogers' old Gray Jack;
In zebra style they painted him, the like was never seen,
For where damn nature ordered black, they striped him red and green
These glorious old pioneers of the olden time.

In early days these heroes from the Rhine and from the Alps,
Went after Luk-a-pa-do-tah and his braves to take their scalps,
They painted up in war-like style, and Arnold with great care,
Shaved close their heads, but on top he left a tuft of hair
These brave old ancient settlers, all of the olden time.

Then for the foe they marched on foot across the creeks and streams,
 And many a hero had a fight with Indians—in his dreams,
 Off in the cold and stilly night *inquisitiveness* led
 Him to stick out his hand from under his buffalo robe as he lay by the camp fire, to
 find if that tuft was still on the top of his head—
 This brave old band of pioneers, all of the olden time.

Our steamship line, in those old times, to foreign lands did ply ;
 We were a port of entry then, *that is when our steam was high* ;
 Our Captain Aaron then did fling his banner to the breeze,
 And in the *Charlie Rogers*, sailed on the raging seas—
 In these old grand and pleasant days, all of the olden time.

Full many a time and oft did he to us unfold,
 The dangers of the angry deep, when mighty billows rolled,
 And how his crew and he one day murdered a big whale
 With a pitebfork (they had no harpoon) as by Elk Rapids they did sail—
 This brave old jolly Captain, all of the olden time.

For piety these pioneers took a very righteous stand,
 They kept a watchful eye always upon the prairie (promised) land,
 And as their voices soared aloft to supplicate their God,
 They prayed all day and through the night " more acres of sod "—
 These worthy, pious pilgrims, all of the olden time.

Some of those grand old pioneers around our town still keep,
 While some are in the country raising cattle, hogs and sheep ;
 But town or country, come, my boys—I say it without fears—
 Let's join together, one and all, give them three reusing cheers—
 Those glorious old pioneers, all of the olden time.

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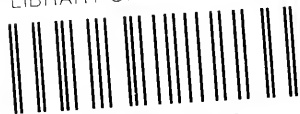
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